

The O.B.U. and the Strike on July 1

IN the first issue of The Winnipeg Citizen we stated that even were the present strike settled by granting all unions all they demanded, it would not prevent a repetition of the dictatorship which the Strike Committee imposed on Winnipeg—and as proof we instanced that the workers of the West, in particular, was moving for the formation of "One Big Union," with a view to massed action such as perpetrated in Winnipeg last week, on any demands of any craft. We also stated that a vote was being taken on the question of a general strike on July 1 for a six-hour working day, and that that vote was overwhelmingly in favor both of the One Big Union and of the general strike for July 1.

All citizens will agree that if that statement were true, it emphasized the need for defeating this system of throttling a whole community and starving the innocent—and for defeating it now and ending the revolution which is masquerading under the name of a general strike.

The statement in regard to the "O.B.U." vote and the six-hour day general strike vote is true, and The Citizen is in possession of the proof, in the shape of a ballot and attached literature, handed to us by a union man steadfastly opposed to the principle of the general strike. The literature, after stating that all ballots must be in by May 20—the Tuesday just passed, goes on to detail the proposed new industrial organization. Bear it in mind that the voting limit was on Tuesday, and that even now the final ballots are probably being counted. Below is a reproduction of the ballot sheet, right from the Labor Temple itself, through a union man. Read it over:

REFERENDUM ON SIX-HOUR DAY

At the Inter-Provincial Labor Convention held recently at Calgary, a resolution was carried without opposition, asking that a referendum be taken by the members upon the establishment of a "SIX-HOUR WORKING DAY," five-day week, to go into effect July 1st.

REFERENDUM ON INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATION

At the recent Inter-Provincial Labor Conference, held in Calgary, consisting of 250 delegates, representing the trade union movement, from Port Arthur, Ont., to Victoria, B.C., the following resolution was carried without one opposing vote:

"Resolved, that this convention recommend to organized labor in this Dominion the severance of the present affiliation with the International organizations, and that steps be taken to form an industrial organization of all workers."

This was introduced by the chairman of the resolutions committee as a substitute for the many resolutions presented to the conference by delegates from various parts of the West, acting under instructions from their local organizations.

A policy committee was elected and brought in a report which was adopted. The substance of it is as follows:

- (1) Name of proposed organization to be "The One Big Union."
- (2) Central committee of five to supervise propaganda and take referendum.
- (3) Provincial committee to handle affairs of each Province.
- (4) In establishing new organization, central executive to work through existing district boards and Trades and Labor Councils.
- (5) After the vote is received, a conference of representatives of Trades Councils and district boards will be held to draw up a plan of organization.

ARE YOU IN FAVOR OF A GENERAL STRIKE TO ESTABLISH A SIX-HOUR WORKING DAY?

FOR	
AGAINST	

If in favor mark X after "For." If opposed mark X after "Against."

ARE YOU IN FAVORING OF SEVERING YOUR AFFILIATION WITH YOUR PRESENT INTERNATIONAL CRAFT UNION AND BECOMING PART OF ONE BIG INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATION OF ALL WORKERS?

FOR	
AGAINST	

If in favor mark X after "For." If opposed mark X after "Against."

The "One Big Union" propagandists publish a frankly "Red" bulletin here periodically. It is unnecessary to elaborate upon the above ballot form, so we pass on to what the "One Big Union Bulletin" said about the vote in its issue of May 15—the day when the general-walk-out took place, viz. :—

We herewith print a report of the votes received up to the time of going to press which clearly sounds the death knell of Gomerism.

Miners' camps heard from in District No. 18: Corbin, 47 for the O.B.U. and 0 against; Yellowhead Mine, 22 for the O.B.U. and 0 against; Bellevue, 276 for the O.B.U. and 14 against; Fernie, 583 for the O.B.U. and 33 against; Canmore, 193 for the O.B.U. and 5 against; Star Mine Drumhellar, 37 for the O.B.U. and 0 against; Michel Mine, 322 for the O.B.U. and 12 against; Wayne, 69 for the O.B.U. and 1 against; Brule, 259 for the O.B.U. and 6 against; Cardiff, 89 for the O.B.U. and 0 against; Hillcrest, 313 for the O.B.U. and 11 against; Pocahontas, 92 for the O.B.U. and 1 against; Commerce, 11 for the O.B.U. and 3 against; Firebosses Fernie, 18 for the O.B.U. and 1 against; and still there are 27 more to be heard from.

Winnipeg reports as follows to date: Blacksmiths No. 147, 124 for the O.B.U. and 21 against; Machinists No. 484, 281 for O.B.U. and 39 against; Machinists No. 189, not complete, 237 for O.B.U. and 34 against; Painters No. 739, 199 for O.B.U. and 4 against; Carpenters No. 2655, 40 for O.B.U. and 9 against; Sheet Metal Workers No. 31, 33 for O.B.U. and 2 against; Machinists No. 457,237 for O.B.U. and 11 against; Asylum Attendants, Selkirk, 21 for O.B.U. and 2 against.

From Toronto the first vote we have heard of is the Machinists No. 371, which reports 147 for the O.B.U. and 11 against.

So that our second statement that the votes are overwhelmingly favorable to both the organization plan and to the general strike, is amply confirmed. If it were not, and if any doubts linger, look at this, from an attack in the editorial columns of the Labor News of April 15th, on Tom Moore and P. M. Draper, of the Trades Congress of Canada:

"We have the belated task of informing them that four weeks ago a conference was held at Calgary and that conference demanded the six-hour day—that the question be put to a vote of all the unions of Canada—that a general strike for June 1st would be called if the vote so ordered—and that the vote so far taken shows 96 per cent of the workers favorable both to the six-hour day and the strike."

(The reference to June 1st is probably an error for July 1st, the date named in the ballot paper.)

Now let us take a look at what the "One Big Union" stands for—as embodied in the preamble to the Melbourne conference which started the "One Big Union" idea in Australia, and which was also adopted at Calgary. We quote again from the Labor News of April 25, page 6

"Between these two classes (capital and labor) the struggle must continue until capitalism is abolished. Capitalism can only be abolished by the workers uniting in one class, conscious economic organization to take and hold the means of production by REVOLUTIONARY INDUSTRIAL AND POLITICAL ACTION. "REVOLUTIONARY ACTION" MEANS ACTION TO SECURE A COMPLETE CHANGE, NAMELY, THE ABOLITION OF CAPITALIST OWNERSHIP OF THE MEANS OF PRODUCTION, WHETHER PRIVATELY OR THROUGH THE STATE—AND THE ESTABLISHMENT IN ITS PLACE OF SOCIAL OWNERSHIP BY THE WHOLE COMMUNITY."

The Melbourne preamble is included in the Labor News, in an article defining the "One Big Union"—and here is what the Labor News writer says about the paragraph we have quoted above—taken from the same issue of April 25:—

Great capital is being made out of the fact that the O.B.U. stands for "revolutionary action" on the industrial and political fields and an attempt is being made in certain quarters to stamper the workers on the question, by misinterpretation of the words. No apology will be made for the use of the words in the words. No apology will be made for the use of the words in the preamble. The attack from these quarters on the terms use was foreseen and a definition of "revolutionary action" is included in the preamble, and this certainly makes very clear what is meant. The fact that the O.B.U. is revolutionary implies that it is calculated to make great changes in the present order of society, an unless it makes those changes it will not have succeeded in the object which its inauguration is hoped to achieve. Its efficacy must be measured by the amount of revolutionary action in the direction that it is capable of committing.

The ballot and the whole set of quotations from the Labor News proves that there is a revolutionary movement on, and that the present strike is in line with the last sentence of the above quotation, a measure of the efficacy of the movement, being a demonstration of "the amount of revolutionary action it is capable of committing."

It all goes to show that unless Winnipeg throttles the general strike idea right here and now, Winnipeg herself will be throttled again on July 1st.