

Long Hours for Trainmen Has Tendency To Make Travel Unsafe

SAM GOMPERS IS ONCE AGAIN RE-ELECTED HEAD OF A.F. OF L.

Cincinnati, June 24th.—President Samuel Gompers of the American Federation of Labor was re-elected without opposition yesterday at the federation's annual convention. It was his 41st election to the office.

The convention also re-elected James Duncaan of Quincy, Mass., representing the Granite Cutters Union as first vice-president; Joseph F. Valentine, Cincinnati Moulders' Union, second vice-president; Frank Duffe, Indianapolis Carpenters' Union, third vice-president; William Green, Indianapolis Miners' Union, fourth vice-president; W. D. Mahon, Detroit St. Car Men's Union, fifth vice-president; and T. A. Bickert, Chicago Garment Workers' Union, sixth vice-president. Thomas F. Flaherty, of Washington,

RAILWAY WORKERS TO HOLD MEETING

Plans are being laid by the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees for a meeting of the executive committee of the organization in Montreal during the first week in July, when arrangements will be made with the Canadian Railway Association for a conference on the wage reductions which become effective July 16, W. Aspinall, general secretary of the brotherhood, announced this morning. No new developments are anticipated by Mr. Aspinall, until after the meeting of the committee.

Notice of the wage reduction was received Tuesday, at the local headquarters. The cut affects 40,000 men, Mr. Aspinall says, and amounts to approximately nine per cent. reduction. "The men are determined to fight the effort to reduce the existing living standards," declared Mr. Aspinall, who added that the men would quit work rather than tolerate a further cut. A strike ballot was taken some time ago, in anticipation of the association's attempt to reduce the hourly wage. Mr. Aspinall expresses the opinion that the results, when tabulated, will show an overwhelming vote for rejection of the proposals.

NECESSITY OF RAIL STRIKE AGREED ON

Cincinnati.—Further meetings to consider joint strike action are being planned between leaders of the striking coal miners and the rail unions that are threatening a nation-wide rail walkout next month. The union chiefs indicated that they expected to hold conferences here this week to be followed by a later meeting in Chicago, where the rail leaders will canvass the strike vote next week.

An unanimity of sentiment as to the necessity of the rail strike was shown by a joint statement of President John L. Lewis, of the miners, and B. M. Jewell, head of the rail unions, issued last night after the first formal discussion of the proposed joint strike action. The statement, which the union men said they regarded as important on account of its dual authorship, declared a "common crisis" faced both the railroad men and the miners, and added "it is only natural that these workers should decide to do everything necessary to protect their separate interests."

COAL MINERS ARBITRATION BOARD

A board of conciliation has been established by the minister of labor to deal with the dispute between the Inverness Railway and Coal Company and coal miners employed by the company. John R. Osborne, solicitor of Ottawa, has been appointed chairman of the board, M. G. Mitchell, of Halifax, will represent the company, and L. D. Currie, of Glace Bay, the men.

WORLD SHORTAGE IN TEA RESULTS IN HIGHER PRICES.

During 1919 and 1920 the greatly increased production and unlimited shipping facilities resulted in enormous quantities of tea reaching every market of the world. A consequent drop in price was the result. To stabilize the situation, the tea growers of Ceylon and India agreed to curtail production 20% in 1921. Since that time the demand has been constantly increasing and the price rising. The recent reduction of duty on tea entering England has further increased the demand, and the price is expected to rise accordingly.

AN UNUSUAL MOVE

Toronto.—Secretary James T. Gunn of the Canadian Federation of Labor, stated that commercial telegraphers in Western Canada had severed their connection with the Commercial Telegraphers' Union of America, and had taken out a charter in the National Labor Movement. Mr. Charles Mitchell, who organized a national union, in the West, endeavoring to extend the organization.

REPRESENTATIVES APPEAR BEFORE RAILWAY COMMISSION

A DECISION IS RESERVED ON APPLICATION OF THE MEN

That the public, if aware of the true conditions under which locomotive engineers, firemen and engine-men labored on many occasions, would be aroused to a point where they would demand a regulation restricting the excessive hours of service was the salient statement made by Mr. William L. Best, legislative representative of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen, before the Board of Railway Commissioners. The statement was made in connection with the application of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen for an order prescribing such regulations as may be deemed necessary with respect to the limitation or regulation of the hours of duty of employees engaged in the operation of trains of railway companies under the jurisdiction of the board.

The application which demands in effect a maximum continuous period of 16 hours on duty, similar to the regulation in force in the United States, was opposed by the representatives of the various railway companies. Mr. E. P. Flintoft, assistant general solicitor of the C.P.R. said he did not feel there was any justification for the regulation demanded. He did not believe that an arbitrary limit of time of continuous service would improve conditions. While there were instances where delays resulted in employees working long hours, the general average of the time worked showed that conditions were not such as to demand a limitation of hours. If the suggested regulation were in effect, it would tend to increase the cost of operation and cause congestion of traffic. It would also tend to bring about unsafe operating conditions by the men being held out in many cases where they would otherwise get to the home terminal.

Need for Regulation. The application was also opposed by Mr. W. C. Chisholm on behalf of the Grand Trunk Railway, and by Mr. E. S. Fraser on behalf of the Canadian National lines.

Speaking in support of the application, Mr. Best emphasized the need for a regulation. The application, which had nothing to do with the question of labor, was actuated solely by a desire to bring about conditions that would make for greater safety for both the travelling public and the employees themselves. He reported cases where men were continuously on duty as long as 30 hours, while the average of the excessive hours worked was around 18 hours. These were not special cases.

The chairman of the board, Hon. F. B. Carvell, requested Mr. Best to supply the board with specific information about the cases he reported, and to give dates as well as train numbers so that the cases could be checked up. Mr. Best agreed to supply this information. Regarding the long hours of a run between Montreal and Brookville mentioned by Mr. Best, Chairman Carvell commented that he could not conceive why a train should take 18 hours of actual running time to make the trip between these two points unless there was some serious accident.

Don't Want Change. Mr. W. D. Donahue, Canadian superintendent of the Michigan Central Railway, told the board the employees of that railway did not want a change such as that suggested in the application for a regulation.

Mr. Byron Baker, legislative representative of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, also made a strong plea in favor of the enactment of a regulation limiting the time of continuous service. He said that if the board knew the actual conditions under which the men worked, it would not be necessary for him to beg for a regulation. Mr. Sam Berry, of Toronto, representing the Order of Railway Conductors, queried on whose authority the minority was asking for a regulation which would affect the majority of the employees.

The board reserved its decision on the application.

REACH AGREEMENT ON RAILWAY WAGES

Montreal.—An agreement has been reached between the Grand Trunk Railway and its employees, outside the overtime; 7,000 men are involved. It was decided that overtime will be running trade and shop mechanics, as paid at pro rata for the ninth and tenth hours after the regular eight-hour day for the following classes; shop, roundhouse, classified and unclassified laborers, scrap yard employees, stationary engineers and firemen and other boiler room and power employees, and time and a half for all hours thereafter. All other classes will be paid pro rata for the ninth hour and time and a half thereafter.

In regard to payment for holidays, it was agreed that month rated employees should be paid double time if they work the seven legal holidays. If not working these holidays they will receive the ordinary rate. Hourly rated employees will receive straight time for holidays.

Work performed on Sunday will be paid straight time rates for all employees. Two weeks vacation with pay will be paid after one year's service for all clerical workers, depot masters, baggage masters, depot gate men, ticket examiners, supervisors of crews and crew dispatchers, car checkers, train checkers, car markers, baggage checkers and various grades of station employees.

PRINTERS TO EXTEND INTO SMALLER CENTRES

Toronto.—A move in the direction of widening the scope of the Typographical Union of Ontario and Quebec, until it has included many of the smaller centres, where unions do not now exist, was made at the closing meeting of the Ontario and Quebec Conference of Printers at the Prince George Hotel. In order to carry out this aim, the executive was given authority to use the necessary funds to organize the workers in the small towns in the two provinces, and it was decided that the newly-organized centres will be relieved of strike dues until they are firmly established. Next year's convention will be held at Kingston.

The old executive was re-elected for the coming year, as follows: President, A. J. Bolwell, Toronto; vice-president, Joseph Gauthier, Montreal; secretary-treasurer, H. S. Bentley, Hamilton; chairman of the apprentice committee, Hugh McColl, London; secretary of the apprentice committee, H. Cruton, Hamilton. Several fraternal delegates from the United States were present at yesterday's meeting, and following the closing session the delegates held a theatre party at the Royal Alexandra.

And a lot of timid folk go through life pure and disappointed just because they don't know how to go about being wicker.

There's something about a soft collar that reminds us of the kind of pants sculptors use to drape deceased statesmen.

INTERNATIONAL LABOR NEWS FROM MANY COUNTRIES

Belgium. Strikers.—About 10,000 men are on strike in the Province of Antwerp following the agreement among the metallurgical industry and other factory owners to make a 10 per cent. reduction in all wages.

Maltese Emigration.—There has recently been under discussion at London, between the Superintendent of Emigration of the Island of Malta and the London authorities, the difficult position of the population of the island due to the reduction of employment on admiralty work and the objections raised in various British colonies to the arrival of Maltese emigrants.

Wage Rates.—Since the beginning of 1922 changes in rates of wages reported to the Department of Labor have resulted in a net reduction of \$1,210,000 in the weekly rates of wages of nearly 5,900,000 workpeople and a net increase of about \$3,400 in the wages of 30,000 workpeople.

Reconstruction.—It is reported that industrial reconstruction is well advanced in the Department of the North, 66 per cent. of the destroyed factories having been wholly or partly replaced.

Bavaria.—The machine industries were idle throughout April owing to the continuing strike in the metal trades, and the textile industry has been in a critical position on account of the higher prices for raw material and the latest increase in wages.

Hungary. Mining Wages.—Upon request of the miners employed in the State collieries, the Hungarian Government has decided to pay them the same wages and to grant them the same favors received by miners employed in private mines.

Ireland. Unemployment.—Unemployment

shows a distinct increase in the 26 counties of Ireland. Official figures of the Ministry of Labor show that in the week ending May 5, 1922, the number was 44,032, an increase of 1,001 on the previous week's number of unemployed.

Italy. Sulphur Industry.—In a resolution passed by the Committee of Delegates of the Sulphur Consortium and 200 sulphur mine operators from all over the Island of Sicily, it was resolved that the Government had failed to make such provisions as would assure the rational development of the sulphur industry. Following the adoption of this resolution the Sulphur Consortium Council tendered its resignation and all sulphur mine operators agreed to the closing down of their mines.

Unemployment.—Unemployment continues in Venice and Venetia, and although the total for April, 1922, in the province of Venice was somewhat less than the total for March, 1922, it was almost double the amount of unemployment during the corresponding months of 1921.

Scotland. Unemployment.—At no time since the strike of the coal miners, more than a year ago, has there been as much unemployment in the Glasgow district as during the month of April, 1922. This unfavorable condition is due principally to the strikes in the engineering trades.

Spain. Wage Controversies.—Strikes are predicted at Barcelona and Bilbao, principally among the metallurgical workers, because of continued disputes as to wage reductions announced by employers. At meetings of the laborers in the principal centers of the industry it is stated that the decision has been to refuse to accept any reduction in wages or increase in working hours.

Alberta Coal Strike. Edmonton.—The coal strike in District No. 15, now in its eleventh week, has already cost the miners of Alberta over \$1,000,000 in loss of wages. There is not thought to be much chance, however, of a settlement until the larger strike of the American miners has been settled. In the meantime little actual inconvenience is being caused to the general public. The strike does not affect the mines in the Edmonton district, and enough coal is being produced in other parts of the province by non-union labor to supply the local summertime demands.

'PROGRESSIVES' WIN IN TYPOS' ELECTION

The re-election of John McParland as president of the International Typographical Union has been announced. The other officers elected were: C. P. Howard, Detroit, first vice-president; W. R. Trotter, Vancouver, second vice-president; J. W. Hays, secretary-treasurer; trustees, Union Printers' Home, T. McCaffrey, Colorado Springs; S. R. Brown, Los Angeles, and M. A. Knock, Boston; agent Union Printers' Home, J. M. Johnson, Washington; delegate to Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, G. W. Howard, Winnipeg; auditor, D. W. Baird, New York; delegates to A. F. of L., F. Morrison, Chicago; M. S. Hayes, Cleveland; W. Young, Philadelphia, and A. A. Couch, Des Moines. Over 60,000 ballots were cast. The result is considered a victory for the so-called Progressives, several of the administration having gone down to defeat.

WORLDWIDE GROWTH OF LABOR UNIONS

The U.S. Department of Labor's "Monthly Labor Review" has collected figures showing the remarkable growth of labor unions since 1913. The first place goes to Germany with 13,000,000 organized workers in 1920. Great Britain comes next with 8,900,000, then Russia with 5,179,000, the United States with 5,000,000, Italy, 3,827,000, France, 2,500,000, Czechoslovakia, 2,000,000, and Poland, 1,037,000. Twenty-three of the countries have memberships under 1,000,000. The total number of organized workpeople in the world is estimated at 100,000,000. Figures are not available, is put down as 48,037,000 in 1920.

OFFER OF FURTHER RATES REDUCTION

An intimation that further freight rate reductions would be offered may be agreed to by the railway companies, is expected to lead to a considerable shortening of the season. For the last couple of days there have been rumors of something in the nature of an old-fashioned blockade when the report of the special committee on transportation costs came into the house. Today, however, it is understood that there is a likelihood, when the committee meets this afternoon, that it may have placed before it a further reduction in grain rates, proposed by the railways, which, it is thought, will bring the three parties in the committee much nearer agreement than any previous proposal. If this offer is accepted, it is expected that the report will go through the house with little comment, and members are again seriously talking of the possibility of finishing the sessional business before adjournment to-morrow night.

NO OPPOSITION TO SAM GOMPERS

Cincinnati.—Organization politics came to the front at the convention of the American Federation when a movement got under way to bring out



SAM GOMPERS

representing the Post Office Clerks' Union, was elected seventh vice-president; and Matthew Wall of Chicago Photo Engravers' Union, eighth vice-president. Daniel J. Tobin of Indianapolis, president of the Teamsters' Union, won re-election as treasurer over Jos. A. Franklin, of Kansas City, Kan., president of Boiler Makers' Union. The election of officers was completed except election of fraternal delegates, by the re-election without opposition of Frank Morrison of Washington, as secretary. He is a member of the Printers' Union and has been secretary for 25 years. Aside from the election of officers

ESTABLISH LABOR DEFENCE COUNCIL

Cincinnati, Ohio.—With the avowed purpose of meeting all legal attacks aimed at labor unions, the American Federation of Labor has added to its programme for curbing the power exercised by the courts by directing the establishment at Washington of a labor defence council, composed of lawyers selected by the federation's officers. The council primarily will defend the unions against any suits that may be filed under the recent supreme court decisions adverse to labor.

Four constitutional amendments adopted by the convention by an almost unanimous vote include a congressional veto of supreme court decisions, the guarantee to labor of the right to organize, to bargain collectively, and to strike, the prohibition of child labor and adoption of an easier method than the present for amending the constitution.

THE MUSKOKA LAKES

The Muskoka region of the "Highlands of Ontario" was for centuries the chosen hunting ground of the Hurons. It was the red man who gave the musical name Muskoka (Signifying "clear sky") to this land which held supremacy over all others in his affections, and he christened the islands, promontories, mansions, lakes and rivers in a manner that showed his appreciation of the beauties of his forest home. No happier appellation than "clear sky" could have been adopted, as the altitude of the region—one thousand feet above sea level—gives splendid atmospheric conditions. Muskoka spreads its manifold charms to blue skies flecked with soft, white clouds. It is a delectable land, brilliant with rich coloring, its air pungent with the fragrance of the pines, its waters cool and clear; moreover, a land of many pleasures, offering a wide variety of health-giving, open-air sports and pastimes suited to all ages. There are about 100 hotels in the district that cater to those of modest taste as well as to those who are most fastidious. The Canadian National-Grand Trunk Railway, which has been appointed chairman of the board, M. G. Mitchell, of Halifax, will represent the company, and L. D. Currie, of Glace Bay, the men.

WORLD SHORTAGE IN TEA RESULTS IN HIGHER PRICES.

During 1919 and 1920 the greatly increased production and unlimited shipping facilities resulted in enormous quantities of tea reaching every market of the world. A consequent drop in price was the result. To stabilize the situation, the tea growers of Ceylon and India agreed to curtail production 20% in 1921. Since that time the demand has been constantly increasing and the price rising. The recent reduction of duty on tea entering England has further increased the demand, and the price is expected to rise accordingly.

AN UNUSUAL MOVE

Toronto.—Secretary James T. Gunn of the Canadian Federation of Labor, stated that commercial telegraphers in Western Canada had severed their connection with the Commercial Telegraphers' Union of America, and had taken out a charter in the National Labor Movement. Mr. Charles Mitchell, who organized a national union, in the West, endeavoring to extend the organization.

Items of Interest from Overseas

BRITISH LABOR PARTY MEETING. The British Labor Party has just announced the programme for its annual Congress to be held in Edinburgh the end of June. The most important item before the Congress will be the nationalization of mines, railroads and land, which is being strongly pressed by the Miners' Federation and other unions. Several resolutions declare against any alliance between the Labor Party and capitalistic political parties. One resolution provides for the recall of any member elected to Parliament who votes contrary to the interests of labor. Abolition of the Co-operative and Communist parties is called for in other resolutions submitted.

SEBES ORGANIZE LABOR FEDERATION. The Yugoslav Federation of Trade Unions, with a membership of 50,000 workers, has been organized in a convention held at Belgrade. The Federation adopted a radical programme calling for the eventual establishment of a workers' cooperative commonwealth. In order to avoid conflicts with the government, it declares it is independent of all political parties.

LOCKOUT FULLY LIFTED. London.—The Bootmakers' Union of England, has accepted the terms of the Engineering Employers' Federation on managerial rights, and the lockout is now completely lifted.

HUGE WAGE CUTS FORCED. The employers of Sweden, who made colossal profits as neutrals during the war, are now "defeating" Swedish labor at breakneck speed.

Employees of Swedish iron works have been forced to accept a reduction of 45% and pulp and paper mill workers have been cut 42%. Several hundred thousand workers are still unemployed or working intermittently.

Steps to protect the Swedish workers are being taken by Hjalmar Branting, Socialist Premier of Sweden, who has secured the enactment of a generous unemployment law by the government, under which the city of Stockholm alone has paid out 300,000,000 crowns (\$5,000,000, par) in unemployment insurance during recent months.

Premier Branting shows his own attitude by calling three hundred unemployed workers into the Prime Minister's mansion and setting them up to a square meal served by his wife and daughter and other friendly women. Branting declares that unemployment occurs because a few men are permitted to monopolize the land and the machinery of production.

AUSTRIAN GOVT. FOUNDS LABOR DEPT. The Federated State of Vienna and Lower Austria has created a Labor Chamber which more nearly represents the interests of the workers than does any other state department of labor outside of countries controlled

by the workers themselves. The object of the Austrian Labor Chamber is to promote the legal protection of workers. Its work includes the compilation of domestic and foreign labor laws, the publication of articles and studies on trade unionism, the drafting of bills protecting workers, and suggestions for the improvement of labor legislation. It will also give advice to trade unions on legal questions and organize special courses for the instruction of the workers.

DANISH WORKERS CUT ARMY. Due to the insistence of the organized workers and farmers of Denmark cut from 11,500 to 6,500 men. The size of the Danish army has the workers and farmers of Denmark do not believe that a big army promotes peace. They are also wise enough to know that a big army means heavy taxes.

CHURCHBUILDERS' RESUME. The churchbuilders employed at the De Dion Bouton Works, North Flacilly, who have been on strike for four and a half weeks in sympathy with the locked-out engineers, have returned to work. A few who did not return have found employment elsewhere.