

FRIENDS OF LABOR

Enterprises that have shown a friendly attitude towards the Working Classes

MAKES DEMAND OF GOVERNMENT PROVIDE WORK

G. W. V. A. Secretary Says That Conditions Among Returned Men Becoming Alarming.

OTTAWA.—The necessity of preparation at this time for unemployment "of staggering proportions," which will inevitably occur next autumn, was placed before the special committee last week in a letter from C. G. MacNeil, Dominion secretary-treasurer of the Great War Veterans' Association. After setting forth the Department of Labor statistics regarding continued reduction of employment, and stating that returned soldiers were actually suffering from lack of work at present, Mr. MacNeil, in his letter, stated: "Returned soldiers are not petitioning for unemployment doles, except as a last resort to prevent starvation. Returned soldiers believe that the responsibility rests with your committee to recommend the commencement of enterprises which, in promoting a general revival of industrial conditions, will provide all with useful employment. It is still further believed that such enterprises may be conducted in a manner that will provide those not yet re-established with suitable opportunities."

Mr. MacNeil reminded the committee that he had been asked by the members to furnish statistics regarding unemployment among returned soldiers. In March, 1921, the number employed in Canadian industry was over 50,000 less than in March of the previous year, and instead of the usual spring recovery, reduction of the number employed "was proceeding with alarming rapidity."

Reports from the Dominion headquarters of the Employment Service of Canada showed that during the week ending April 2 employment returns made by 5,193 firms, with a total of 590,808 employees, compared with the previous week there had been dropped from the pay rolls 12,398 workers, or 2.3 per cent. Further returns secured from the various labor unions showed a percentage of 15 or 16 per cent. of skilled workers unemployed.

"Adding to this the further percentage of unemployment, as relatively indicated," stated Mr. MacNeil, "it will be seen that at present about 25 per cent. of the workers in our industries have been released from employment."

Payments to Unemployed. That \$12,092.42 had been paid up to April 23 by the Dominion Government to municipalities throughout Canada under the Emergency Appropriation for Relief of the Unemployed was stated in the House of Commons yesterday afternoon. Winnipeg led the list with \$1,002.49, and Vancouver was next with \$49,487.

The municipalities and the amounts paid to them as the Government's share of the relief plan. Follow: Amherst, \$230.54; Montreal, \$1,811.03; Winnipeg, \$51,003.49; Moosejaw, \$7,595.10; Saskatoon, \$1,320.37; Regina, \$19,549.24; New Westminster, \$112.30; Vancouver, \$49,487; St. James, Man., \$847.47; West Kildonan, P.C., \$214.43; Burnaby, B.C., \$1,121.21; Nelson, B.C., \$102.51; Prince Rupert, \$1,558.48; District of South Vancouver, \$5,519.28; Cumberland, \$26.21. Total, \$123,092.42.

IMPORTANT CHANGE OF TIME EFFECTIVE MAY 1ST STANDARD TIME.

Canadian National Railways announce the following changes in train service effective May 1st.

Train No. 1 "Continental Limited" now leaving Ottawa 8:20 p.m. for Winnipeg and Vancouver via Port Arthur will leave 12:20 a.m. daily and operate via North Bay T. & N. O. Railway Cochrane and C. N. Railways. East bound train No. 2 "Continental Limited" will arrive Ottawa 7:00 a.m. daily, Montreal 10:15 a.m. connecting with "Maritime Express" for Halifax and all points in Maritime Provinces.

Train No. 5 will leave Montreal (Tunnel Terminal) 8:00 a.m. daily except Sunday, arriving Ottawa 12:00 noon.

Train No. 6 will leave Ottawa 4:45 p.m. arriving Montreal 8:45 p.m.

Train now leaving Ottawa 10:30 p.m. daily for Toronto will leave at 10:05 p.m. arriving Toronto 7:00 a.m.

All times shown are Standard Time.

For full information apply at City Passenger Office, Sparks and Metcalfe street, or Union Station, Ottawa.

THE THOUSANDTH MAN.

By Rudyard Kipling.

One man in a thousand, Solomon says,
Will stick more close than a brother.

And it's worth while seeking him half your days
If you find him before the other.
Nine hundred and ninety-nine depend
On what the world sees in you,
But the Thousandth Man will stand
By your friend
With the whole round world agin' you.

You can use his purse with no more talk
Than he has none for his spend-
ing—
And laugh and sneer in your daily
work.
As though there had been no
man
Nine hundred and ninety-nine of
them call
For silver and gold in their deal-
ings.
But the Thousandth Man he's worth
'em all,
Because you can show him your
feelings.

He wrongs your wrong, and his
right's your right.
In season or out of season,
Stand up and back it in all men's
sight.
With THAT for your only reason
Nine hundred and ninety-nine can't
hide
The shame or mocking or laugh-
ter.
But the Thousandth Man will stand
By your side
To the gallows-foot—and after!
"Public opinion is the strongest
force in the world"—Lord R. Cecil.
Labor has to be public opinion.



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And we who labor can hold up the dignity of our profession as laborers by giving our whole-hearted support to the things that pertain to us.

Which means that it behooves all those who labor and who as ratepayers in the City of Ottawa are stockholders in the Hydro-Electric plant to patronize the thing that belongs to you. Remember that the Hydro-Electric plant is your property. In using Hydro-Electric service you are patronizing yourself.

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Hon. G. D. Robertson

MINISTER OF LABOR.

From "Representative Canadians."

Robertson, Hon. Gideon Decker, P.C., Federal Minister of Labor, was the first actual representative of organized labor to be called to either the Dominion Cabinet or the Senate of Canada. He was born at Welland, Ont., on August 24, 1874, the son of Gavin E. Robertson and Loretta Goring, both native Canadians.

His paternal grandfather was a native of Scotland, who became a member of the bar and later went to Jamaica, where he took an active part in the agitation for the abolition of slavery, which became a fully accomplished fact in 1833. In this movement Robertson was in correspondence with Clarkson Macaulay (father of Lord Macaulay), Wilberforce and others active in freeing the British Empire of this reproach. Later, he came to Canada, where Gavin Robertson, father of the subject of this sketch, was born, and where he became a farmer and school-teacher on the Niagara peninsula. Gideon Decker Robertson was educated at public and high schools of Welland and as a youth took up telegraphy in connection with the railways. He was a strong believer in trades unionism, he soon became active in the Order of Railroad Telegraphers, an international body, of which he was president, an office he still holds. His duties brought him in contact with the chiefs of organized labor on the continent, and he won a high reputation for clear thinking and executive ability. In 1917, when Sir Robert Borden decided to abolish party lines and form a Union Government, he offered Mr. Robertson a position in the Senate and a seat in his cabinet. The offer was accepted, and in the autumn of that year he was sworn in as a member of the Privy Council and a Minister without Portfolio. In May, 1918, he was appointed Chairman of the sub-committee of the Council on Labor Problems, and also Chairman of the National Registration Board in connection with the war. On November 7, 1918, he was sworn in as Minister of Labor in succession to Hon. T. W. Crothers, who had announced his intention of retiring some months previously. The appointment was made just at the psychological moment for the strike, which had been signed just one week previously, created a host of labor problems more serious than Canada had ever previously been called upon to face; and only a statesman enjoying practical knowledge and the confidence of organized labor could have dealt with the situation. In the spring and summer of 1919 he was called upon to combat a conspiracy affecting all Canada, to introduce a modified form of Russian Bolshevism, fathered by the Industrial Workers of the World, known as the "One Big Union." The aim was to unite all existing labor organizations in one body, and by sympathetic strikes and a policy of terrorism destroy capitalism, and reduce all other classes to subjection. This movement came to a head with a general strike called in Winnipeg early in May, on the pretext of a dispute between the metal workers and their employers. Winnipeg was thus the scene of a strike, the most serious of the three transcontinental railways. The aim was to introduce Bolshevism. Then by broadening the strike eastward and westward secure complete control of Canadian transportation and industry, after which the movement was to be carried into every section of the United States. Senator Robertson himself went to the scene of operations, and by his fearless, though moderate handling of the situation, and his influence with

the masser labor elements, rendered the conspiracy abortive, so far as the rest of Canada was concerned, and fruitless in Winnipeg. He thus secured a triumph for legitimate trade unionism, of which he is the chief sponsor in Canada. He is a Freemason and a Presbyterian.

"Wasn't it dreadful to hear the Laird of Todholes snoring so loud?" "Perfectly awful, he wakened me up!"—Glasgow Herald.

Lloyd George says the Labor Party is no longer a wing but a bird. We trust the bird is developing strong claws and beak. It will need them.

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