

NEW COMPENSATION LAWS IN QUEBEC

LABOR'S DEMAND PRESENTED TO QUEBEC CABINET

International Trades Unions
Seek New Compensation Law
and Other Reforms.

Fourteen demands were made upon the Quebec Provincial Government by representatives of the International Labor Movement of the province when they made their annual visit to Quebec last week. The measures asked for were:

1. An industrial accident compensation law based upon the principle of compulsory state insurance; an eight-hour day; legislation regarding the employment of women before and after childbirth; a mothers' allowance act; an act establishing pension funds for aged and needy persons; a law for the payment of fair wages and for the observance of other conditions; proportional representation in provincial elections; a double platoon system for firemen; changes in the law to bring municipal government under the arbitration act; a law to control cold storage plants; amendments to the present provincial law for the fixing of minimum wages; amendments to the law providing for the inspection of scaffolding; educational and school commission legislation and changes as regards hygienic measures.

Some of these matters arise out of the International Labor Conference which was held at Washington in October and November of 1919, under the provisions of the peace treaty. Special attention is called to changes for the Workmen's Compensation Act. The amendments which the Legislature has made to the law are termed palliatives, and the labor men ask for what they call a new law. Should the Legislature refuse to accept the amendments, the cabinet a study of compensation acts of other provinces, which Ontario has had in mind. It is desired that there shall be a new act to be administered by a commission of three. All employees under the scheme are to be insured against the contributions for which would be borne actively by the employers.

ENTER AGAIN PRESIDENT OF DISTRICT 26, U. M. W. OF A.

The election of Robert Baxter as president of U. M. W. in District 26, W. of A., was a substantial majority. Although the returns are incomplete it is figured that Baxter has a majority in Cape Breton of at least 1,000 votes. Since the election, Baxter's lead for the district will be out to something like 600 votes, which will insure his election.

McBRIDE TO LECTURE ON TARIFF.

That during and after the coming session of the Ontario Legislature he would make a non-partisan lecture on the tariff issue, was the announcement made by a speech by M. McBride, M. P. for South Brant. His talk will be on "Some instances in which the protective tariff has been abused, and the money available through the tariff has failed to protect the workers." In explanation he added, "I am a protectionist, and advocate of a tariff, but I am not a tariff man. I can present the facts without prejudice, and no person can accuse me of being a free trader. There are certain facts, however, which are matters of public record, and it is well that the people should know. The lectures will be entirely non-partisan."

BUILDERS WANT NATIONAL HOUSING BOARD.

That the federal government should make money available for housing purposes, and that it should form a national housing board, on which the workers would have representation, was the effect of one of the numerous resolutions of the annual meeting of the Association of Canadian Building and Construction Industries at Winnipeg last week.

THIRD INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE POSTPONED UNTIL OCTOBER.

Hon. G. D. Robertson, Minister of Labor, is in receipt of a communication from Loring Christie, of Ottawa, who attended the meeting of the governing body of the International Labor Office as Dominion representative, to the effect that the general conference originally arranged to open on April 8, next, has been postponed until October. This conference, it will be remembered, was called largely to consider the adaptation of conventions and recommendations arrived at during the Washington conference in November, 1919, to agricultural workers. It will be held at Geneva. The next meeting of the governing body of the International Labor conference will be held on April 12.

MONTREAL PLUMBERS STILL ON STRIKE.

The plumbers' strike at Montreal, which started in October, because of the refusal of some master plumbers to sign an agreement with the men, whereby the latter were to receive 30 cents per hour, is now entering upon its sixteenth week of duration, and union officials say that there is still no reason to believe that the 150 men out of work will return until economic conditions are such as to permit them to accept the 75 cents per hour offered by their former employers.

NO SETTLEMENT IN C. N. R. DISPUTE.

No compromise has been effected between the Canadian National Railway's representatives on the board of conciliation and the representative of the C. N. R. employees on the "no politics" order of President D. R. Hanna, three days of negotiation with a view to a possible amicable settlement of the dispute having resulted in failure. The board of conciliation, of which J. M. Godfrey is chairman, will prepare its report for submission to the minister of labor at Ottawa.

TAIWAN COMMUNISTS FAIL AT SOCIALIST CONGRESS.

Communist leaders who attempted to carry the Italian Socialist party into the Moscow International conference, failed to secure a majority on the question, which took place last week.

N. B. FEDERATION OF LABOR OFFICIALS.

At the New Brunswick Federation of Labor meeting at St. John recently held, the following officers were elected: President—F. J. Titch, St. John; Secretary—A. M. Manson, Grand Falls; Treasurer—J. S. Martin, St. John; Vice-President—J. E. F. Rogers, St. John; J. S. Martin, Grand Falls; J. S. Martin, Grand Falls; J. S. Martin, Grand Falls.

COMPERS AGAIN HEAD OF PAN-AMERICAN LABOR FEDERATION.

Samuel Compers, president of the A. F. of L., was re-elected president of the Pan-American Federation of Labor, at the convention of that organization held in Mexico City, Mexico. The next convention will be held in Guatemala City.

COMPANY "UNION" IS GOOD INVESTMENT

International Union of Timber Workers Resist Reductions.

The company "union," known as the Loyal Legion of Loggers and Lumbermen, is proving a good investment to northwest lumbermen who have financed this scheme. At a meeting in Portland, Ore., the board of directors of the "union" voted to reduce wages from \$1.25 to \$1.00 a day, and to reduce the cost of living to \$1.00 a week. The board consists of 13 employees and 12 workers.

PITOU LONGSHOPMEN ELECT OFFICIALS FOR 1921.

The annual meeting of the Pitou Longshopmen's Association, Local No. 181 took place recently. There was a large attendance of the members and the reports showed the local to be in a good sound financial condition. The following officers were elected: President, Alex. Carson; re-elected vice-president, Harry Shultz; financial secretary, Walter Scott; recording secretary, P. Cheverie; business agent, William Landry.

MARTENS DEPARTS FOR SWEDISH PORT

Two Years of Effort in United States Failed.

Nearly two years' effort by Ludwig C. A. K. Martens to gain recognition by the United States Government as the Ambassador of the Russian Soviet Government ended on Saturday with his departure for Gothenburg, Sweden, on board the steamship Stockholm. The final execution of an order from the United States Department of Labor for his deportation as an undesirable alien.

MEDICAL MEN SEEK CONFERENCE WITH COMPENSATION BOARD.

To representations from a deputation of the Ontario Medical Association, Hon. Walter Roper on Friday agreed to arrange a conference between them and the Workmen's Compensation Board on the subject of the medical profession's objections. The question of solving the venereal disease problem was discussed and the deputation advocated the raising of the age limit for the license to 21 years, and that without restrictions provided they measure up to the required standard.

"DRYS" MAKE LITTLE PROGRESS IN SCOTLAND.

"Pussfoot" Johnson and the prohibitionists who, with trumpets and banners, started out to make Scotland dry, have not succeeded. The last of the prohibition polls in Scotland has just been completed and was a crushing defeat of the dry party.

NATIONAL FISH DAY, FEB. 9, MAY BECOME INTERNATIONAL.

Canada's fishermen's day, or National Fish Day, Feb. 9, may become an international event, according to a statement from the Department of Marine and Fisheries, president of the United States Fisheries Association, and officials at Washington, are expected to assist in putting the suggestion into effect. The Postoffice Department of Canada has arranged for special cancellation stamps to be used in the post offices of the chief centers in Canada, bearing the legend "National Fish Day, February 9." These will be in use very soon.

MANITOBA FIREMEN SEEK ONE DAY'S REST IN SEVEN.

Attempts are to be made through the Winnipeg Trades and Labor Council to induce the Manitoba Legislature to enact legislation requiring municipalities to give firemen one day in seven free from work. The legislation is to be introduced by the Hon. J. H. Brown, M. P., who has been elected in Ontario.

ELIMINATION OF LABOR SHORTAGE TO FACILITATE ROAD CONSTRUCTION.

Highway construction this year in connection with the act granting \$20,000,000 of federal aid, or 40 per cent of the total cost, promises to be ahead much more expeditiously than last season. Then, there was difficulty in getting labor, this year no trouble on that score is anticipated.

QUIT PLAYING POLITICS AND GET ON WITH THE WORK

Canadian Government in December Announced Its Proposal For Assisting in Relieving the Unemployed; Municipalities Shirk Their Share of Responsibility.

Following the announcement of the policy of the Canadian Government on the question of unemployment, the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, the legislative body of the organized workers of the Dominion, issued a bulletin setting forth certain proposals for employment, unemployment and under-employment.

In many cases the central labor unions have acted on the recommendations of the Trades and Labor Congress and results are already being felt. In Ottawa, for instance, following the reading of the bulletin from the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada the secretary of the Trades Council was instructed to write to the Prime Minister of Canada, the Prime Minister of Ontario and the local members of the House of Commons and the Provincial Legislature. The City Council was not included due to the fact that an official communication had been sent to that body by the local advisory committee to the Government Employment Office embodying the identical requests. At the last meeting of the Ottawa Trades and Labor Council replies were read by the secretary from all of the parties and the requests of the organized labor movement are being carried out by the Dominion Government and the Ontario Government. The local members of the House of Commons, among other things, have suggested to the Canadian Government that the property purchased by the Government on Wellington street should be demolished and the property cleared ready for the erection of the public buildings when the finances of the country will permit. They also suggest that a cement retaining wall should be erected on the east side of the street, and that the Ontario Government has under advisement at the present time. The Ontario Government was urged to establish, with the least possible delay, a central advisory committee and local advisory committees to the Government Employment Office, under the Employment and Unemployment Act.

This, Hon. E. C. Druce, the Prime Minister, writes in under advisement at the present time and will be done in the near future.

Unemployment problems are the chief concern of municipalities. In Montreal and Toronto the situation is being handled by the City Council. In Toronto the City Council has arranged with the Canadian and Ontario Governments and Toronto will undertake relief work at once so as to relieve the unemployed as far as possible. In Montreal, however, the city officials seem to be shirking the responsibility. Plans for relief in Montreal are far from satisfactory. A deputation of unemployed visited the Minister of Labor last week and were told that the Canadian Government had put it up to municipalities to take care of the unemployed. The Minister of Labor should go to Montreal and hold a conference with the city officials. Possibly this would help but the Canadian Government has made a clear declaration as to its position and a visit of an official of the Government cannot help matters to any great extent.

COLONEL MALONE'S SENTENCE CONFIRMED

Appeal of Liberal M. P. Dismissed in Court of Appeals.

The sentence of six months' imprisonment imposed last November upon Lieut.-Col. L. E. Malone, Liberal member of the House of Commons, following his conviction of alleged seditious utterances, was confirmed last week by the Court of Appeals, the court dismissing Lieut.-Col. Malone's appeal from the lower court.

MANITOBA TRADES COUNCIL MAY HAVE PERMANENT ORGANIZER.

A permanent organizer for the Manitoba Trades and Labor Council will likely be appointed within the next few weeks. During the past year the Trades and Labor Council has only been in a position to have a man organize unions in his spare time, but according to advice which has been handed over to the committee on ways and means, London is badly in need of a permanent organizer and one is likely to be recommended at the next general meeting of the council, starting whether or not the council is in a position to have a man appointed. Such a committee would work in conjunction with the International organization, who visit the city, but who only remain in London a short time.

OTTAWA LAUNDRY WORKERS PROGRESSING.

Laundry workers, recently organized in Ottawa, are rapidly getting down to business. At a meeting held on Friday night about twenty more candidates were initiated and the balance of the officers elected. Mr. R. Bellair was elected treasurer; Miss A. Lewis and Messrs. McKechnie and Giguere were elected trustees; Miss M. Dwyer, Mr. N. Gresham and Miss E. Kaufman were elected the finance committee, and the president, vice-president, recording and financial secretaries elected as the executive committee.

ADOLESCENT ACT OF ONTARIO TO BE ENFORCED

Opponents of Progressive Measure Hiding Under Mask of Economy.

TRADE UNIONISTS WATCH MOVES OF HOSTILE FORCES Changes to Be Brought About in Three Stages as Provided For By Act.

The Adolescent Act of Ontario will be brought into effect in the three stages provided for, despite the campaign being carried on against it in some quarters. The Trades and Labor Congress of Canada recently sent to all Central Labor bodies a circular dealing with this important legislation, and all trade unionists were urged to watch the moves of the people hostile to the act. The opponents of the act are hiding under the mask of economy. However, it will be economy to preserve the life of the children of this country and to give to each and every child the very best education possible. The act provides that:

Firstly, the age for compulsory school attendance will be advanced from 14 to 16 years in September of this year. This will not affect children between these ages who are already steady workers. Secondly, municipalities of 5,000 population and over are compelled to provide for the education of children by September, 1922, the machinery for part time education. Part time education is planned to deal with pupils between 14 and 16 years who are excluded from regular attendance at school because of the necessity of work. The act requires that all such pupils shall have a total of 480 hours schooling each year. Thirdly, in 1923 it will be necessary for pupils who have not been in full attendance up to the age of 16 years, or who have not reached the minimum standing, to put in the part time schooling up to the age of 18, if necessary, for a total of 320 hours per year.

BRITISH LABOR TO CONSIDER UNEMPLOYMENT.

The executives of the British Labor Party and the British Trades Union Congress at a joint meeting last week approved the sub-committee's composite scheme embodying all the earlier proposals by or through the unemployed movement. The scheme will be submitted to the national conference today (Thursday), when Labor's policy of unemployment will be laid down.

WAGE INCREASES SINCE 1914 —A COMPARISON.

	Average per Hour cent. P.C. in 1914, 1920, 1921.
Bricklayers	54.6 98.2 56.6
Carpenters	49.6 79.7 77.0
Cement Workers	47.4 81.7 57.8
Painters	47.5 74.2 76.7
Plumbers	54.2 85.8 46.7
Sheet metal	49.3 81.0 51.5
Stewards	41.4 79.5 74.0
Team Drivers	49.0 76.9 44.2
Sheet iron workers	49.7 99.4 76.3
Sheet inside wire	49.3 81.0 51.5
Men	42.3 76.7 65.3

HAMILTON LABOR PARTY ELECTS OFFICIALS.

Hamilton Branch of the Independent Labor party elected the following officers for 1921 at the regular meeting of the party on Wednesday: President, P. Thompson; vice-presidents—East Hamilton, C. H. Hennessy; West Hamilton, T. J. Baker; recording secretary, J. J. McCabe; financial secretary, J. McKechnie; and recording secretary, J. McKechnie; executive committee—East Hamilton, R. Cromton; West Hamilton, H. G. Foster, M. Price and J. L. Longford; auditors, T. J. Drake and J. T. Moran.

VETERANS' SECRETARY SAYS INCREASED GRATUITY OUT OF QUESTION.

The Hon. Lieutenant-General Sir J. H. MacNeill, secretary of the G.W.V.A., in a letter published in the January issue of "The Veteran" Mr. MacNeill, in writing in reply to a criticism of the attitude of "The Veteran" on the subject, declares that it is not so much a question of what the returned men need, as one of what they can decently get. He intimates that the Government, he declares, is more "baying at the moon."

PULP, SULPHITE AND PAPER MILL WORKERS OPPOSE WAGE REDUCTIONS.

That it would be detrimental to the organized interest of mechanics and craftsmen of all types to submit to a reduction of wages was the decision reached at the annual wage conference of the International Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Makers' Conference held at Toronto last week. Seventy delegates, representing thousands of workers in various parts of Canada and the United States, supported the resolution against accepting a reduction in pay.

DEBT IN THE STATES GREATLY REDUCED

Britain Cut it Down By Nearly \$100,000,000 Last Year.

HAMILTON LETTER CARRIERS ELECT NEW PRESIDENT.

At a regular monthly meeting of Hamilton Letter Carriers, held in Foresters' Chambers, recently, P. F. Mowatt was elected president, J. A. Brewster, vice-president, J. McIlwraith, secretary, H. Hardcastle, assistant secretary, D. Morton, Tyler, P. Mowatt, Recording Secretary, and the gratitude of the members were passed to the retiring president and secretary, J. A. Archer and H. Dilworth respectively. Speakers stated that the success of the branch was due to the efforts of the two officers during very strenuous times of the association. President Mowatt, in a message to the members, congratulated the officers and conveyed the felicitations of the letter carriers of this city.

SOLIDARITY OF WESTERN MINERS.

Coal miners in Western Canada are congratulating themselves that they were not the handshakes of one big union advocates, who made a drive on these workers last year to break into this industry. The miners have strong organization and are prepared to resist any cuts that are the rule among unorganized workers.

FRENCH WAR TOLL.

The Director of Public Assistance states that the total population of France diminished 4,000,000 during the war. The official figures are a plea for expenditures on children, because that outlay preserved indispensable vital forces.

MASKED OFFICER GRINDING ORGAN

Many Heroes Begging Bread in Streets of London.

MUNICIPALITIES MUST AB- SOLVE UNEMPLOYED.

So far as the Federal Government is concerned, there is no reason why every man in Montreal in need of relief, should not have his name on the list of the unemployed. Among the important matters considered will be the employment situation, the Canadian share of overseas canteen profits, the date and date and place for the Annual Dominion Convention, and other questions affecting the well-being of ex-service men. The vice-president, R. B. Stafford, of Toronto, will preside in the absence of H. B. Maxwell, the president, who sailed on January 22, to attend the Empire Convention of War Veterans in South Africa.

SAME OLD GAME BEING PLAYED IN NOVA SCOTIA

Seek to Destroy Trade Union Movement Through Labor Political Party.

EASTERN TRADE UNIONISTS SHOULD CRUSH REPTILE

International Trade Union Movement Has Always Fought Workers' Battles.

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PRESSMEN MAKE GAINS.

A long list of wage increases by affiliates of the International Printing Pressmen and Assistants' Union is printed in the current issue of American Freeman, official magazine of that international. The increases in many cases, are 25, 30 and 35 a week.