

WEALTH OF BELGIUM

Mr. Charles Clavier, general director of Belgium's treasury, has compiled figures of Belgium's wealth on the eve of war and has published them in a 52-page booklet. It shows that as a whole Belgium's wealth before the war amounted to a total of 57,237,000,000 francs, real estate representing 39,477,000,000 francs and movable property the rest of this sum. From the figures compiled by Mr. Clavier this interesting computation has been made: Personal per capita wealth was before the war: 2,003 francs in Italy; 5,000 francs in Holland; 6,150 francs in Germany; 6,875 francs in United States; 7,247 francs in Belgium; 7,250 francs in Great Britain; 7,314 francs in France.

Total annual incomes of the Belgian people were reaching the high figure of 5,857,000,000 francs, that is, 754 francs per capita. Considered in this angle, Belgium is a prosperous nation, as may be ascertained in the following computation: Income per capita: In Germany, 693 francs; in France, 642 francs; in Belgium, 754 francs; in Great Britain, 1,018 francs.

QUEBEC LOOKS FOR MORE CAPITAL

Hon. Walter Mitchell, treasurer of Quebec province, said in Sherbrooke on June 11th, that when in New York recently, he had interviewed capitalists regarding further investments in Quebec. Their attitude was favorable, he said, but they wished to await the outcome of the wave of unrest which was at present sweeping Canada. Sir Lomer Gouin, who spoke at the same meeting in Sherbrooke, stated that much more capital could be used.

"We want to encourage the capitalists of this province and other countries to place their money here," he said. "We have everything that is needed, and it may be that if it is found that the people have confidence still in the government which has aided to make the prosperity of the province you will find before many months that there will be many new industries here, such as you have never seen before. You may say that I am too enthusiastic, but I am not. I have faith in my province and the future. There has been talk of the golden age of Canada, but, knowing this province and reading its history, I can say that the golden age of this province of Quebec, is not in her past, but in her future. I am sure that we are able to meet all needs, for we have here the vigor and intelligence to undertake all tasks, and keep Quebec at the head of confederation."

Hon. Mr. Mitchell also referred to the labor difficulties. "We should remain steadfast as of old," he said, "and be sure that this wave of unrest goes by. Remember that I do not think that labor has no right to organize, for I think they have. They have a right to protect themselves, and also I believe that capital is entitled to legitimate profits and legitimate rights and privileges, and I add that capital cannot get along without labor, nor labor without capital and there must be union of both and co-operation between them, and of the two with the farmer, because he produces what the laborer wants, to make him able to do the work of the manufacturer and capitalist." The balance of Mr. Mitchell's speech was taken up with financial matters, answering criticisms, his contention being in the main that, while the debt of the province had increased as to amount, it had decreased from \$15 per head in 1905, when Sir Lomer came into power, to \$13.51 per capita on June 30, 1918, so those who asked what was done with the surpluses that had come each year, amounting to over nine millions, would point out that the debt had been reduced by \$1.49 per head. It was impossible to spend money for roads, for education and other necessities, as has been done, without having to get the money, and interest had to be paid on loans, and this was why the interest costs were higher each year.

On Saturday, June 16th, a cyclone struck Winnipeg, Man., doing damage estimated at \$500,000.

CANADIAN COAL PRODUCTION IN APRIL

The following summary of the output, in tons, of coal of all kinds in Canada in April is prepared by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics:—

	1918. Tons.	1919. Tons.
Nova Scotia	486,192	476,407
New Brunswick	22,892	10,998
Saskatchewan	15,639	14,962
Alberta	382,245	347,606
British Columbia	249,584	218,545

Total for Canada 1,156,552 1,068,518

REPORT ON EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

For the week ending May 31st the Employment Service of the Department of Labor received reports from 79 of the employment offices established co-operatively by the Dominion and provincial governments. These offices reported that during the week they had referred 5,117 applicants to positions, and had received notification that 4,494 of these had secured regular employment. In addition, 463 casual jobs were supplied. This record shows an improvement over the previous week, when 78 offices reported that 4,777 applicants were referred to positions, and 4,327 of these had received regular employment.

During the week 7,113 applicants were registered, of whom 454 were women and 6,659 were men; and 7,787 vacancies were notified by employers—769 for women and 708 for men. Of the placements in regular employment, 301 were women and 4,193 men. Of the latter, 2,429 were returned soldiers.

Of the regular placements, 56 were reported by Prince Edward Island, an increase of 20 over the preceding week; 109 by Nova Scotia, an increase of 13; 188 by New Brunswick, a decrease of 52; 369 by Quebec, a decrease of 38; 2,159 by Ontario, an increase of 578; 245 by Manitoba, an increase of 29; 416 by Saskatchewan, a decrease of 122; 460 by Alberta, a decrease of 332; 496 by British Columbia, an increase of 5.

ROYAL COMMISSION ON INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

Additional sittings of the Royal Commission on Industrial Relations, not planned in the original program, were held in Shawinigan Falls, Que., on June 12th, and in Ottawa on June 13th. The labor members did not attend the former meeting.

In Ottawa, the principal witness was Mr. W. M. Southam, of the Ottawa Citizen, who advocated a tax on land values. The eight-hour day, old-age pensions, etc., did not go to the root of the difficulty, he said. He urged the commission to recommend to the Dominion government that a tax of five mills on the dollar be immediately placed on the capital value of all natural resources, including land values, and that this tax be increased each year until the government's proportion of the country's land values is taken for municipal purposes; also that provincial and municipal governments gradually shift their taxes to land values and thus relieve the burden on improvements, business, etc.

Evidence was also received from representatives of the Ottawa Electric Railway employees who said they had no confidence in the Industrial Disputes Act. Wages, they said, should be regulated according to the cost of living.

Mr. E. M. Trowern spoke on behalf of the Retail Merchants of Canada. He condemned co-operative societies as commercially unsound and wrong in principle. He said that sufficient attention was not being devoted to the retailing and distributing classes.