

Trades Congress has Issued Warning To Its Membership

CANADA'S LABOR SITUATION HAS BRIGHT PROSPECTS

Canada's railway labor situation is viewed in government circles to be daily, if slowly, improving. In the disputes between the railways on the one hand and the shoppens and maintenance of way men on the other, steps have been taken toward establishing arbitration boards, also in the case of the telegraphers in the employ of the Canadian Pacific Railway, the Michigan Central Railroad at St. Thomas, the employees of the New York Central, Ottawa-Tupper Lake branch. It is believed, also, that within a short time the Pere Marquette Railroad will submit to arbitration with its employees under the Industrial Disputes Act.

On the early and satisfactory settlement of the dispute arising out of the six per cent. cut in wages which went into effect on the two railways last Sunday and the request of the men that this reduction be reconsidered, it has been suggested that the brotherhood might question the validity of the order issued by the management which notified all inside employees, clerks, station and shoppens of the wage reduction. It is stated, that by adopting the course they did, the management failed to carry out the provisions of the act which requires copies of the proposed schedules to be served on the men's organization before the order is issued. A court action would be required to settle this question. Some of the dispute goes back to the award made last year by the board consisting of Rev. Byron Staffer, Toronto; Harold Fisher, Ottawa; and Howard Kelly, Montreal.

UNIONIZED CHINESE LABOR IS WINNING TO CONTINUE RATES NOVA SCOTIA MINES

Hong Kong.—The lowly Chinese wage-earner, perhaps the most abject of all the world's toilers, is just learning of the power he is able to wield through the medium of organization, and like a great flood the movement to form various trade guilds is sweeping the country.

Halifax, N.S.—A unanimous recommendation for virtual continuance of the rates now in force in the coal mines of Inverness, Cape Breton, against which among other things the miners appealed, is reported reliably to be contained in the report which the Osborne Conciliation Board will render to the department of labor. It is also rumored that the board will recommend the taking over of the Inverness Railway, running from Point Tupper to Inverness, a distance of 62 miles by the Canadian National Railways.

STATES THE WORKERS PARTY IS AT WORK IN THE DOMINION

SUMMARY OF INCIDENTS TO SHOW DETRIMENT TO CANADA

The Canadian Congress Journal, official organ of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, has an editorial on the Workers' Party in Canada. It is worthy of reproduction. The article in question reads:—

The Workers' Party at Work.

The Workers' Party of Canada evidently do not intend to allow the annual convention of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada to pass without effort on their part, to carry out the instructions of the Red International of Moscow, which are: to use the established trade union movement for the bringing into effect of their own revolutionary aims. They have chosen as their champion Mr. J. B. McLachlan, secretary, District 26, United Mine Workers of America, and through his instrumentality are carrying on their propaganda at the expense of that organization.

HON. JAMES MURDOCK MAKES A STATEMENT ON RAILWAY WAGES

A deputation representing Division No. 4, Railway Employees' Department of the American Federation of Labor, waited upon the premier and the minister of labor Wednesday evening. The delegates placed before the prime minister and his colleagues in the words of a member of the delegation, "the first-hand information as to the general railway situation and the serious state of affairs that was developing, owing to the application of wage decreases."

The Canadian workmen as have been put into effect in the United States, dating from July 1st, and the Canadian workmen were undoubtedly withheld from striking only because of their desire to conform with the requirements of the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act, the provisions of which would render such a strike unlawful unless and until the dispute involved had been passed upon by a board of conciliation and investigation. The same section of the statute, however, which makes any such strike unlawful, seems to require also that no changes in wages or hours can be lawfully made, save of course by mutual consent, unless and until the dispute in question has been dealt with by a board of conciliation. This aspect of the matter was put by the minister of labor somewhat forcibly to the managements of the different United States railways, and each railway has responded with an assurance that no action will be taken with regard to the proposed wage cut until the dispute has been dealt with by the board of investigation and conciliation which has been established.

CANADIAN BROTHERHOOD RAILWAY EMPLOYEES READY

The committee of the Canadian Brotherhood of Railway Employees, in session here in conjunction with the general officers of the brotherhood, is "mapping out plans to combat any attempt to make sweat-shops of the railways and to put the employees on starvation wages," according to a statement issued by A. R. Mosher, president of the brotherhood. Nearly every local branch of the brotherhood pledges itself unanimously to give unstinted support, and urges that the entire resources of the organization be utilized in fighting the reductions. Mr. Mosher states:

After carefully considering the matter from every angle, I have come to the conclusion that the proposed wage reduction to the classes represented by our brotherhood is entirely unwarranted from the standpoint of living costs or otherwise. To unduly lower the standard of living and impose unnecessary hardships upon already low-paid railway workers, can be done only by the public or assist in any way to improve the present economic situation in this country.

OPPOSE THE POLICE UNION

Montreal.—After a private sitting here Tuesday, the special committee of aldermen appointed to study and report on the grievances of the policemen, and other municipal employees, announced that they had decided to oppose the police union in its present form.

I.T.U. PAYMENTS TO CANADIAN MEMBERS

Toronto, July 21.—A statement issued by the International Typographical Union shows that the receipts from Canadian Unions upon the assessments from June 1, 1921, to April 30, 1922, are as follows:

SHOULD BE FREE TO ENTER POLITICS

The premier Rt. Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King, has replied to the telegram sent to him by W. D. Bayley, Independent Labor member elect for Assinibois, in the Manitoba legislature, appealing for the re-instatement of Geo. Palmer, ex-M.L.A., and Charles W. Foster, defeated Labor candidate in the Manitoba election, who, it is understood, have been dismissed from the Canadian National Railways under the so-called Hanna "no politics" order.

:: Items of Interest from Overseas ::

COAL INDUSTRY MISMANAGED

Calgary.—That no further coal mines be opened in Alberta until wider markets have been secured and that mines falling to pay wages consistent with Canadian living standards be suspended is the burden of a resolution adopted by the Alberta Federation of Labor, according to a statement to the Canadian Press by Frank Wheatley, president of that organization. The resolution declares that the evidence submitted to the Knowles conciliation board demonstrated that the coal mining industry was grossly mismanaged.

QUEENSLAND WORKERS JUNK SENATE

The labor government of Queensland has just abolished the upper house in the State Parliament, which consisted of "influential citizens" appointed for life by the Tory government. This reactionary body could not be reached by the workers, and they have therefore voted to abolish it entirely. In its place a Revision Committee has been constituted composed of selected members of the lower house, which will review but cannot veto legislation once enacted. Its work will be purely of a technical nature, in order to promote consistent, clear and concise legislation expressing the intent of Parliament. In case it finds bills that should be altered, it is authorized to send them back to the lower house with recommendations for reconsideration.

LABOR ALLIANCE FORMED IN ITALY

The Norwegian Confederation numbers 223,588 members, and has affiliated with the Red Trade Union International of Moscow on the ground that it better represents the interests of the working class.

BRITISH COST OF LIVING

London.—For the first time in increased, the rise being four points over last month. The increase is attributed to a few articles like milk and potatoes and is not regarded as symptomatic of a general upward tendency.

THIRTY MILLIONS UNEMPLOYED

Detailed reports of the proceedings of the recent Geneva Conference have just reached this country, including the most complete study of world unemployment yet recorded. Statistics gathered from all the larger countries except Russia indicate 10,000,000 heads of families now out of work, with an additional 30,000,000 people directly suffering from their unemployment. The United States leads the list with 3,000,000 to 4,000,000, while Great Britain comes next with 1,900,000 unemployed. Unemployment is especially low in Norway, Holland and Czechoslovakia, while Germany has but 169,000 (3.3 per cent) out of work.

WOMEN WORKERS' SCHOOL

The summer school for women industrial workers at Bryn Mawr College, Pennsylvania, which was instituted last year in order to bring working women in contact with current developments in economics and political science, opened its second annual session on June 14th, to run for eight weeks. Owing to the limited accommodations, but one hundred students have been registered, coming from all parts of the United States and representing the major industries in which women are employed. The cost of the eight weeks' course is \$250, including room and board. In many cases this expense is met by local trade unions, which have sent their ablest women members to get the best Bryn Mawr has and bring it back for the instruction

SCHEME TO PROVIDE HOUSES FOR MINERS

London.—A scheme to provide 10,000 houses for miners at the rate of 2,000 houses a year is being put into operation by the formation of a company to which thirty large colliery companies will subscribe £1,000,000 capital. No profits will be sought, but the scheme is expected to pay its own way. Besides providing houses,

TRADE UNION ACT MAY CAUSE STRIKE

London.—A threat of a general strike was made at a conference of the General Federation of Trade Unions if the bill amending the Trade Union Act is passed. This bill, which has for its object the preventing of the use of trade union funds for political purposes, was recently responsible for uproarious scenes on the part of labor members of a committee of the house of commons.

TURN TOWARD MOSCOW

The executive Committee of the Norwegian Confederation of Labor has decided, by nine votes to four, to withdraw from the International Federation of Trade Unions at Amsterdam on the ground that it does not represent the aims of Norwegian labor.

THE SCHEME INCLUDES PROVISION FOR PLAYING FIELDS, INSTITUTES AND OTHER AMENITIES.

A beginning in this housing scheme is just being made in South Yorkshire, Derbyshire and Wales.

DEMAND BETTER WAGES

The splendid victory of the Chinese Seamen's Union in the recent strike which tied Asiatic ports has been followed by a demand of the Chinese Carpenters' Guild for an increase in the minimum wage from 50c to \$1 per day. The employing contractors offered an advance of 15c, which was refused. The difference has been submitted by both parties to arbitration, pending the outcome of which the carpenters have received a temporary increase of 25 per cent.

THE PREMIER'S REPLY

The text of the premier's telegram is as follows:

"In reply to your night letter of yesterday, received today I would say that, on May 29th last, in answer to a communication from the president of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, making inquiries as to the decision of the government upon section (B) of the legislative program of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, which is worded as follows:—

"To restore the right of railroad workers to offer themselves for political office, without forfeiting their positions or seniority as the National Railways and correct the injustice created by what has been known as 'the Hanna order.'"

"I stated the government's view of the matter as follows:

"The control of the Canadian Na-