

Labor News From Coast to Coast

International Labor News

Costa Rica
Farm Labor Migration—Costa Rican cities report an influx of migrant farmers, whose abandonment of the rural districts and farm labor occupations is said to be retarding the agricultural development of the country.

Germany
Emigration—German overseas emigration during the second quarter of 1925 has increased by 2,700 persons (from 14,845 to 17,505) as compared with the first quarter of the year.

Guatemala
Shoe Workers' Strike—Demanding (1) that a prohibition tariff be placed upon imported shoes, and (2) that the Chinese competition of the industry be forced to charge the same prices as the other shops, five hundred shoe workers continue the strike which they began early in August.

South Africa
Economic Commission Appointed—The Government announced, during June, the appointment of an economic commission to conduct an investigation into questions relating to wages, earnings, and the cost of living in the Union. A professor from the University of Manchester, England, an economic expert of the Australian Government, and three South Africans comprise the commission.

Regulation of Wages—The "Wage Act" passed during the recent session of the Union Parliament, seeks to regulate the rate of wages and all other conditions of employment for any employe in any business, excepting farming, domestic service, and one or two other types of employment.

Sweden
Unemployment—The number of unemployed in Sweden showed a continuing decrease through the past summer, with a commensurate decline in the number of persons receiving State aid.

Comparison of Wages Paid in Gt. Britain and Canada

Weekly wages in Yorkshire, including cost of living bonus, as shown by Ministry of Labor, London, at the end of January, 1924. Exchange value computed at same date. Weekly wages in Canada, as averaged from figures supplied by Canadian mills. Wages comparative as to hours of labor and sex of worker:

| Yorkshire | Canada |
|--|-----------------|
| Winders | \$ 5.92 \$13-15 |
| Twisters | 6.34 13-15 |
| Spinners | 5.77 13-15 |
| Reelers | 6.52 17-20 |
| Doffers | 5.22 13-15 |
| Overlookers | 17.03 35-60 |
| Warehousemen | 12.06 19-22 |
| Blenders, carbonizers, laborers | 12.06 18-20 |
| Male help in grey room, stock room, packing department | 12.30 19-22 |
| Firemen and greasers | 13.59 30 |

The wages in Canada in the textile mills are not too high, it is the wages abroad that are too low.

There is frequently confusion of mind over the effect of money wages paid in different countries on competitive prices for selling goods and the purchasing power of the wages. The money wages paid for labor at the exchange value gives the true basis of comparison for showing the advantage gained by the United Kingdom manufacturers over the Canadian manufacturers when selling goods in Canada. What the wages paid to the operatives will buy in the respective countries had nothing to do with the selling price of the goods, but only with the standard of living of the operatives.

Continental Wages—The average wages in gold paid to skilled textile workers in Germany are 77c per hour, or \$5.72 for a 52-hour week.

Labor Would Abolish Upper House

Sydney, N. S. W.—The State Labor caucus has instructed the Ministry (which is a Labor Ministry), immediately to request the Governor to appoint 35 new members of the Legislative Council that the body may vote itself out of existence. A constitutional question will immediately arise for the Council's hardy old body has often been near death at Labor's hands, but hitherto it has proven so useful to them that they have spared it.

The Legislative Council is a nominated body, and its members, who number 78, are appointed for life and are not paid. In 1922 the Legislative Council of Queensland was abolished.

Firm Abandons Open Shop Plan

Washington.—Because it advertised for bricklayers to work under open shop conditions in Florida and in Rochester, the George A. Fuller Co., one of the largest construction companies in America, has been compelled to make special terms of peace with the Bricklayers' Masons' and Plasterers' International Union.

The Fuller concern was struck by the Bricklayers' International because it signed an agreement with the Operative Plasterers' International which recognized the claims of the latter organization during its recent quarrel with the Bricklayers. Peace between the bricklayers and the operative plasterers was restored by an agreement reached at Atlantic City this month, restoring the former terms of allotment of work between the two.

The bricklayers refused to return to work on the Fuller jobs, involving \$250,000,000 in building contracts, until the Fullers retracted their "open shop" talk.

MacDonald Visits Central Europe

Vienna.—While Ramsay MacDonald, who passed through Vienna on his way home from Hungary, refused to give out any statement concerning the purpose of his visit. It is learned from well-informed quarters that he went to Budapest in order to serve a warning upon the Hungarian Government that the affair of the recently arrested Communists must not be used as a pretext to suppress the Social Democratic party of Hungary.

He considered this step necessary because of the attempts of the Hungarian Government to involve the Social Democrats in the matter, although the Socialists are violently opposed to the Communist aims and tactics.

It is understood that Mr. MacDonald also investigated in Budapest the charges of maltreatment of the arrested Communists by the police.

An authoritative source asserts that Bela Kun, former head of the Hungarian Communist Government, is still in Vienna, despite the denials. His presence greatly embarrasses the Austrian Social Democrats, who are fighting the Communists to the knife, while, on the other hand, they must insist upon his right of asylum.

Miners Refuse to Participate

London, Eng.—The delegates of the Miners' Federation rejected participation in the coal commission which the Government recently appointed to inquire into the entire coal industry, by a majority of 155,000 on a card vote.

The conference, which was held in London for the purpose of considering the situation arising through the interpretation of the true terms. Recently Premier Baldwin, after lengthy consideration, rendered a decision in the mining controversy accepting the contention of the mine owners in their dispute with the Miners' Federation of their right to reduce wages in certain regions.

The miners argued that this decision was at variance with the Governmental subsidy granted to enable the mine owners to maintain the current scale of wages pending an inquiry by a Royal Commission.

Walken Spoke at Montreal T. and L. C.

About 100 people attended a meeting under the auspices of the Trades and Labor Council and the C. I. P. on Sunday afternoon at the L'Assistance Publique Hall, when Walkden of the British Trades Congress, Fraternal delegate, to the Canadian Trades and Labor Council spoke. The speech was very pale pink in hue, he kept on talking about his majesty's government and lauding the Labor Party to the skies. It was very disappointing to those who expected something of a more radical nature. J. T. Foster of the Trades and Labor Council presided.

Decide Against a Labor Party

Atlantic City, N. J.—The American Federation of Labor voted, after an animated debate, against the formation of an independent labor party.

President William Green said there may come a time when it may be necessary to organize such a party, but at present Labor's interests can best be served by supporting candidates friendly to Labor.

Green President by Acclamation

Atlantic City, N. J.—The American Federation of Labor re-elected President William Green and his entire executive council by acclamation, designated Detroit as the 1926 convention city, and then recessed until tomorrow to complete the business of the convention.

Previously it had, by almost unanimous vote, rejected a proposal to form a labor party, refused to join in the Anglo-Russian conference, refused to ask for recognition of the more than a generation had placed Samuel Gompers in nomination, arose to second the nomination, his voice almost breaking as he mentioned his associate of a lifetime, then rising in triumph as he acclaimed Green a most fitting successor. As he concluded there were more cheers and a motion to elect by acclamation.

The big moment came when Mr. Lynch formally announced the election. Then the convention arose as one man to cheer a full three minutes, cheering again when Mr. Green arose to express his thanks, confess his fears when named last December, pledge renewed efforts and declare the test of life is service to one's fellow-man.

"I pledge," he concluded, "all that I am, all I have. Here it is—my mind, my brain, my body, my service—all in your service."

In rapid order, James Duncan of Quincy, Mass.; Frank Duffy, of Indianapolis; Thomas A. Rickert of Chicago; Jacob Fischer of Indianapolis; Matthew Wolf of Chicago; Martin F. Ryan of Kansas City; James Wilson of Cincinnati; and James P. Noonan of Washington were re-elected vice-presidents; Frank Morrison of Washington, Secretary, and Daniel J. Tobin of Indianapolis, treasurer.

William L. Hutcheson of Indianapolis, and Frank Farrington, of Belleville, Ill., were elected delegates to the British Trades Union Congress without opposition, as was James Connors of Buffalo, delegates to the Canadian Trades and Labor Congress. Detroit was chosen as the convention city next year by a vote of two to one over Birmingham, Ala.

A. F. of L. Endorses Coal Strike

Atlantic City, N. J.—The American Federation of Labor unanimously voted to extend its complete endorsement and sympathy to the 158,000 members of the United Mine Workers now engaged in the strike in the anthracite industry. The action was taken after President John L. Lewis of the miners had addressed the delegates and was enthusiastically greeted.

The federation voted to extend "to these mine workers its commendation for their great spirit of self-sacrifice and determination in resisting the efforts of the anthracite operators to break down their working conditions and effect wage reductions."



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