Labor News From Coast to Coast.

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Federal Government's New Proposals

RUNNING TRADES REACH AGREEMENT

Tentative Agreement Reached in Interval of Further Conferences

After ten days of argument and conferences with the commission of conciliation and investigation, headed by Chairman Judge F. S. MacLennan, the representatives of the brotherhoods and railway managements came to a provisional agreement under which the men agree that the reductions in pay running from 10 to 12 per cent. put intto force last June shall be continued tentatively.

Provision is however made for further conferences as to this, with the understanding that if the final decision is that the wages should be reduced, this decision is to stand. Should, however, the wage cut be less than that enforced by the companies, the latter will have to refund the differences between the reduction authorized and that actually in force. If more, no refund will be collectible by the railways.

The outstanding feature of the provisional arrangement are that the brotherhoods have agreed to continue negotiations on the main issue. The railways have also made certain concessions, and by a mutual system of compromise the impasse which threatened last week has been avoided, so that the way is now clear for a resumption of general negotiations, with an agreement duly signed, as a basis for the truce.

Rules and working conditions were expressly left out of the agreement and it was provided that there should be no change in these respects before thirty days after January 1, 1922. After that date each company, individually, will have to negotiate as to these rules with its own men, and if there is disagreement in that regard there will probably be separate boards appointed for each company. The dropping of the rules question for the time being is a decided concession by the companies.

"It took a lot of work to come to a conclusion," said Mr. Geo. Hodge, of the C.P.R., "but we have reached a provisional agreement. I believe that the agreement now signed is in the interests of both the public, the railways and the employees, and I hope that it will prove satisfactory to all and lead to an amicable settlement of this problem, on which we have worked so long."

Mr. W. G. Chester, chairman of the Joint Conference Committee, for the brotherhoods, said that an agreement had been reached and signed by both sides, but he did not think the time was opportune for him to make any statement.

In the meantime the members of the commission of conciliation and investigation will send in their report, based on the agreement reached, and the members of the joint conference committee will return to their respective districts, there to make reports, on which the conduct of the future negotiations will be based.

WINNIPEG VIEWPOINT OF WORDS & ACTION

The printers' strike in Toronto has proven the hollow sham of the high-sounding professions of the Methodist Church toward organized labor. Two years ago the general conference of that church passed what was then regarded as a distinct step in advance, its resolution declaring in favor of social and industrial revolution, the elimination of profits from business and industry, the substitution of service for profit. Some of the manufacturers affiliated with the Methodist church protested very vigorously against what they called the surrender of the Methodist church to socialism, and for weeks the newspapers were filled with letters from and interviews with the leaders on one side of the question. At the time this social resolution was passed the Methodist church owned and operated the largest publishing business in Canada, the Methodist Book-Room, an office which had accepted all the benefits of being a union shop and which employed the best type of printers because they were members of the International Typographical Union. Last year that business made profits of 103,000—"a record profit," to use the words of the book steward in his address to the Hamilton Conference. Yet when this Methodist Book Room was asked to substitute "service for profit" it flatly refused to even consider the demands of its printers for shorter hours and openly accepted the leadership in the fight against organized labor.—Western Labor News.

REGULATE CHILD LABOR

Raleigh, N. C.—New regulations announced by the state child welfare commission prohibit the employment of children under 16 years before 6 o'clock in the morning and after 9 o'clock at night. No child under 14 years of age shall be employed more than eight hours a day. Farming and domestic work is not included in the regulations. No girl under 14 years of age shall be permitted to work in any of the prohibited occupants.

"The reason for this" says the commission, "is that if the womanhood of the state is to be properly conserved in the future girls of tender age certainly cannot be allowed to run the dangers of association inherent in employment in public places."

Boys between 12 and 14 years may be emyployed when public school is not in session.

LADIES' TAILORS WIN

New York.—Ladies' tailors in Chicago have defeated an attempt to cut wages 30 per cent. Officers of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' union have received this information from their Chicago affiliate:

"Brothers: We send you this news with a feeling of great joy because it heralds a victory we have won over the Ladies' Tailors association that melted like sno wunder a July sun in the contest. We again retain the old conditions for which we fought. We convinced the employers that their new demands were a disguise for exploitation; that we don't want to be modernized and would rather live up to such old principles as a living wage and humane treatment. They were forced to concede this fact because they could not get strikebreakers from our ranks."

WANT AWARD ENFORCED

Walsenberg, Col.—Coal miners object to the state industrial commission deciding if the wage reduction of the Colorado Fuel and Iron company is excessive.

This Rockefeller property recently cut wages 25 to 33 per cent although it is operating under an award by a government bituminous commission that extends until next April. The miners insist that the state commission pass on this violation of contract. The company organized a "union" of its own several months ago and the public was assured that the capitalist-labor question was finally solved by the P. & I.

"BIG SIX" TO ARBITRATE WAGES

"Big Six," the New York local of the International Typographical Union, has decided by a vote which was practically unanimous to arbitrate its differences with the New York Employing Printers' Association concerning a new wage agreement.

Under the expiring agreement the printers got $50 a week. They wanted a new agreement under which they would receive $55 a week. The employers wanted one under which the printers would get $40 a week.

The adoption by the union of a resolution authorizing officials of the union to meet with representatives of the employers and renew the discussion was in effect an endorsement of the policy of arbitration adopted by the International union. Pending arbitration proceedings, the present scale of $50 a week will continue until December 1.

John McParland, president of the international body, addressing the printers, said that a strike in New York would be fraught with possibilities too grave to be entered upon lightly. He said the executive council is collecting and disbursing in excess of $300,000 monthly for strike and other benefits throughout the country, and the seriousness of a rupture in New York was too apparent to need further comment. "Big Six" is the largest contributor to the fund.

LANDIS WAGE WON'T BUILD HOMES

Chicago.—Judge Landis' wage award that cuts rates in the Chicago building industry will not result in home building, writes George W. Perkins editor of the Cigar Makers' official journal.

"Opinions as to the reductions in cost of production vary," says the trade unionist. "Labor officials say that it is approximately 4 per ccent. while some employers claim that it will amount to not less than 6 per cent. Taking 5 per cent as an average we find that a house costing $7,000 under the old scale will cost $6,650 under the Landis decision. Not so much of a difference as you were led to believe by the labor-hating press that has at all times placed the blame for the housing shortage on the backs of building trades unions.

"Now let us see where th ereal cost of production lies. The material for an ordinary bath room in 1914 cost less than $200. Today the same material costs from $650 to $675, hence we find that regardless of the labor cost the material cost alone on one room of the house, the ordinary bath room, has advanced some $450 or more.

"This rank profiteering in material cost goes clear through construction be it frame, brick, or heart of the whole situation in the building industry. It is this extortion that raises our rent to the point where we must necessarily pinch on our allowance for food, clothing and everything else that we need in order that we may provide shelter from the elements.

"Labor may be "readjusted"—so far that it is all that has been seriously attempted—and labor may loyally carry out their part of the 'readjustment,' but unless capital honestly co-operates neither the building industry nor any other industry will revive as it should. The exacting wartime profits by combinations and agreements among those who control industry is a crime against the millions who suffer and who must abide by wage cuts and unemployment.

"We are anxiously awaiting some decision from some one, some where, that will reduce something besides wages which are not now and never have been anywhere near the actual cost of living."

ARE WAGES COMING DOWN?

Washington.—Chairman Lasker of the United States shipping board announces the appointment of Harry Kimball of the Chase National Bank, New York, as second vice president of the shipping board. Mr. Kimball's wage will be $30,000 a year.

SAM LANGFORD FIGHTS IN TORONTO ON OCTOBER 18TH

On the night of October 18, labor men will be given an opportunity of helping unemployed returned men and also seeing a splendid night's boxing at the Armouries when the Grand Army of United Veterans stage one of their famous professional boxing shows. The profits will go towards alleviating distress among returned men out of work. There will be an unusually good programme and in one main bout, Sam Langford, the famous Boston colored heavy, will meet Young Peter Jackson, a leading colored fighter, while in the other scrap, Benny Gould of Toronto, the Canadian bantam champion, will oppose Freddy Thompson of Buffalo, the bantam champion of Western New York State. Langford is one of the greatest heavyweights of the world and great difficulty was experienced in securing an opponent for him as all the leading heavies sidetracted him or asked for prohibitive terms. Jackson was not so backward as he once secured a technical decision over Langford and is anxious to show that he can beat the famous Boston Tar Baby on his merits.

The bout between Gould and Thompson should be a pippin. 2Benny has beaten every Canadian bantam and feather of note, while Thompson has licked the best in the States. If Benny wins this bout, he meets Sharkey here in the near future while if Thompson emerges the victor, he has been promise a bout with Joe Lynch, former world's champion, in Buffalo. It can be seen that both Thompson and Gould will be doing their best to win. Another bout will see Curly Wilshur, our clever feather, opposed to Young McEwen over the eight round route, while Frankie Bull, the crack Toronto lightweight will clash with Tiger Smith, the hard hitting scrapper from Hamilton.

Labor men are requested to patronize this show. The object is a worthy one in view of the distress among unemployed returned men. All the boxers are giving their services reasonably in view of the circumstances and it behooves labor men, who are essentially good sports, to do their bit.

The prices are reasonable and seats will be on sale at the King Edward Cigar Store and Moodey's Cigar Store, 33 King St. West, on Tuesday, October 11th, and every day until the 18th.

Labor men will remember the co-operation the Grand Army has always tried to give them and the many good boxing shows the association has staged in Toronto during the past year. In view of the splendid bill the returned men are providing for their next show and the more than reasonable prices the Armouries should be packed to capacity.

CROOKED BUSINESS MEN

Atlantic City.—The national association of credit men has appropriated $100,000 to prosecute commercial crooks and pledges its resources to the suppression of what is declared "the greatest wave of commercial dishonesty ever known in this country." It is stated that of the annual charge of $92,000,000 written off as bad debts by manufacturers and wholesalers, at least 40 per cent. or more is due to dishonesty.

One official of the credit men's association said: "A wave of business crime which threatens to inundate all but the most powerful commercial houses and the most strongly entrenched jobbers is sweeping the land."

HUGE FIRE LOSSES

Washington.—In designating October 10 as fire prevention day throughout the nation, President Harding says that fire causes an annual loss of life estimated at 15,00 in addition to many millions of property damage including valuable timber.

Government proposals for unemployment relief during the coming winter, made public by Senator Gideon Robertson, Minister of Labor, include an offer to bear a share of the cost of municipal work above the normal cost, provided equal shares of the excess are borne by the provincial and municipal governments. This, the Government believes, would encourage the creation of work. Where work cannot be provided, the Federal Government will continue to bear one-third of the amounts actually paid out by municipalities for unemployment relief, the other two-thirds to be borne equally by the provincial and municipal governments.

In his statement outlining the Government's proposals, Senator Robertson says that unemployment relief has been, and must necessarily continue to be, primarily a municipal responsibility, and in the second instance a responsibility of the province. Further, he declares, because the present situation is due to causes beyond the power of local, or even national control, that the Federal and provincial authorities should co-operate in helping to create and provide employment. Where employment cannot be furnished to workmen willing to work, to aid in providing food and shelter for them and their dependents until the emergency is past.

The statement sitpulates that Federal funds used for unemployment relief must be disbursed only through responsible municipal authorities.

The Government's proposal for participating in the cost of municipal works follows:

"Municipality to bear the normal cost, that is to say, the cost of carrying on the said work in the normal working season. Estimate of normal cost to be approved by Federal Government's engineers in the Department of Public Works. That municipal, provincial and Federal governments bear equally and jointly the actual cost over the estimated normal cost."

This is a plan for providing employment, instead of unemployment relief. Senator Robertson is communicating the plan to all provincial governments, and its details will be supplied to any municipality applying.

Unemployment, says Senator Robertson, has been a cause of public anxiety for a year past. A serious industrial depression was brought about in the fall of 1920 by the falling off of export trade, on account of European countries being unable to purchase Canadian goods, and universal buyers' strikes. Buyers waited for lower prices, and manufacturing fell off. During the last 90 days of 1920, some 150,000 workmen lost their employment. The situation was hardly realized before steps were taken to arrest the movement. Over 8,000 employers were asked to retain all possible workmen, even if only on short time. Banks were asked to aid in extending credits to manufacturers; Federal, provincial and municipal governments did what was possible on short notice. The result was that little further decline occurred after January 1.

On December 14, 1920, the Federal Government introduced a relief policy, reimbursing municipalities one-third of the amount they found it necessary to expend to relieve distress. The Federal Government has expended more than $600,000 for this purpose, in addition to maintaining entirely 12,163 unemployed disabled soldiers and their dependents at a cost of over $1,000.000.

It was, however, universally urged that employment rather than unemployment relief was wanted, and on July 13 a communication was addressed to all Provincial Governments requesting that a maximum amount of preparation for the winter's needs should be made. A provincial survey of present and prospective conditions was suggested, after which there should be a conference between representatives of the Provincial and Federal Governments to determine the best means of aiding municipalities during the coming winter in dealing with unemployment. Three of the nine provinces have approved of holding such a conference.

In the meantime conditions have improved, unemployment since July having gradually lessened. The situation, is better than the most optimistic held possible two months ago. There will, nevertheless, inevitably be considerable unemployment next winter.

The Department of Labor has corresponded with some 70 municipalities on this subject, and representatives of the department have visited most of the industrial centres gathering information. Many municipalities can meet the situation unaided, provided the unemployed from other sections do not drift in and complicate their problem.

ONTARIO PREMIER PLACES RESPONSIBILITY

The thesis that unemployment was a condition to be met by industry and not by Governments was advanced by Premier E. C. Drury in his address at he Toronto Kiwanis Club. With this contention he coupled as the sole solution of the problem the prescription that manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers should engage in widespread price deflation, the primary purpose of which would be to bring commodities to within the purchasing capacity of the agricultural classes.

In such a crisis the Government was only too easily made the butt of impracticable and unreasonable popular clamor. As an employing agency it could exert only a proportionately small influence upon the general situation.

In proof of the futility of Government undertakings as panaceas for the problem, the Premier cited the Chippawa project, one which entailed a wage bill of one million dollars weekly, but which had had no noticeable effect upon conditions generally.

"I almost shudder to think of the money that has gone into the Chippawa development. It has haunted my dreams," he remarked.

In conclusion he theorized briefly in regard to the tariff. If he were himself a manufacturer, he stated, he would become a free trader, because he believed that industry in this country was at the point at which it must either reach out for world markets or stagnate. With a raw material dowry per citizen that was greater than that of any other country in the world he did not see why Canada should become a manufacturing nation that would produce extraordinarily cheap and yet afford to its inhabitants a high standard of comfort.

AIDING EX-SERVICE MEN

Washington.—The United States veterans' bureau reports that its "clean-up" squads, sent all over the country, have rounded up hundreds of ex-service men who did not know that the government is willing to aid them with free hospital treatment and medical care, vocational training and compensation. To date more than 18,000 cases have been received through the medium of these squads.

The veterans' bureau is the result of a consolidation of three soldier-relief agencies established by the government.

ALLEN LAW IS SCORED

Wichita, Kan.—The attitude of the people of this state toward Allen's "can't strike" law is indicated by L. S. Harvey, who includes opposition to the law in his candidacy for state attorney general.

He says the industrial relations court has demonstrated no reason why it should be in existence except as a burden to the people.

"It has arrayed one class against another, and absolute harm instead of good has been derived from its creation, he says.

"There has been too much horse play with the producers and others whose annual contributions to the state treasury are responsible for the wild profligacy of expense that is in evidence."

OFFICIALS ARE CZARS

Madisonville, Ky.—The sedition or syndicalist law was condemned by the annual convention of the state federation of labor. This bill was passed when the people were led to believe that our national institutions were endangered several months ago. One feature of the law provides that any town marshal or constable may stop a public speaker for statements that the town marshal believes may lead to unrest.

Under this law a trade unionist cannot speak on the evils of child labor in sections of the state where this labor is employed

When Governor Morrow signed the bill he questioned its legality. Since then he has publicly and privately favored its repeal.

Shawnee, Okla.—The convention of the state federation of labor has passed a resolution urging political units in Oklahoma to start public work to relieve the unemployed situation.

PERMIT GRANTED TO ENGLISH LEADER

Canadian Membership Agree to Permit Be Granted By Ballot

The controversy between the American Federation of Musicians and Mr. Albert de Courville, manager of the "Hullo Canada" Revue Company, an English theatrical company which plays in Canada, has ended by the Musicians Federation allowing Charles Edward Coulrick, the English orchestra leader, a temporary card in the union, which will permit him to carry out the Canadian tour.

When it was first stated that Mr. Coulrick was being brought to Canada to play with the company, the American Federation of Musicians objected to the members of its unions playing under his direction, as he is not a member of the Federation.

The company decided to bring Mr. Coulrick here anyway to fulfil his engagement and threatened to make the action of the Federation of Musicians an international question.

This more serious aspect of the case, however, has been averted, as a ballot taken by the Canadian members of the federation, the result of which was made known on Saturday, has decided in favor of allowing the English player to carry out the Canadian tour with the company, and a permit has accordingly been issued by the international organization.

If this had not been granted, under the conditions of their membership, Canadian musicians, belonging to the American Federation of Musicians, would have been unable to play with Mr. Coulrick, and the revue company would have "Locked out" as far as musicians were concerned.

Much unfavorable comment has been engaged in at the expense of the Federation of Musicians and that the same was unwarranted is clearly shown by Pres. J. Delaney of Ottawa, where the show opened.

"If our international headquarters had not been misinformed right at the commencement of this controversy," said President J. Delaney of the local Musicians' Union, "all this unnecessary and unfortunate stir would have been avoided. The company originally was given a permit for an English orchestra leader, Mr. Bowsden, to play in Canada. The company, however, decided to substitute Mr. Coulrick, but did not notify the international until the last minute, and accordingly one permit having been given, it was decided not to give another. In adopting the stand it took on the question, our international was endeavoring to protect Canadian musicians, as it would be eminently unfair to them to allow English or other musicians not members of the international to come to Canada and take the places of our musicians, among whom many could be found who are qualified to direct this revue company. In granting the permit to Mr. Coulrick, it has been expressly stated by the International that this is not to be taken as a precedent. It must be understood that if a Canadian musician went to England, and was not a member of the union there, he would be up against the same proposition as Mr. Coulrick faced here. As far as the man was concerned, Canadian musicians had no objection to the coming to this country; it was simply a matter of principle. Under the provisional permit granted Mr. Coulrick, he will be permitted to play with Canadian musicians.

FALL ROAD CONTRACTS BETTER THAN SPRING

Washington.—Employment can be promoted and waste eliminated if road and highway contracts are let in the fall instead of in the winter and spring, is the belief of a group of engineers who were asked to study this question by Secretary of Commerce Hoover

President Gompers has forwarded copies of the report to A. F. of L. affiliates who are urging their various state, county and municipal governments to make effective this declaration by the last A. F. of L. convention:

"To make immediate provision to carry on such public works as they may now have under consideratoin."

In urging the awarding of road contracts in the fall, the engineers say that the practice of spring contracts is an unavoidable waste.

"In the middle west in the spring letting" it is stated, "there are 142 working days for grading and 104 working days for concreting, compared with the longer time in the fall letting of 207 working days for grading and 142 days for concreting.

"The difference in production cited discloses three principal advantages which may be obtained through a longer working season. These arvantages are: Better car service, less fluctuation in construction, completion of highway programs.

"A late start in the spring has been found to make the greatest demand for transportation in that industry coincide with the peak demand for transportation in numerous other industries, and some action is needed to make the demand more uniform."

B.C. ELECTRICIANS TO BE LICENSED

The British Columbia government has introduced a bill entitled the "Electricians' License Act," which proposed to put through at the next session, says the B.C. Labor News.

The bill proposes to compel all electrical workers to obtain a license, renewable every year. These licenses will be issued after the applicant has been examined as to his knowledge of construction and installation by a board of examiners to be appointed by the government.

Electrical workers claim that the bill is detrimental to the workers inasmuch as the board can cancel a license for any reason it cares to introduce. All journeymen will be held responsible for the work performed, whereas the contractor can instruct his employe to use poor material, etc., and will not be penalized. Naturally employes not obeying the orders of the contractors will stand to likely lose their jobs.

The appointment of a board will enable the big contractors to control the board and keep new contractors from obtaining certificates for getting into the business and it can use the club during strikes or refuse licenses to undesirable employes.

Fines of from $50 to $300 with six months' imprisonment with second offences will be made against offenders of the act or men not carrying licenses and although the bill is being sponsored by the government, the contractors are not making any protest against it, thus giving one the impression that they are behind it. As it stands, the bill is of absolutely no benefit to the workers, nor to the practical side of electrical work, and it plages the journeyman at a disadvantage by keeping him out of the contracting field and making him responsible for not properly constructed of installed work.

Paternalism vs. Trade Unionism

The Pennsylvania railroad is circularizing the country with a pamphlet which eulogizes the paternal pension system of that corporation.

In oppostition to this system is the pension plan of organized labor, illustrated by the International Typographical Union's pension system. The difference between the two plans are:

Railroad employees and officials from 65 to 69 years of age, inclusive who, after 30 years or more in the service become disqualified from "active duty" are "eligible" for pension.

The union printer automatically draws a pension if he is 60 years of age, has been in good standing in the union for 20 years, and fails to secure sustaining employment.

Railroad's pension is based on 1 per cent. of the employee's or official's regular monthly pay for the 10 years immediately preceding retirement multiplied by the years he has been in the service of the Pennsylvania railroad, but no pension must be less than $15 a month. Under this system if a worker was employed 30 years and his average monthly pay for the last 10 years was $80, his pension would be 30 times 80 cents, or $24 a month.

The printer pensioner receives a flat $5 a week without running the risk of having his wages cut in his declining years, and have these rates the basis for his pension. Wages earned by the pensioner are not considered under the union system.

Pennsylvania railroad officials administer that pension. The printers administer their's with every member of the union—pensioners included—having a voice and vote in its affairs.

The railroad maintains its pension entirely by funds taken from its treasury. This "generosity" is always made public when the railroad want to lower working conditions or check a wage movement.

The union maintains its pension by a stated assessment of members

The union printer never endangers his pension when he strikes to improve working conditions. He doesn't have some employer pass judgment on his qualifications for a pension. If his earning powers are reduced in his later years, this does not affect his pension. His pension is not a dole or a charity—it is his because he paid for it.

The publicity this road gives its paternalism indicates the mental attitude of a corporation that acknowledged it expended $850,000 in 1913 to maintain a private army and has recently defied the United States railroad labor board in an effort to establish a company "union" and drive off its system every bona fide labor organization.

The railroad states that during the first six months of 1921 it paid $1,354,692.03 in pensions. This is an average of $2,709,384.06 for the year. Against this expenditure by one of the coutry's mightiest corporations, the International Typographical union, without brass band or newspaper publicity, quietly reports that for the year ending May 31 last there were 1,683 pensioners on the rolls and they were paid $709,128 during that period.

The two systems represent two distinct lines of thought in the industrial field—the railroad, with its paternalism, and the union with its self help and independence.

The Pennsylvania railroad is the recognized leader of the anti-union low wage movement of the nation's transportation system.

UNEMPLOYED WARNING

Washington.—A. J. Berres secretary-treasurer of the metal trades department, A. F. of L., has notified affiliates of unemployment conditions in Portland, Ore., where an exposition will be held in 1925. Reports from that city state that workers are being attracted there under the impression that employment is plentiful. The Portland unionists say no one will be employed on exposition work for at least a year, "and even then there are ample workmen to supply the demand for a considerable time thereafter."

Items of Interest from Overseas

British trade unionists stand with American trade unionists on the disarmament issue and declare that the extensive program of armament "is contrary to the spirit and policy of disarmament and peace."

The Britishers call "for the suspension of all preparations for war at least until the disarmament conference has finished its work."

This information was sent to President Gompers in response to his recent suggestion to the trade union movements in England, France, Italy and Japan that world-wide demonstrations be held in the interest of peace.

In a letter to the A. F. of L. executive, C. W. Bowerman, secretary of the parliamentary committee of the British Trades Union Congress, encloses this resolution passed by the congress at its meeting in Cardiff, just adjourned:

"This congress learns with satisfaction that the president of the United States is calling an international conference to discuss the question of the disarmament of nations, with which policy it is rully in accord.

"In the opinion of this congress, however, such a conference will not be satisfactory unless labor is adequately represented thereon, and understanding that Great Britain will take part in such conference this congress claims the right to appoint representatives of organized labor to attend the conference, seeing that the subject to be discussed is a matter vitally affecting the interests of the workers in all nations.

"The congress further protests against the recent decision of the British Government to carry out an extensive programme of armaments, which is contrary to the spirit and policy of disarmament and peace, as advocated repeatedly by members of the government themselves.

"The congress further asks for the suspension of all preparations for war at least until the disarmament conference has finished its work."

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Ben Tillett, Labor member of Parliament, and organizer of the Dockers' Union, of which for many years he has been general secretary, in a manifesto declared:

"Bankruptcy stares us in the face This winter will be the testing time for working class organization. Every form of government is in a state of panic or ruin and whether it will be an imperial or national government, disaster impinges on the administration, but whatever the chaos of accumulated debts, labor and industry will have to meet the impost."

He urges the co-operation of all trade unions to compel Government assistance.

* * *

Manchester.—"Wages must come down, is the cry one hears among certain classes," says the Cotton Factory Times.

"We hear it from the pompous commercial traveller who charges his firm first class—and travels third; from the shop keeper who has made his pile by charging war prices for old stock, and from the nondescript people who call themselves 'middle class.'

"Ask these same people why the 'salaries' of royalty, the prime minister, cabinet ministers, government heads, archbishops, etc., should not be reduced and they will pooh-pooh the idea. 'The dignity of office and the country must be maintained,' etc., etc.

"Just so. 'Twas ever thus. And then these biased, short-sighted people wonder why extremists are getting the ear of the people."

* * *

London.—An important official announcement to the effect that in future much wider facilities are to be given to local authorities in obtaining loans from money invested in National Savings Certificates was made by Lord Islington, chairman of the National Savings Committee, at a Savings Conference in Birmingham.

Loans from this source, he pointed out, had hitherto been restricted to purposes of subsidizing housing schemes. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had now given instructions, however, that from October 1 next, local authorities might obtain loans from Certificate money for any purposes for which the Public Works Loan Commissioners had power to lend.

A local authority could claim from the Public Works Loan Board loans of an amount up to 50 per cent. of the gross proceeds of the sales of Savings Certificates in its own area, while the Treasury would still undertake to meet repayments to investors out of the remaining 50 per cent.

This scheme could be made to play a very large part in local finance. Indeed, he had been told by several borough treasurers that, on the basis of their local sales during the war, enough money would be forthcoming to meet all their local needs for borrowing.

* * *

"Whitechapel Guardians are exploiting the unemployed by trying to work them at less than trade union rates," says Victor Beachan, London district organizer of the Painters' Union.

The Guardians are paying £5 5s to men they have on painting relief work instead of about £4 6s, and the Stepney unemployed's organization has refused to do the work, and are picketing.

* * *

London.—Affiliated transport workers, railroad employes, miners and metal workers have been called to meet in a conference on November 11, the date of the opening of the Washington conference on limitation of armaments according to a decision of the International Federation of Trade Unions of Great Britain. Robert Williams, secretary of the Transport Workers' Union, informed the Daily Herald, or

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