

# Labor News From Coast to Coast

## Our Overseas Column

### From the Trades

### New Labor Club for Prague

**Engineers**  
Great Britain.—The British engineering unions presented some time ago a demand for a flat wage increase of 20s. a week. The employers however, replied by very drastic proposals. Having set forth the difficulties of the industry, they proposed a 2s. increase of the war bonus, but only on condition that the day shift would be lengthened from 47 to 50 hours, and the night shift from 47 to 52½ hours. This increase was expressly stated to be intended to enable the trade to compete with Germany, where, according to "The Times," working hours are from 50 to 60 hours per week. The unions have now considered the proposals and have rejected them, there is "complete and emphatic unanimity" against any extension of the working day. At present, therefore, there is a deadlock, and the present agreement remains in force.

The Czech Socialist Party already possesses a number of large buildings in Prague which accommodate the Party headquarters, the editorial offices of their chief organ, a printing office, the Party bookshop, Co-operative shops, etc. To this goodly number they have lately added a big new Labor Club, a building of five stories containing flats, restaurants, a gymnasium and a concert hall as well as Club rooms and other meeting halls. The building cost four million Czech crowns.

### Printers' Wages Are Reduced

Melbourne, Australia.—The wages of printing employees in the State of Victoria have been reduced. Job printing rates have been reduced \$1.32 and those of women employees 60 cents per week. The reduced rates operate as from March 6. The Printing Trades Union has issued a protest against the reductions, claiming that they are now placed in an unfair economic position, compared to their fellow-craftsmen in other Australian States.

### Akron Street Car Situation Improved

Akron, Ohio.—The street car situation in Akron, Ohio, which had been in a status threatening strike, is much improved. The U.S. department's conciliator, who conducted the negotiations, reports from Detroit, Michigan, where he had gone to consult the national officers of the union, that a decision has been reached which will adjust the situation. The question of the bus men joining the carmen's union was the main point of contention.

### African Strike May Come Soon

A minimum wage bill or a strike that will tie up all the railroads of South Africa is the challenge laid down by the Industrial and Commercial Workers' Union of South Africa through its secretary, Clements Kadalle. The union is composed of native workers. Speaking before a mass meeting of 2,000 native workers a few weeks ago, Kadalle said:

"Tell the white man he has robbed you for the last 200 years, robbed you in the land of your fathers. Kick up such a row that the white man cannot sleep. The white man tells you the native must develop 'along his own lines.' What is that? I want you to live according to European standards. Our Congress in Johannesburg in April asked the Government to bring in a minimum wage bill for the whole of South Africa. If we can't get that we will tell the Government we will hold up the railway service and the entire industry. We mean it."

"My message to you in 1925 is: You must be free men and free women in the land of your fathers. Let that be your vision for the year. Get together everywhere and breathe the one word: I want to be a free man in South Africa."

### Strike Called Off

Williamstown, Pa.—Hosiery workers at Williamstown, Pa. have called off their strike and returned to work at the rates and conditions obtaining prior to their strike. On account of lack of orders only about one-half of the strikers have resumed work. Others will be re-employed as soon as business conditions warrant a larger force.

### New Agreement Signed in Spokane

Spokane, Wash.—The bakers of Spokane made demands upon their employers for a wage increase. Demands were refused on the grounds that the industry would not stand it without an increase in the price of the product. The department's representative has wired that an agreement has been reached which allows an increase of about fifty cents per day. Approximately 400 men are affected.

### Dispute May Tie Up Australia's Ships

Melbourne, Australia.—A new phase has arisen in the Australian shipping dispute. Recently the owners pled up the steamship Monaro, following her being prevented sailing from Sydney, owing to the owners refusing to insert a clause in the ships' articles guaranteeing the observance of

the Arbitration Court award dealing with wages and conditions in force before the Seamen's Union was deregistered.

Tom Walsh, President of the Seamen's Union, in a letter to the Shipowners' Association, now demands that any ship's articles between the seamen and the association shall contain the award conditions, though without mentioning the award. The Shipowners' Association refused to comply with the demand.

As an indication of the extent of the shipping trouble the linters refused to tranship the cargo of the Monaro unless the steam was supplied by a member of the Seamen's Union.

### Constitution Granted to S.W. Africa

Cape Town.—South West Africa which the Union Government has been administering as a mandatory under the League of Nations has been granted a constitution by a bill introduced by Premier Hertzog. The bill provides for an executive committee, advisory council and a Legislative Assembly, the latter to consist of 18 members, six of whom will be nominated by administration and twelve to be elected by the white manhood suffrage in 12 constituencies which will be defined by a commission.

### Street Car Men Retain 8-Hour Day

Chicago.—Because the Chicago Surface Lines backed down on their counter-demands for a wage cut and abolition of the 8-hour day, the 14,500 members of Division 241, Amalgamated Association of Electric and Street and Electric Railway employees, retain their 75c an hour wage scale and time and a half after the 8th hour. In addition the company agrees to end all night runs at 7 a.m. instead of 8 a.m. as heretofore. The union had asked for a 6 a. m. limit.

### Skilled Work on Coaches

Toronto, Ont.—The T. T. C. Hillcrest shops are the scene of a great deal of activity these days in the rush to complete the construction of the new coaches to be placed in service this summer. All told the workmen are building twenty-one, fifteen of which will be operated on the route between the Hill District and downtown and for overflow traffic in the sight-seeing and chartered coach business. With the exception of one having a four cylinder engine already built and placed in commission, they are all equipped with six cylinder sleeve-valve motors.



**DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR**  
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### Membership of Swedish Unions

The latest figures of the membership of the unions belonging to the Swedish National Centre show an increase between January 1st, 1924, and January 1, 1925, from 312,022 to 360,337, or 47,315 (15 per cent.) The number of affiliated unions is 34, and the number of local branches 3,810. The male membership has risen in 1924 from 236,69 to 329,283, that is by 43,014 or 18 per cent and the female from 26,753 to 31,054, that is

by 4,301 or 16 per cent. The greatest increase is recorded by the metal workers' union, which has 8,023 new members; then comes the Union of Forestry and lumber workers with 6,892.

The General Workers with 6,025, and the Paper workers' Union with 4,164. The total membership of the Centre on December 31st, 1920, was 280,925, so that, unlike most other countries, the trade unions of Sweden have not only managed to retain the members won in the days of general prosperity, but they have also recruited new members from among the hitherto unorganized masses.



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### Labor Cabinet Formed in N.S.W.

Sydney, Australia.—Sir George Fuller, Leader of the Nationalist Party, who has been Premier of New South Wales since the general election of 1924, when the Nationalists and Progressives joined forces to defeat the Labor Government of J. Dooley, resigned along with his Ministers at the conclusion of a Cabinet meeting.

Sir George on tendering the Government's resignation to the Governor of New South Wales, Admiral Sir Dudley Rawson Stratford de Chair, advised that the Labor Leader, J. T. Lang, should be sent for to form a new Administration.

Mr. Lang thereupon was invited by the Governor to form a Cabinet and he accepted the invitation.