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sions on which there was an agreed report included those in favor of proportional representation, joint industrial councils, and minimum wage laws for women and children; while directions were given for an inquiry into the subject of State insurance against unemployment, sickness, invalidity, and old age.

The International Conference at Washington had for its objective the international regulation of labor conditions. Here again the question of hours of labor presented one of the chief difficulties. While the eight-hour day and the forty-eight-hour week were adopted as a general principle applicable to all nations and industries, a number of important exceptions were made. July 1st, 1921, was set as the time for carrying the convention into effect, but it was felt that a longer period should be allowed to those nations whose industrial development is in a backward condition; for example, a period of five years was allowed in the case of Japan. Reciprocity with regard to the treatment of workers in foreign countries was set as the general rule, but this is not to interfere with the right of each nation to determine who shall compose their own population or be entitled to the rights of citizenship—an important proviso in a country where entry is sought by immigrant workers of all races. Many measures recommended by the Conference are already in force in our own Province, and others throughout the Dominion; but it is highly desirable, from every point of view, that other nations should bring themselves into line.

In conclusion, it may be claimed that the history of labor developments for 1919, whether regarded as local or national questions or in their wider aspect, has been one of progress; this in spite of some regrettable incidents which have caused temporary anxiety.

So far as it is within the power of Governments to alleviate the lot of the worker, some changes have been accomplished and more are on the way. We may be proud of the fact that in these matters our own Province has usually been a leader and not a follower.

GEOLOGICAL PARTY FOR PEACE RIVER BLOCK

The Hon. T. D. Pattullo, Minister of Lands, announces the appointment of a party of geologists and engineers who will continue the exploration work in the Peace River block carried on last summer by Professor Gwillim. Due to the latter's ill-health the Minister has appointed Dr. J. A. Dresser, a widely known consulting geological and mining engineer of Montreal to head the party assisted by Professor Maclean of the University of Toronto, and Dr. Edmund Spiker, of the Department of Geology, of John Hopkins University, Baltimore. The latter has had considerable experience in exploration for oil in Alberta, where he acted as consultant for the Imperial Oil Co.

The Toronto General Trusts Corporation has purchased the south-east corner of Pender and Seymour Streets from former city solicitor George Hammersley, K.C., now residing in Great Britain. The property has a frontage of 52 feet on Pender Street and 120 feet on Seymour Street. It is the intention of the Toronto Trusts to remodel the present premises in accordance with their office requirements.

Original

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