

Labor News
From
Coast to Coast.

VOL. I. \$1.00 Year. National and Rational.

INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION MAJORITY REPORT RECOMMENDS A DAY FOR CANADA—RIGHT OF WORKERS TO ORGANIZE—PRO- PORTIONAL REPRESENTATION FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND PRESS.

(By Special Correspondent.)
The report of the Royal Commission on Industrial Relations, of which Chief Justice Mathers is chairman, was laid on the table of the House of Commons Tuesday. This report is the most important laid before Parliament for years. There is a majority and a minority report. The majority report is signed by Judge Mathers, Carl Riordon, one of the representatives of the employers, C. N. Harrison, M.P. for Kingston, and the two labor representatives of the Commission, Tom Meiers and John Bruce. The minority report is signed by Senator Smeaton White and F. P. Paus. The minority report makes few recommendations. The chief recommendations that they make are the encouragement of joint industrial councils and also that where such councils are formed employers and employees be urged to institute forms of cooperative insurance or other provisions for pensions or long term employes, sick or invalid.

The majority report makes sweeping recommendations in regard to the introduction of radical and progressive legislation to deal with the industrial situation. The commission recognizes the difficulty over the question as to whether the Dominion has full power to pass legislation dealing with all the subjects discussed and suggests that a conference of provincial premiers, employers and employees be called in order that a decision may be reached and uniform legislation be introduced in the various Canadian parliaments. It is understood that this will be done during the parliamentary recess in order that the Federal Government will be able to deal with the recommendations at the fall session, which it is proposed to call.

The majority report makes an interesting analysis of the causes of the unrest in Canada. The chief causes enumerated are as follows:

1. Unemployment and the fear of unemployment.
2. High cost of living in relation to wages and the share of the worker for a larger share of the product of his labor.
3. Desire for shorter hours of labor.
4. Denial of the right to organize and refuse to recognize Unions.
5. Denial of collective bargaining.
6. Lack of confidence in existing government.
7. Inefficient and poor housing.
8. Restrictions upon the freedom of speech and press.
9. Ostentatious display of wealth.
10. Lack of equal educational opportunities.

The commission deals fully with the question of hours of labor. It recognizes the desirability of a uniform eight-hour day throughout the Dominion. The chief difficulty is the necessity for the utilization of all possible daylight where industry is subject to climatic conditions. This may be carried on during a limited season. Examples of these are farming, fishing, lumbering, etc. Another difficulty is the fact that in some Canadian industry with its small home market to compete with countries with longer hours of work. The commission suggests that in such cases an eight-hour day be established by law throughout Canada, with due regard for these considerations. Such legislation should provide for a weekly rest day of twenty-four hours which should include Sunday whenever practicable.

The committee strongly recommends that employers should no longer deny the right of their employees to organize. This is regarded as one of the reasons for industrial unrest. The report deals at length with the question of collective bargaining. This much discussed term is defined in the following manner:

"Collective bargaining is the negotiation of agreements between employers or groups of employers and employees or groups of employees, through the representatives chosen by the respective parties themselves."

To meet the lack of faith which has been shown by many witnesses in governments as presently constituted the commission proposes proportional representation as a means by which the worker could secure better representation in Parliament. The report suggests serious study of this problem by experts. Insufficient and poor housing and the difficulty of entering into a trade is given as one of the causes of unrest and the Government is recommended to endeavor to deal with this problem. The report recommends that all restrictions on the freedom of the press and the liberty of speech should be removed. However, the report wisely draws the line in regard to license and adds on this subject:

"We have no comment to make upon the policy of the Government in this respect. During the war it

... as between management and people.
6. Conditions surrounding the work, such as the plant and as a whole, the general conditions, special training, libraries, etc.
7. Improvement of the process to improve quality, increase production, decrease waste, etc.
8. Those who suggest such improvements.
Every Council, or by whatever name it may be known, must be under the control of the choice of both the employees and the employer concerned. Any attempt to force a definite plan upon either would be for nothing, as failure to establish to take the initiative and bring the parties together.
The Commission therefore recommends that the Dominion Government should interest itself in the development of these Councils, and that a Bureau should be established to coordinate the work of labor which would compile all available information and statistics, undertake publication of developments in this and other countries, and maintain contact with all interested parties who would act as between employer and workers where desire is expressed to create such Councils, and render such assistance as may be required. The usefulness of Councils would depend on the spirit in which they are adopted, but the Commission believes that the establishment of such Councils in all industries where a considerable number of workpeople are employed is a step in the right direction.

TORONTO BAKERY DRIVERS APPLY FOR BOARD.

Toronto's bread drivers have applied for a board of arbitration. The men arise over the commission under the Minister of Labor which would give the employer the right to hire and fire at will, with the exception that a commission be paid over 1,100 loaves of bread sold on strike. This decision was arrived at a conference between the Administrative Commission and a delegation from the strike committee of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, headed by W. J. Colley, secretary and business agent of Local 561.

FROM COAST TO COAST

VANCOUVER WORKERS NO LONGER MEMBERS OF METAL TRADES COUNCIL.

Because of their affiliating with the One Big Union, the blacksmiths and engine unions in Vancouver are no longer regarded as members of the Vancouver Metal Trades Council.

KINGSTON BARBERS ON STRIKE.

Thirty barbers were called out on strike Monday morning, in anticipation of their going on strike on July 5, as they had threatened if their demands for increased pay and hours from 8 a. m. to 7 p. m. were not met. Some of the barbers told their men that they might as well quit Monday. This resulted in the precipitation of the strike. The barbers' demand was made by the Journeymen Barbers for a guarantee of \$20 a week and 50 per cent over \$28, and hours from 8 a. m. to 7 p. m. with one hour off for supper. The men also asked that holidays be free to them, and that they be paid for the time they are on strike. At a meeting of the boss barbers on June 28, the scale of wages was decided upon as follows: \$15 a week and 50 per cent over \$28 with hours the same as they are now—8 a. m. to 7.30 p. m.—and all shops open holidays until 11 a. m. men working on the strike during the holiday to be docked the whole day's pay. This offer was unacceptable to the men.

LONDON BAKERY WORKERS ELECT OFFICERS.

Members of the London Local Bakery Union, a branch of the International Union, a large percentage of whom are women, elected permanent officers at a largely attended meeting in the Duffell Block, and appointed delegates to the London Trades and Labor Council. The London Local Bakery Union was re-elected president, Mr. William Jarvis was elected vice-president, Fred Howell receiving and recording secretary, Eddie Fenwick, financial secretary, and Ben Loeman treasurer. Mr. J. E. Vicks, who has been business agent for the past two years, received the post again.

PRESTON WORKERS' BIG VICTORY.

Settlement of the strike, which began at Preston on Friday at noon, when the employees of the Preston Furniture Co., Canadian Office and Wood Furniture Co. the Preston Furniture Co. and the Preston Furniture Co. were announced on Sunday. The men gained a concession in that the nine-hour schedule with ten hours pay has been granted by the employers. Between 500 and 600 men are affected by the change, which came into effect on Wednesday. The men returned to work on Monday morning.

MONTREAL CLOAKMAKERS' WAGE SCHEDULE.

The joint board of the Montreal Cloth and Skirt Makers' Unions have presented a new schedule of wages and conditions to their employers. The agreement calls for a 44-hour week, and the following scale of minimum wages: Cutters, \$35; trimmers, \$35; assistant cutters, \$22; sample operators, \$35; female skirt operators, \$44; tailors, \$28; balers, \$25; cloak and sack makers, \$25; pressers, \$40; underpressers, \$35; skirt pressers, \$28; tape and piece pressers, \$30; iron and hook-and-eye sewers, \$18.



ST. JOHN'S CITY EMPLOYEES' UNION.

Nearly fifty new members were initiated at the last regular meeting of the City Public Service Employees' Union No. 18,776, St. John's, N.B. There was a splendid attendance, and the reports of the various officers showed that the lodge, although only active for a few weeks, is in a flourishing condition. President Fred Niles announced that the charter would remain open for a few days longer to give as many as possible the opportunity to join the union. An interesting feature of the evening was the address by Peter C. Sharkey, Trade Despatcher for an eight-hour day and Labor Council.

WINDSOR MAILMEN WILL NOT STRIKE.

Windsor mailmen Thursday night decided not to strike until their union headquarters announced something definite in respect to the proposed reclassification bill, recently announced in Ottawa.

RADIAL EMPLOYEES GET WAGE INCREASE.

The Conciliation Board appointed by Hon. Gideon Robertson, Minister of Labor, to adjudicate the wages, working hours and conditions of the D. P. and T. Company radial employees, finished its labor. The conductors and motormen failed to get the nine hour day as asked, but after ten hours they'll be paid overtime at the rate of time and one half. And if the trainmen are called out on a run and don't work the full ten hours, they will receive ten hours' pay. Train dispatchers for an eight-hour day will receive \$135 per month, and allowed two weeks holidays, yearly, with pay. The wage scale of the conductors and motormen is as follows: First six months, 35 cents per hour; after first year, 40 cents per hour; after second year, 45 cents per hour; after third year, 50 cents, 55 cents, 60 cents, 65 cents, 70 cents, 75 cents and 80 cents per hour. The men are given one day off in every two weeks as asked for.

TORONTO TO HAVE NEW LABOR PAPER.

Keen interest is being manifested in Toronto labor circles over the announcement that a new labor journal, to be known as the "Labor Leader," will soon make its appearance in the field of labor newspapers. The new venture will be launched by Messrs. W. J. Hevel, Secretary of the Toronto Trades and Labor Council, and his business partner, R. C. Stephenson.

TORONTO BUILDERS' UNION ELECTS OFFICERS.

A meeting was held in the Labor Temple, Toronto, by the Bricklayers and Stone masons' Union, which was re-elected president, Mr. William Jarvis was elected vice-president, Fred Howell receiving and recording secretary, Eddie Fenwick, financial secretary, and Ben Loeman treasurer. Mr. J. E. Vicks, who has been business agent for the past two years, received the post again.

FORT WILLIAM STRIKE SETTLED.

The strike of Canadian Pacific and Canadian National coal miners on the docks at the head of the Lake, has been settled. They have accepted the original offer of the companies to work for the same scale of pay as prevails at Duluth.

MONTREAL ELECTRICAL WORKERS GET INCREASES.

Electrical workers employed by the City of Montreal will be paid in accordance with the new schedule for the adoption of which a large number of Montreal electricians were on strike. This decision was arrived at a conference between the Administrative Commission and a delegation from the strike committee of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, headed by W. J. Colley, secretary and business agent of Local 561.

ST. CATHARINES TRADES COUNCIL.

The last regular meeting of the St. Catharines Trades and Labor Council was the most successful for some time. Two new unions became affiliated with the Trades and Labor Council, and delegates were given seats. The unions were the sulphide workers of Merritt and Thorold and the hod carriers and common laborers of North America. The president of the A. F. of L. was present and spoke on labor matters in Hamilton and St. Catharines districts.

TORONTO BOOT WORKERS GET 46-HR. WEEK.

By an award signed on Monday by Judge Colin G. Snyder, of Hamilton, chairman of the Board of Arbitration, the boot workers of Toronto, representing the men over 400 boot and shoe workers employed in three big Toronto factories obtain a 46-hour week, the highest rate for hourly workers and piece workers, in proportion to the reduction of hours, time and a half for overtime, and a 10 per cent increase in wages for two factories and June 1 for one.

ONTARIO LABOR PARTY EXECUTIVE MEET.

The Ontario Labor Party executive committee met in the Toronto Labor Temple recently to consider several important matters referred to them from the May 24 convention of the party. The executive committee, presided, the question respecting a referendum vote of the affiliation of the party with the American Federation of Labor, which is to be dealt with definitely at the party's next meeting, Saturday, August 9. A special committee was appointed to study the amendments to the constitution and new planks in the party's platform. This will be formulated in proper printed form to be submitted to the party's next convention. The executive committee decided on a button, which will bear the letters L. L. P. Respecting the matter of the L. L. P. cooperation with the Great War Veterans' Association, it was deemed expedient to leave the matter to the branches themselves to cooperate with the G. W. V. A. in their respective localities, wherever conditions were desirable. The meeting went on record asking the Dominion Government to repeal the recent amendments to the Immigration Act.

SHERBROOKE TO HAVE TRADES COUNCIL.

Sherbrooke workers have applied for a charter for the formation of a Trades and Labor Council. This was the outcome of a largely attended meeting held at the Carillon Club, Sherbrooke, last week. Mr. Baarten, representing the American Federation of Labor, was present and explained the principles of such an organization. An application for a charter was signed by the Unions of Jewellers, Carpenters, Typographers and Machinists.

CO-OPERATION TO RIGHT WINNIPEG'S WRONGS.

In a signed statement, Mayor Charles F. Gray of Winnipeg pleads for labor cooperation with the general sympathetic strike just ended. "We must face the serious facts with some intelligent solution of the labor high cost of living, and excess profiteering and revolutionary propaganda problems," concludes the statement.

HALIFAX BUILDING TRADES GET INCREASES.

The award of the Board of Arbitration appointed to consider the dispute between the Halifax striking building trades unions and their employers calls for the following wages:

Carpenters, 56 cents per hour;
painters, 64; plumbers, 70; electricians, 70; masons and bricklayers, 75; and plasterers, 75. The award says that this award shall continue in force until December 31, 1920.

VANCOUVER CIVIC EMPLOYEES WITHDRAWING FROM TRADES COUNCIL.

The Vancouver Inside Civic Employees' Union is considering withdrawal from the Trades and Labor Council, and at the next meeting of the union the following motion will be voted on: "On account of the action of the Trades and Labor Council in connection with the Winnipeg sympathetic strike, this association withdraws from affiliation with the Council."

WINNIPEG TRAINMEN'S STRIKE ILLEGAL.

A meeting of the board of directors and vice-presidents of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen was held at Cleveland, O., last Thursday night to consider the proposed strike declared by some members of the organization during the Winnipeg strike.

PROFITEERS AND "REDS" CANADA'S MAIN ENEMIES.

Comrade John O. Newton, vice-president of the Winnipeg branch of the G. W. V. A. in a statement to the press, said that the "There are two main enemies to peace and prosperity in Canada today, one just as bad as the other, and both are working for the same thing, viz: the profiteers amongst capitalists, and the 'Reds' amongst laborers. It is clearly the duty of the G. W. V. A. in their respective localities, wherever conditions were desirable. The meeting went on record asking the Dominion Government to repeal the recent amendments to the Immigration Act."

69 CHARTERS IN 40 DAYS.

Mr. A. A. Woodward, second vice-president of the International Brotherhood of Firemen, Oilers, etc., and Canadian organizer, reports that during a period of forty days 69 charters to new local unions were granted. The Toronto local union of the above Brotherhood has succeeded in establishing a minimum wage rate of 55 cents an hour.

WAR IS ENDED; IT LASTED 1,790 DAYS.

The war, ended on Saturday last by the signing of the peace treaty by the Germans, lasted 1,790 days, including August 4th, the day Great Britain entered the fray, and June 28th, the date the armistice was attached to the terms of the Allies. This total number of days is made up as follows:

1914	Days
1915	285
1916	366
1917	365
1918	349
1919	179
Total	1,790

DAVE REES FINISHES WORK IN NOVA SCOTIA

Serious Crisis in Nova Scotia Over Closing of Steel Plants—Appeal to Workers to Refrain from Rioting—Urges Organization as Best Weapon.

Mr. Dave Rees, vice-president of Dominion Trade and Labor Congress, stayed off for a couple of days in Ottawa on his way West and was in conference with Congress officials. He has been in the Dominion for a section for two months past, during which he has addressed meetings in every section. He will study conditions in Nova Scotia. He will have a very important statement to make in an analysis of the general industrial situation in Canada. Mr. Rees' final word and farewell to the workers of Nova Scotia was given in an address delivered at Sydney Mines on Thursday last at a meeting held under the auspices of the Trades and Labor Council of that city.

The vice-president of the Trades and Labor Congress held the most interesting of the gathering for more than an hour. "We live in a critical time," he said, "the most momentous in our history. It is no wonder you are interested and ask what will happen after July 1st when your jobs on the steel plants are cancelled. But Nova Scotia is not alone. There is a Liberal meeting called in town to send delegates to Ottawa to select a chieftain. How many of you will be there? Who should be standing on this square in self-defence of their own interests? How long will the people of Nova Scotia allow the present situation to do their own thinking? They are making the same promises over again. The Murray Government in Nova Scotia has not understood what an 8-hour day means, hence the appointment of a few party friends to ascertain its true value to organized labor. Let me tell them before I leave Nova Scotia that I will not stand by and see the public seal of sufficient men without jobs to divide the hours in three parts and relieve the unemployed situation, at the same time keep up the output of coal. We must protest against the action of these scoundrels who are taking away your jobs because they cannot scoop up big profits."

The speaker emphasized the need of organization. He said that he must measure up his own responsibility and take interest in his own welfare and those about him. He related his experience since coming to Cape Breton, and no doubt conditions were the same here where the workers had to live and work in the houses owned most of the houses unit for habitation. Like the majority of shacks on the southern side of the harbor in which the workers had to live and work in squalid conditions. Speaking of the political prisoners arrested in Winnipeg, he denied the hue and cry of the capitalists who said that the government that those men were Bolsheviks. To the contrary they were Britishers and law-abiding citizens who were thrown in the jails without being given an opportunity to vindicate themselves to the world and prove their innocence of the charges against them. They would be there yet but organized labor spoke from Vancouver to Sydney and the Government of North America, who act accordingly." Mr. Rees closed his speech with charging a certain portion of the press with inciting the workers to rioting and violence. He said that the workers should be organized and with justice on your side in your demands you must win. He said that the public seal which you cannot enlist by rioting or taking the law in your own hands."

COPPER PRINTERS AGAINST BOLSHEVISM.

Resolutions disapproving of Bolshevism or any other "ism" which would tend "to bring labor into disrepute," were adopted Saturday at the closing session of the 27th annual convention of the International Steel and Copper Printers' Union, held at the Hotel Hamilton, U.S.A. Joseph F. Leach, of Boston, was elected president; K. M. Eastman, Ottawa, Canada, vice-president, and J. W. G. Macdonald, Philadelphia, secretary-treasurer.

GETTING READY FOR CONGRESS CONVENTION.

The Trades and Labor Congress of Canada convention convenes in Hamilton on Monday, September 22. For the event the Trades and Labor Council Convention Committee, which has the week's arrangements in hand, met recently. Alderman Charles I. Atchison, chairman of the committee, presided, and there was a large attendance. No matter how many delegates attend the convention, they'll be everything to their liking, for on no time, except at the same time, has there been a schedule bettering the occasion. The committee is actively engaged arranging a program which should please everybody. Entertainment, automobile drives and theatre parties will intersperse the Congress' arduous week of business, and, if time permits, probably a boat trip on Lake Ontario will be provided. The committee expects 600 delegates, and everyone will be carefully and well looked after, as surely the Ambitious City knows how.

ONTARIO LABOR PARTY EXECUTIVE MEET.

The Ontario Labor Party executive committee met in the Toronto Labor Temple recently to consider several important matters referred to them from the May 24 convention of the party. The executive committee, presided, the question respecting a referendum vote of the affiliation of the party with the American Federation of Labor, which is to be dealt with definitely at the party's next meeting, Saturday, August 9. A special committee was appointed to study the amendments to the constitution and new planks in the party's platform. This will be formulated in proper printed form to be submitted to the party's next convention. The executive committee decided on a button, which will bear the letters L. L. P. Respecting the matter of the L. L. P. cooperation with the Great War Veterans' Association, it was deemed expedient to leave the matter to the branches themselves to cooperate with the G. W. V. A. in their respective localities, wherever conditions were desirable. The meeting went on record asking the Dominion Government to repeal the recent amendments to the Immigration Act."

PROFITEERS AND "REDS" CANADA'S MAIN ENEMIES.

Comrade John O. Newton, vice-president of the Winnipeg branch of the G. W. V. A. in a statement to the press, said that the "There are two main enemies to peace and prosperity in Canada today, one just as bad as the other, and both are working for the same thing, viz: the profiteers amongst capitalists, and the 'Reds' amongst laborers. It is clearly the duty of the G. W. V. A. in their respective localities, wherever conditions were desirable. The meeting went on record asking the Dominion Government to repeal the recent amendments to the Immigration Act."

69 CHARTERS IN 40 DAYS.

Mr. A. A. Woodward, second vice-president of the International Brotherhood of Firemen, Oilers, etc., and Canadian organizer, reports that during a period of forty days 69 charters to new local unions were granted. The Toronto local union of the above Brotherhood has succeeded in establishing a minimum wage rate of 55 cents an hour.

WAR IS ENDED; IT LASTED 1,790 DAYS.

The war, ended on Saturday last by the signing of the peace treaty by the Germans, lasted 1,790 days, including August 4th, the day Great Britain entered the fray, and June 28th, the date the armistice was attached to the terms of the Allies. This total number of days is made up as follows:

1914	Days
1915	285
1916	366
1917	365
1918	349
1919	179
Total	1,790