

Coal Strike Will Be Largest in History

TORONTO HEAVIES MAY BECOME IN FASHIONABLE CLASS

Removal of possible salary cuts among the professors of the University of Toronto are causing uneasiness on the part of the University instructors. Hon. R. H. Grant, Minister of Education, is quoted by an evening paper as saying that the continuance of the 25 per cent. increase in salaries granted during the war would depend upon the university itself. The grants to the university he said were given more or less in bulk, and the institution could appropriate them to the various purposes required. If sufficient money was forthcoming, he said, the university authorities could continue to pay the bonus. The educational estimates have not yet been passed, however.

NOVA SCOTIA OFFICER CLAIMS WATERED STOCK

J. B. McLachlan, secretary treasurer of the Nova Scotia Coal Miners' Association, has addressed a letter to every member of the Dominion House of Commons in which he presents the case of the coal miners of Nova Scotia in their opposition to the British Empire Steel Corporation. He brings the case of "watered stock" against the corporation, stating that to pay dividends on this stock the miners are paid starvation wages. Mr. McLachlan says he is writing "in the hope that you can take some action that will result in mine workers in this land of plenty receiving enough to live on the honest work performed." He asserts the determination of the miners to fight the present wage scale and refers to the policy of "cutting the output" as having been adopted by large sections of the miners.

CALGARY SHOPS TO CLOSE TEMPORARILY

Between 800 and 900 employees of the Canadian Pacific Railway at Ogdenshops have been notified that the shops will close tonight, until April 15th, because of the suspension of work given. The shops were closed 14 days in December and 10 days in January, since which time they have worked only four days a week.

TORONTO MINISTER AND MINIMUM WAGE

Rev. C. B. Pletcher, of Ouedia, Ont., seems to be in a minority of one in protesting against being paid at least \$1,800 a year. He has resigned his charge by way of stressing his protest. Rev. Robert Laird, treasurer of the church in Canada said today that almost all the congregations were coming up to the new minimum of \$1,800 a year for their ministers. Mr. Pletcher is an acting elder of the General Assembly said: "The vast majority of the Presbyteries have come up to the new mark. Some of the others have not come up to it yet, but they are aiming to do it gradually. They may go half way this year, and the balance next year. The case of Mr. Pletcher is isolated and unique. I don't think there are any of his opinion."

CANADIAN LUMBER CAMPS HAS ITS AGITATORS

Red agitators have been very active in Canadian lumber camps during the past winter, according to Rev. Thomas Joplin, financial secretary of the Shastown's Christian Association of Canada and the United States, who is at present in Montreal. Mr. Joplin believes that practically all the labor troubles in the cities of North America are planned and fostered during the winter in the lumber camps, which employ 1,000,000 men each year. His urgent appeal, he declared, was being made to cope with this menace, and the work of missionaries among lumber men was being given general access.

NOVA SCOTIA MINERS AND THEIR FORTUNE

"Striking on the job" is the policy "Sabotaging the output" is the policy. By a vote of 10 to 1, the executive committee of the United Mine Workers of America today adopted Secretary J. B. McLachlan's tactics of calling upon the 12,000 miners of Nova Scotia to cut coal production to the point where all profits vanish, as the most effective method of winning an immediate labor war against the British Empire Steel Corporation.

UNEMPLOYMENT CAUSE

A Federal Commission report on Industrial Relations in the U.S. gives the following as the root of the situation: unemployment. A study analysis of all available statistics shows that the greatest cause of unemployment is the unequal distribution of income, which leaves the vast majority of the population (the vast majority) unable to purchase the products of industry which they create, while a few have such a superfluity that it cannot be normally consumed but must be invested in new machinery for production or in the further monopolization of land and natural resources. This second principal cause lies in the denial of access to land and natural resources even when they are unused and unproductive, except at a price and under conditions which are practically prohibitive.

WESTERNERS CLAIM AN EXODUS FROM STATES

Western Canada will get a throng of farmers from the Central States this year, said G. C. Carter, Winnipeg newspaper man who is returning after a month's investigation of immigration subjects south of the line. He visited Minnesota, the Dakotas, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri and Illinois, and talked at length with Dominion immigration agents, railroad officials, bankers and farmers. He found, he said, that conditions for the movement southward better than at any time since 1910. Thirty six per cent. of United States farmers are tenants and the price of land has reached from three to five hundred per cent. in that great agrarian states from whence the "exodus" has been drawing so many farmers in other years. Owners of these high priced lands must have from fifteen to eighteen hundred dollars per acre from their tenants if they are to get adequate interest on their investments. Wheat at \$2.75 per bushel and corn at \$1 would not amount to a return something but not at present prices.

16 HOUR WEEK ENOUGH FOR FORD

Adoption of the forty hour week as a permanent policy in all plants of the Ford Motor Company was announced by Edsel B. Ford, president of the company. Under the new plan the factories will be closed on Saturday and Sunday, and about 2,000 men will be added to the force. The change will effect approximately fifty thousand employees that will continue to receive the minimum 40 hour wage but will work five eight hour days weekly. New employees, however, will receive a minimum of \$5 daily, the pre-war scale.

ONTARIO MINISTER WARNS BANKERS

Hon. Manning Doberty, Minister of Agriculture, issued a reply today to the circular published recently from the Canadian Bankers' Association criticizing the Ontario Government policy of establishing savings banks. Mr. Doberty says that the circular is a political document and its contents, marked by a clear desire to influence opinion against this Government.

OTTAWA GETS NEW FEDERAL

The recently organized Clerical Workers' Union of Ottawa, has been chartered as Federal Union, 17611, A.P. of L. Bankkeepers, stenographers, office clerks and assistants, and other help of all kinds are eligible to join the union. Though this class of worker has not been organized in Ottawa, they have many unions in other cities, particularly in the Berg district of the U.S.A. The organizers of the local union state that the effect of the union will be for the present concentrated on building up the membership of the local and the development of a spirit of fraternity among the U.S.A. It is expected that eventually the several unions of this class will form a federation on the same lines as the craft unions.

TORONTO WORKLESS RESOLUTION

"Work or full maintenance" was the slogan of the various speakers at the unemployed meeting at Toronto last night. Resolutions were passed calling upon the Municipal authorities, the Dominion and provincial governments to start public works immediately for the relief of the workless, who were to be paid the union rate of wages; the payment of interest on Victory bonds be suspended, except where the holdings were of the Government; steps be taken to open up trade relations with Soviet Russia.

CAN AVOID ACCIDENTS

Olympia, Wash.—One-half of the industrial accidents in this state are preventable, declares Director Ed J. O'Connell of the department of labor and industries. It is proposed to start a safety first campaign.

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RAILROAD WAGES

The central wage board of the British railroads has agreed upon wages of adult workers, effective on April 1. This represents an annual increase of a million pounds, a saving of a million pounds to the railway companies. The British railroads, the railroads in the railroads' wages since this time last year state average shift wages weekly. In certain grades of employment on the railway the standard of living has been raised, and this will not be affected by the adjustment of wages in keeping with the cost of living. It was predicted on March 10 that the railroads' wages would be reduced two shillings weekly as a result of the two per cent. drop in the cost of living for working class families between February 1 and March 1, as disclosed in the Government Labor Gazette. The central wage board was formed early in the year after long negotiations between the managers of the railroads and representatives of the railwaymen's unions, the aim being today from the vote taken on the pro-

A. F. OF L. WILL SUPPORT THE MINERS IN THEIR STRUGGLE

CLAIM THAT BIG BUSINESS SEEKS TO KILL UNION

Without hope apparently of development forestalling the coal strike set for April 1, officials of the United Mine Workers of America tonight declared that the miners were ready for a general suspension of many weeks' duration. While an official forecast of the length of the strike was made, it was indicated authoritatively that the union officials felt that any wage conference with operators of the coal fields would be a general suspension of many weeks' duration. Operators here said that the stocks on hand would meet the country's requirements for two months, and that meanwhile some mine fields could supply almost half of the normal demand.

TABLOID OF INTERNATIONAL LABOR NEWS

Denmark. Labor Lockout.—The general labor lockout, forecast last week, is in effect. As a nonemployment policy during the continuation of this lockout the Government Bureau has decided that all who were without work 60 days before the lockout began will continue to receive regular relief. This will take the Government's financial support from about half of those who are without work in England.

IRELAND

Belfast Boycott.—As a consequence of the lifting of the Belfast boycott, trade between Southern Ireland and Belfast has been resumed. Already it is said, Belfast manufacturers and agents are flooded with orders from the south and west, and there is reason to believe that trade will soon flow freely between the north and south.

NORWAY

Labor Leaders' Union.—On February 15, 1922, at Christiania, representative foremen, factory managers and superintendents from each of the Scandinavian countries formed a union, the objects of which are said to be the advancing and strengthening of the collegiate, social and economic interests of its members.

PORTUGAL

Railway Strike Ends.—Enough former strikers on the Lisbon Cascaes Railway had resumed work to permit the company once more to operate the trains on its line on schedule time. It is said that the railway company made no concessions.

STREET RAILWAY STRIKE ENDED

Street Railway Strikers Resumed.—The Ottawa Street Ry. employees, who had resumed work on their line on schedule time, it is said that the railway company made no concessions.

COMPENSATION AID STRIKERS

Providence, R.I.—President Gompers is touring the textile district in aid of textile workers who are striking against a 20 per cent. wage cut and the installation of the 34-hour week.

QUITTING WORK

The delegates to the conference of 12,000 British shipyard workers who met in London today, decided that the men in British shipyards should stop work next Tuesday evening pending the results of a ballot on wage reductions proposed by the Shipbuilding Federation unless the men for the reduction to go into effect next Wednesday.

NEW SOURCE

As an economic situation has developed at Chatham where the Federal Ship and Shipbuilding Manufacturers are financially ailing 400 boat and ship workers who are on strike against the work stoppage.

AGAINST ACCEPTANCE

Unless the government is asked to intervene there will be a complete stoppage in the engineering industry affecting one million men. Returns posted to take off ten shillings and the pro-attendance from the men's bonus at the

OTTAWA STREET RY. EMPLOYEES PRESENT AGREEMENT

The Ottawa Electric Railway Employees' Union has submitted an agreement to the company which asks for the 48-hour week and a wage rate of 45 cents an hour. The men are now working nine hours and make each day at 35 cents an hour, or a semi-weekly wage of about \$6.25 for senior men. If the proposals, which the men are accepting by the company, the pay for two weeks under the 48-hour system would be \$82.40 for the union employees. The latter are willing to accept the reduction in the net pay if the improved working conditions are put into force. Some weeks ago the company notified their men of their intention to reduce wages on May 1st.

READY TO DISCUSS IT

The proposals have been sent to Major P. D. Barrow, manager of the O.E.R., and in the letter that was enclosed, the men pointed out that a committee had been selected to meet the officials of the company at any time convenient, in order that a full and comprehensive discussion could be carried on.

CHARGES SOUGHT

While the employees' committee would not discuss the proposed agreement, it was shown in an official statement that they are arguing for decreased hours of labor and were willing to accept a slight reduction in the net pay. At present the rate is 35 cents for a nine-hour day.

CHANGES DESIRED, AS NOTIFIED BY THE MEN IN THEIR OFFICIAL STATEMENT, ARE AS FOLLOWS:

The change asked for are a modification of the hours of labor at present ranging from nine to thirteen hours a day. In order to bring about a uniform day an eight-hour day, to be completed within two consecutive hours, is asked, and a six-day week is suggested, with an adjustment of wages whereby the present weekly rates will be maintained under the uniform work day.

UNIONED MINE WORKERS' SITUATION SERIOUS

Six hundred thousand miners in the anthracite and bituminous fields will quit work on April 1, unless some hitherto solution of the present wage controversy is offered in the open negotiations for the national convention of the international organization of United Mine Workers announced.

PLANS FOR EVALUATION OF THE MINES

Plans for evaluation of the mines already are under way, Mr. Lewis said. In the event of a walkout, crews of pumpmen, engineers, firemen, watchmen and helpers will remain at their posts to prevent flooding of the mines and maintain the properties, he said. He estimated that 1,900 men would remain on duty in the anthracite and 3,000 in the bituminous mines for such purposes.

FINAL ORDERS OF WITHDRAWAL OF THE MEN WILL BE ISSUED BY THE GENERAL POLICY COMMITTEE OF THE UNION AT CLEVELAND OR CHICAGO, PROBABLY NEXT WEEK, IT WAS SAID, EFFECTIVE IN CASE OPERATORS AND MINERS FAIL TO ARRANGE A NEW WORKING CONTRACT BEFORE APRIL 1.

THE ORDER TO SUSPEND OPERATIONS IN THE ANTHRACITE FIELD ON APRIL 1 HAS ALREADY BEEN ISSUED BY THE MINERS' GENERAL WAGE COUNCIL IN SESSION AT SHAMOKIN, PA.

The order to suspend operations in the anthracite field on April 1 has already been issued by the miners' general wage council in session at Shamokin, Pa. An arbitration committee of eight, composed of operators and miners, will meet here on Monday to discuss a new wage scale, for this field.

WORK IN BITUMINOUS MINES WILL AUTOMATICALLY CEASE ON APRIL 1, MR. LEWIS ASSERTED, BECAUSE OF THE OPERATORS' REFUSAL TO MEET WITH THE MINERS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERMS OF THEIR LAST CONTRACT.

SECRETARY OF LABOR DAVIS AND JOHN L. LEWIS, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED MINE WORKERS, EXCHANGED VIEWS ON THE THREATENING SITUATION IN THE BITUMINOUS COAL INDUSTRY, AND BOTH WERE

secretary after the conference to be of opinion that a national strike in the union fields was inevitable. Mr. Lewis assured Mr. Davis again of the willingness of the miners' union to meet on any terms for the national wage contract, a proposition which the mine operators are refusing to entertain.

LATER MR. LEWIS DECLARED THE RESOLUTION OF WORK IN THE UNION MINES AFTER APRIL 1 WAS COMING ABOUT AUTOMATICALLY, AND ASSERTED THAT "A bold commercial policy of the operators, for which the public must pay," was in part responsible.

"If there is no conference between the miners' union and the operators," he added, referring to the bituminous situation, "there can be no wage contract drawn up. If there is no wage contract there won't be any coal dug after April 1 in union territory."

ANTHRACITE MINERS AND OPERATORS WERE PREPARED TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS FOR A NEW WAGE AGREEMENT TO TAKE THE PLACE OF THE TWO YEAR CONTRACT WHICH EXPIRES AT THE END OF THIS MONTH. A LARGE NUMBER OF OPERATORS ARRIVED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FIRST JOINT CONFERENCE THIS AFTERNOON.

The miners are asking for a twenty per cent. increase in contract rates among other things, while the mine owners are offering an increase of 10 per cent. below the present scale, favoring a decrease below the present scale on a basis. It is not expected that an agreement will be reached before the end of the month, and in that event the scale committee of the hard coal miners is under instructions of the Shamokin convention to order a suspension of mining until a satisfactory agreement is in sight.

A SHORTAGE OF ANTHRACITE COAL IS NOT ANTICIPATED UNDER THE EXPECTED SITUATION SHOULD RUN INTO THE SUMMER.

REDUCE DIVIDENDS SUGGESTS WIDE AWAKE EMPLOYERS OPPOSE "CAN'T STRIKE"

Boston.—The Kansas "can't strike" law, with several additions, was introduced in the state legislature, but the authors have made the mistake of being logical, and applying the same hard-and-fast reasons to employers that is intended for labor.

The result has been a hollow sound as far as employers are concerned, and it is predicted that the bill is destined to be rejected by the legislature.

AT A HEARING BY A LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE, LABOR WAS PREPARED TO FIGHT, BUT TO THE WORKERS' SURPRISE AN VOTE WAS RAISED IN FAVOR OF THE BILL.

The chairman of the committee asked for a rising vote to test the sentiment of the state for the "can't strike" law. The association voted with the employers. It is stated that the employers are "fundamentally" in accord with the bill, but that there are too many restrictions against the employer.

HOOPER SAVES RAILROADS

Chicago.—Vice-Chairman Hooper of the railroad board decided against the railroads who insist that railroads that violated the Commerce Department have no standing to sue the board and that the wage dispute is a labor matter and should be considered. The Erie, the Indiana Harbor and the New York Central railroads are involved. They have contracted their repair work and the contractors are paying lower wages than the scale set for railroad shop men by the board.

REDUCE INSURANCE

Employment benefits will be presented to parliament within a few days. The proposed bill was introduced by the insurance fund has brought to the point of legislation. The special act which was passed last November providing extra relief for the wives and children of men who were killed in the war, and the new measure will reduce the relief payments by about four shillings for married couples and something more than this for a single person.

JOBS SAFE

The parliamentary committee appointed some time ago to inquire into the case of 250 conscientious objectors during the war, these all being civil servants, has decided to recommend their retention in office. The majority of these men are refused to take up arms are employed in the post office.