

SAYS WAGES IN BRITAIN MUST COME DOWN

Necessary Before United Kingdom Can Regain Export Trade

Flood of German Goods—A. J. Hodgson Believes Common-sense of British Workman Will Prevail in Crisis

(Montreal Gazette.)

A decidedly optimistic view of business conditions in England was yesterday expressed at the Board of Trade by Arthur J. Hodgson, of the firm of Hodgson, Rowson & Co., produce exporters, who has just returned with the firm's branch office in London. Despite labor troubles and other difficulties, Mr. Hodgson expressed confidence that the basic common sense of the British working man would come to the top, and that, after the present turmoil caused by "red" agitators had subsided there would be a return to business methods, with a reduction of wages agreed to sufficient to permit of the continuance of the British export trade in competition with the much lower waged workers on the continent.

"My visit to England," said Mr. Hodgson, "has made me one of the optimists regarding the trend of affairs there. During the war the policy had to be one of keeping up production, even at the cost of the ratepayers. Now the time of reconstruction has come, and industries that were controlled by the government during the war are being gradually returned to their original owners. From what I could gather there the owners are prepared to take back their interests provided there is no government interference with regard to the rates of wages paid, while the government is returning these industries from its control as fast as it can."

The first of these industries to be returned from government control was the mines. But, unfortunately, the cost of production in Great Britain had gone up by leaps and bounds since the pre-war era, until the wages paid were considerably higher than the wages paid for similar industries on the continent.

"I looked into this aspect of the business fairly closely," said Mr. Hodgson, "and, as far as I could gather, the average wages paid in England were nearly two-thirds higher than those paid in Belgium, France, Germany or other continental countries."

A Striking Example.
A striking example of this, said Mr. Hodgson, was furnished by the case of the S. S. Bismarck, which had been allotted to the White Star line. The company called for tenders to re-fit the vessel for passenger traffic, and received a tender from Antwerp several hundred thousand pounds lower than the lowest British tender.

Mr. Hodgson said he had been particularly impressed with the bands of volunteer organizations that, numbering hundreds of thousands, had kept in existence since the last great transportation strike. These were ready to call, and he knew of wealthy men prepared to work as coal heavers in emergency, while the general organization was amazingly good.

The British railways, said Mr. Hodgson, would be turned over to their owners within a couple of months.

"Every return from government ownership in wages, and the only question is how much, because the men are prepared to accept some reduction. The government is being supported and there seemed to be no shadow of doubt that if the government should appeal to the country on this question they would be returned, simply on the labor issue."

If a general strike were declared, said Mr. Hodgson, it could not come at a more favorable moment for the employers, because orders for the shipbuilding and textile industries had never been so light, and capital was never in better position to fight a general strike. In addition those who should know said that the finances of the unions were at a low ebb, while the government had refused to pay unemployment wages to strikers.

There were undoubtedly a great many unemployed in Great Britain, but Mr. Hodgson said from what he could find, the men were anxious to drop the eight hour loafing idea, and get back to real work, so as to reduce costs of production to a point where a resumption of export business on which the country depended for its existence, would be possible.

The British market, said Mr. Hodgson, was flooded with German goods, sold at a much lower price than they could be produced in England, which had given rise to a demand for anti-dumping legislation.

WHOLESALE BURGLARS ROUNDED UP
Man Who Carried off Jewels and Carpets—Discovery of His Storage Warerooms
(Toronto Telegram.)
With the sentencing yesterday of Edward Cooper to fifteen years in the penitentiary by Judge Costworth ends one of the most amazing chapters in the story of crime in this city. The man was found guilty on four separate charges, but, according to the plea committed more than eighty thefts in the course of one year.

calling his tracks that baffled the police of the city for months. That he had accomplices there seems no doubt, for the vast quantity of the goods he stole points to the impossibility of one man acquiring them all.

The Big Hunt.
On Jan. 23 this year Cooper was arrested at his dancing school and apartments upstairs at 882 Queen street west. Two rifles and two revolvers and several masks and moustaches were found there. But the thirty-five police and detectives who carried out the round-up of Cooper on that date had also located the hiding places of the burglar's loot.

Cooper was not a stealer of money and jewels alone. A tobacco box would hold all the loot of some of the greatest jewel thefts. Cooper required furniture vans to carry his stealings and warehouses to store them in. The value of all his thieving is given as \$25,000.

Nothing Overlooked.
The inventory of his stolen goods includes everything from a seal coat to an electric stove. While the family ate the evening meal Cooper would visit the verandah, carry off the gramophone, the verandah chairs, the rug, the cushions devoted to the comfort of the eldest girl and her beau. If the family happened to be out on the verandah when he called it appeared he entered by the rear, removed the stove, the dinner service, the table lamp, the chairs, the curtains, the electric sweeper, the family rubber plant, the settee, the cosy corner, father's smoking jacket, mother's fur coat and a few other things he fancied.

At 41 D'Arcy street, the police, after breaking through five locks, beginning at a cellar window, found stored in the various rooms enough furniture and bedding to stock a good-sized weekly payment store. In a Clarendon street house another storage was discovered, and in McCaul street still another.

The Inventory.
The goods removed by the police were listed as follows, and when they were removed to Court street station the walls nearly bulged:
Forty floor rugs, forty-one fancy cushions, thirteen valuable curtains, ten silk dresses, five table centres, ten motor rugs, an umbrella stand, two seal coats, one wolfskin mat, twenty-four jardiannes, two electric sweepers, four reading lamps, a box of blankets, three gramophones, two electric stoves, a dinner service, a dinner siren, electric fixtures, ten upholstered chairs, seven rattan chairs, seventeen flower stands, two footstools, one settee, a pair of slippers, a smoking jacket, two electric fans, bundle of brass curtain poles, a screen, a spring mattress, a kitchen cabinet, a cosy corner, two club bags, axes, tools, revolvers, clocks, etc., etc.

He Looked First.
The man was not unknown to the police, he had been arrested for peeping into houses, fined and remanded. How it was that he had never been discovered when after a preliminary peep he proceeded to load up his motor car with the family furniture like any moving man, wipe the perspiration off his brow after getting the settee down the front steps, and start off for his store room, is more than the police can tell you.

After the stuff had been taken possession of by the police there was a procession of expectant owners to claim their goods. Much of it has already been identified, but as much remains unidentified, but as much remains unclaimed as yet. Among the claimants were Lady Whitney, who secured her five verandah chairs, and Constable Boyd, who took back two to his verandah.

Ever Ready for Work.
That Cooper never missed an opportunity was shown in one instance where, happening to be passing a lady who had lost a pet dog, he volunteered his assistance in finding it. Returning with her in his motor car he entered her apartments and casually picked up three rings while she and her friends rejoiced over the recovered pet.

"Conservation of human life is the greatest obligation inherited from the past—it is the greatest necessity of the reconstruction period." N. B. Health Week April 24-30.

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ROTHESAY BOYS DOING WELL IN RIFLE MATCHES

Among the rifle teams competing for the trophies in the Canadian Rifle League miniature series is a team from Rothesay Collegiate school, which is composed of eleven boys, and who have made an excellent showing. There are about thirty-seven teams from all parts of Canada in the contest, and the shooting is carried out at the headquarters of the various teams. The team making the highest aggregate average will be the winner of the contest and all scores must be handed to the inspectors and organizers of cadet corps in the military districts throughout Canada before April 30, when they will be forwarded to Ottawa for a final decision.

The Rothesay team has held four matches, the last one on April 10, in which they made an aggregate score of 1,044 out of a possible 1,100. In the other matches the scores were 977, 997 and 999, the total being 4,017 out of a possible 4,400.

The trophies include a silver shield, which is being put up in each section to be competed for annually, while a special prize of two Martini model rifles, one for the western provinces and one for the eastern provinces, will be presented to the team making the best aggregate average. A marksman's badge will also be presented to the member of each corps making the highest average.

The individual scores of the Rothesay team made in the last match were as follows: E. Snow, 99; J. Scammell, 91; B. Stevens, 96; R. Black, 96; E. Pinder, 96; S. Dunham, 95; J. McLennan, 95; H. Nase, 94; R. Gibson, 89; F. Armstrong, 89; and T. Siedlon, 89. E. Snow, son of Lieut.-Colonel A. B. Snow, organizer and inspector of cadet corps in New Brunswick, has made the highest average for his team, although S. Dunham was a close second, making a score of 100 in another match.

FORD TURNING OUT CARS AT RATE OF MILLION A YEAR

Detroit, Mich., April 15.—Steady gains, both in sales and production, are reported by the Ford Motor Company. "We were never in better position than

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we are right now," Henry Ford said this week. Actual sales in the domestic market for January were 57,208 automobiles and 1,188 tractors, for February 63,603 cars and 1,962 tractors, for March 87,221 cars and 4,708 tractors. At present the company has 102,000 unfilled orders for automobiles, and production of the present working force is at the rate of 1,000,000 cars a year.

The company's normal production before the plant was closed for inventory on Dec. 23 was about 100,000 cars a

month. This required, at that time, a working force of about 52,000 men. At the present time a little more than 22,000 men are employed. The report says that the difference between this figure and the full working force is largely represented by the increases in help taken on due to expansion of activities during the war and for there now is no further need.

In the present situation, in building the present forces up to meet full production, an effort is being made to take on only employees who display an inten-

tion of remaining with the Ford Company," says the report. "By this means the company sees a way to reduce its 'turnover' of help to a minimum, greatly stabilizing production and thus reducing productive costs."

CENTRAL WILLING WORKERS.
The Willing Workers of the Central Baptist church met last evening at the residence of Mrs. Hoare, 48 Hazen street, and enjoyed one of the most pleasant meetings of the season. The attendance was unusually large, some fifty-five be-

ing present. Items of special interest were a reading by Mrs. H. D. Evere and a special surprise to the pastor, Rev. F. H. Bone, and Deacon L. A. Belyea in honor of their birthdays. Mrs. Z. C. Allwood, on behalf of the Willing Workers, made the presentations, which were fittingly replied to by Mr. Bone and Mr. Belyea. The offering taken at the meeting is to go to the parsonage fund and amounted to \$15.

In Holland there is a cow to every inhabitant.

Who Says the Clothing Business Is Bad?

Many reports have come to my ears from other merchants that the clothing business is bad this spring! I have also had reports from several of my store managers stating that their customers often remark—"You seem to be very busy; why is it? I am told there is a general slump in the clothing business"—or similar expressions of a like nature.

Who Says The Clothing Business Is Bad?

Certainly no Robinson customer has seen anything but a busy floor when he has been in this season, and certainly no Robinson Shop has ever been so busy before.

Never before in the 8 years of my business career have I sold so many garments in the month of March as I sold last month. — 1919 was considered the biggest year in retail clothing history and still this spring my business has outstripped it.

Why Are My Shops Busier Than Ever Before?

I'LL TELL YOU WHY!—and when you visit one of my busy shops you'll see the reason quickly and understand why there are among the merchants so many calamity howlers who have simply been asleep—and who naturally think the buying public have been asleep also. My Shops from Coast to Coast are selling more clothes than ever before—because I unloaded all my goods bought at high prices last year, and am not trying to impose them on the public this year.

My shops are busier than ever before because my goods are bought at new prices and made in my own factories, thereby cutting out the MIDDLEMAN'S PROFIT; because my immense buying power, with my LOW UPSTAIRS RENTS, with my SAVINGS ON DELIVERY COSTS, CREDIT LOSSES and FANCY FIXTURES, and in addition with my having cut out even my small profit [with the fixed determination to add 100,000 new customers this year], I am putting competition so far in the back-ground that they must feel the pressure.

I Have Gone Back In One Jump To My Prices Of Four Years Ago—Never Before Have I Shown Such Wonderful Values As Today. Every Suit and Topcoat In My Shop Carries With It A Guaranteed Saving Of From \$10 to \$20.



Another Big Reason Why I Am Busier Than Ever

Through force of circumstances, with the changing markets, and the many unreliable advertised 'sales' that have been and are going on, every man and woman has this year made himself or herself a self-constituted shopper and value-seeker. The public are absolutely refusing longer to be fooled.

That is the main reason why my business is so big now, and that is what I believe every man who needs a suit or coat should do, shop around and price clothes in different shops, then come up to Robinson's and the price difference will look so great that you will not only buy and save, but YOU WILL THEN BE ONLY TOO GLAD TO TELL YOUR FRIENDS WHY I AM BUSIER THAN EVER.

My Super-Fabricated Hand-Tailored Clothes include such famous makes as Fashion Park, Perfection and Boulevard Clothes. My Upstairs Prices—\$35 and \$45.

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