

PROTECTION OF EYESIGHT OF THE WORKERS

In recent years technicians and students of hygiene have again given much attention to the problems of industrial lighting and the protection of eyesight in industry. Even before the war much study was devoted to these subjects by the competent associations in Great Britain and America.

The problem of industrial lighting is not only connected with industrial hygiene generally and with the protection of eyesight, but also has a direct bearing upon the important questions of output and of vocational guidance.

Investigation has shown beyond all doubt that adequate lighting of the factory and of the post at which work is done is absolutely necessary to ensure cleanliness, the prevention of fatigue, the avoidance of accidents, discipline among the staff, economical use of raw materials, improved quality of the articles manufactured, and increased speed and better supervision of the work.

A new publication of the International Labor Office dealing with the protection of eyesight in industry aims at giving a general view of the various aspects of this extremely complex problem and the results of the investigations of scientific and technical experts.

The report is to a large extent based upon the conclusions of the International Illumination Commission which met in Paris in 1921, and upon the information collected by scientists in various countries. The first part gives definitions of photometric units and magnitudes, the various factors affecting natural and artificial lighting, and the quantity of light required for various kinds of work.

The following chapter contains a detailed study of a factor which is too often neglected in considering problems of lighting, namely the nature of the work to be done. The size, colour, and characters of the surface of the work are, of course, liable to produce either a favorable or unfavorable effect upon the eye. This chapter is devoted to the eyesight. There is also a special chapter dealing with eyestrain. Some attention is given to the importance of lighting in the prevention of industrial accidents and in avoiding eyestrain, and an account is then given of the legislative measures which have been adopted in various countries to ensure the proper natural and artificial lighting of industrial premises.

As regards the prevention of eyestrain, it should be noted that the interesting question of vocational guidance in its relation to eyesight is dealt with in detail, and that tables showing the demands made by different occupations upon the eyesight are given. This question deserves the special attention of those persons who issue certificates showing the qualifications of children for employment or who are responsible for the admission of adults to certain kinds of work which require specially good eyesight.

This interesting study of the question of the protection of eyesight in industry contains a large number of tables and illustrations. The notes in the appendix enable readers to follow certain technical details which are not strictly necessary for the comprehension of the questions dealt with in the report itself.

TRADE REVIEW

Continued from Page 2.

The estimates given above do not appear to justify the pessimistic outlook for wheat prices which seems prevalent at the present time, but on the other hand they do not indicate that any great improvement may be looked for immediately. There is no doubt that for some time past wheat has been selling at a relatively lower price than almost any staple commodity. It is obvious that this situation cannot continue for any great length of time, and its effect is already clearly seen in the situation in the United States, where the production of maize has shown an enormous increase coincident with a reduction in the wheat acreage. Where other agricultural products can be grown more profitably they will certainly replace wheat until the price of the latter comes into line with that of other commodities. In a country where consumption of agricultural products approaches or exceeds production, a change from one product to another can more easily take place than in the case of goods which produce a surplus of agricultural products in all important lines. For example, since the United States is a meat importing country, the Fordney-McCumber tariff operates to increase the price of cattle within the United States, as compared with the world price, by the amount of such tariff on cattle. The tariff is inoperative insofar as wheat is concerned because production largely exceeds consumption. The effect of the tariff was, therefore, to stimulate the raising of cattle, and, of necessity, cattle food, as against the production of wheat. This situation is one of the factors responsible for increased production of maize as against wheat to which reference has been made above. The tendency plainly is evident in the United States prior to the war towards a steady reduction and final extinction of export surplus of wheat as to be again asserting itself.

MINERAL PRODUCTION IN CANADA

The improvement in the mining situation in Canada and in the metal markets of the world is reflected in the remarkable recovery of mineral production in the Dominion during the year 1922. Preliminary figures compiled by the Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce, Canada indicate the extent to which the Canadian mining industry has recovered from the market readjustments of 1920 and 1921. The value of minerals produced last year, as reported by the Dominion Statistician, amounted to \$183,030,000, an increase of \$11,106,000 over 1921. The year's output was made up as follows: metals, \$61,145,000; non-metals, \$82,582,000; structural materials and clay products, \$39,303,000. In comparison with preceding years the 1922 mine yield may be considered very creditable and is only exceeded by records established in 1918 of \$211,301,000 and in 1920 when the peak of \$227,859,000 was reached. The increase in the value of metals produced, which was 23.9 per cent greater than the previous year, was largely responsible for the improved showing of mineral production in 1922.

The feature of the increase in the yield for last year was the gain made in the output of gold by the two great producing provinces, Ontario and British Columbia. Of the total of 1,263,364 ounces valued at \$26,116,050 produced in Canada, Ontario's mines yielded 1,000,340 ounces or 79.18 per cent, and British Columbia produced 263,024 ounces or 16.42 per cent. Silver recorded a substantial increase in both quantity and value over 1921, production rising 35 per cent and value increasing 46 per cent. Lead showed an even wider spread in its increase, the yield being 40 per cent in advance of the previous year while the prices received improved up to 52 per cent over the record of 1921.

Non-Metals

There was a slight decline in the production of non-metals including coal which amounted to about \$5,266,343 in value, largely due to the loss of production caused through labour troubles. The output of coal, notwithstanding this loss of time, reached the encouraging amount of 15,045,286 tons with a value of \$66,486,025. The 1921 production was 15,057,493 tons. Alberta coal mines had the highest output with 5,991,000 tons and occupied second place among the coal producing provinces of the Dominion. British Columbia accounted for 2,927,000 tons.

The production of natural gas in Canada reached 14,954,097 thousand cubic feet, valued at \$5,468,963. Ontario retained the premier position and produced 7,800,000 thousand cubic feet, while Alberta followed with an output of 867,000 thousand cubic feet. About 753,897 thousand cubic feet were produced in New Brunswick. Asbestos mining in Quebec, in common with other asbestos-producing countries of the world, suffered a decline in 1921 which continued throughout the first half of 1922. In the latter part of the year there was considerable activity, the output reaching 163,700 tons of all grades, as compared with 92,761 tons in 1921.

The revival of building activity affected favorably the production of all classes of structural material in 1922 and in the same way the whole material industry of Canada, it may be expected, will benefit from the improvement in the general situation in the world's metal markets.

INTERNATIONAL LABOR NEWS (I.F.T.U. Press Service.)

THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF WORKING WOMEN.

The third congress of the International Federation of Working Women, which was held from August 14 to 18 at Schloss Schonbrunn, Vienna, was notable for the large attendance of British and American delegates. 26th of these countries were represented by 10 delegates. France and Italy sent 3 delegates each, Belgium and Sweden two each, and Roumania 1. Guests were present from Argentina, Chile, China and Japan, and German, Austrian and Swiss women also took part in the Congress. All the delegates were representatives of trade union organizations. The International Federation of Trade Unions was represented by Sassenbach.

The Congress adopted the report of the Secretary, Dr. Marion Phillips, for the past two years, and then proceeded to discuss the work of women in peace, for legislation for the protection of labor, for the regulation of homework wages, and for a family wage. In respect of all these questions resolutions were adopted, which were drawn up by special commissions. A point of special interest was the resolution respecting cooperation with the International Federation of Trade Unions. In this resolution the I.F.W.W. declared that it was prepared to transfer its work to the International Federation of Trade Unions on the following conditions:

- That a special Women Secretary should be appointed.
- That an International Women's committee should be appointed to cooperate with the I.F.T.U. and to arrange for a meeting with the latter

TRADE UNIONS.

National Federation of Federal Employees, U.S.A. This Federation will hold their 7th annual convention at Denver on

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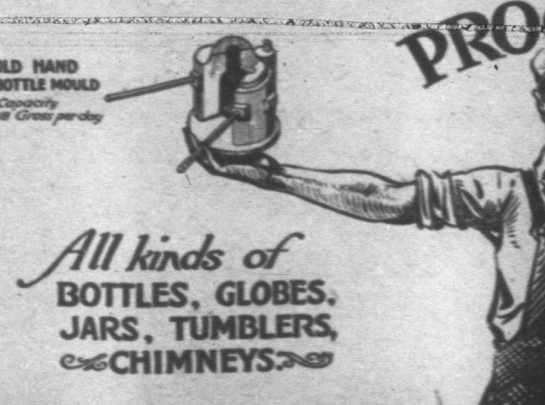
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whenever such meeting might be necessary, but in any case once a year.

3—That a special Women's Congress should be held every two years. This resolution was adopted by all but the American delegation which desired, although its decision on the subject was by no means unanimous, to retain the present form of organization.

Mr. Burniaux of Belgium was elected president, in place of Mrs. Raymond Robins. London is to continue to be the headquarters of the secretariat. Dr. Marion Phillips having resigned her secretaryship, her place will be taken by Miss Macdonald. The resolutions will be dealt with more fully later.

YOUNG SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL MEETING AT NUREMBERG.

The great meeting of the Young Socialists International at Nuremberg, referred to in our last number, was an unqualified success, the numbers being much greater than had been anticipated. The opportunity was utilized for a simultaneous celebration of the creation of the German Constitution at Weimar, four years ago. The young German Socialists and their two thousand foreign comrades assembled in the streets of the town on Saturday, and after a meeting in the Hall of Hercules in the morning, marched in procession to Luitpold Park, the scene of the national demonstration. The next day was given up to games and dancing, a symbolic open-air play, and an evening meeting, when representatives of the Socialist International, among whom was Mr. John W. Brown, of the International Federation of Trade Unions, addressed the young people.

TRADE UNIONS.

National Federation of Federal Employees, U.S.A. This Federation will hold their 7th annual convention at Denver on

September 3. All branches of Government service but one will be represented. The Federation includes government officials of all ranks from assistant secretaries to charwomen and messengers, and can boast of a large membership of scientists, nurses, librarians, lawyers, doctors, chaplains, engineers, economists, statisticians, etc. It also comprises clerks and accountants, customs officials, inspectors and mechanical workers. It is affiliated with the American Federation of Labor.

RAILWAY SHOPS CONTROVERSY

Continued from page 1.

The A.E.U. would not agree to the proposal (continues the Lines Committee), and would only agree to joint negotiations with the Federation of negotiations, conditionally upon the N.U.R. allowing the A.E.U. the right to negotiate for the skilled engineers who were members of the National Union of Railwaymen.

The Lines Committee goes on to say that

"Had the A.E.U. agreed to joint Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades and the N.U.R. in January of 1921, when the question of determining shopmen's wages and conditions were in progress, the arbitration proceedings would not have been instituted, and the question of grading men would not have arisen, and the railway shopmen would have had an agreement similar to the agreement

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Coming to the present position the Lines Committee of the N.U.R. asks the A.E.U. Executive Committee to review the proceedings of the joint meeting held a fortnight ago in connection with the position on the Great Northern.

To remove the obstacle in the way of agreement (says the Lines Committee) Mr. J. H. Thomas proposed at this meeting that a small committee be appointed representing the Federation and the N.U.R. to go into the points in dispute, and present a joint report to a further meeting of the conference.

The N.U.R. representatives plainly told that the Craft Union of the conference could not entertain the N.U.R. proposal.

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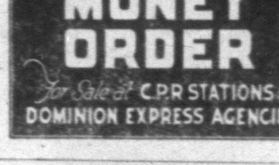
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