

Canada referred to by the manager, generally let out the man who went in with a complaint. It was fear of discharge that kept many blacksmiths in the plant from joining the union.

H. C. Becket, of W. H. Gillard and Co., spoke of trade conditions in Ontario. The tendency is towards centralization and monopoly, which was bad for the country as a whole. He suggested that an inland trade commission be appointed to make inquiries and issue orders, just like the Railway Commission does in telephone matters.

Geo. H. Douglas, of Thornton and Douglas, discussed conditions among the clothing trade and told of voluntary concessions that had been made. Like other manufacturers and labor men who have testified, he thought the eight-hour day should be fixed by law.

Kitchener, Ont.

According to witnesses in Kitchener, Ont., where a meeting was held on May 23rd, that city is in a very enviable position. Both employers and employees agreed that there was no unemployment to speak of and several of the manufacturers stated that one thousand men could be absorbed without great difficulty. Several witnesses maintained that the home-owning instinct of the people of the city made for stability in its manufacturing industries and accounted for the comparative labor quiet in the city.

President O. Hughes, of the Trades and Labor Council, stated that there was considerable unrest, although this was not very apparent. He said the high cost of living was the reason for the dissatisfaction. He considered that it was the duty of the government to control the high prices of the necessities of life. The nationalization of public utilities should be undertaken and pressed further. He said that as occasion arises the nationalization of particular industries might be also undertaken. Other labor men who gave evidence were Mr. Weinstein, of the furniture workers union, and J. Lockhart. As to the rates of wages paid by the furniture manufacturers, there was some difference of opinion between the labor men and the manufacturers who were on the stand. As to the idea of industrial councils and co-operation between employer and employee to settle disputes the opinions expressed by the representatives examined showed that there was no definite and concrete idea on this subject. It was brought out that both the labor men and the local manufacturers were ready to co-operate in settling differences, but how far they should go in this direction, no one seemed to know. Among the manufacturers who were on the stand were: E. O. Weber, Geo. C. H. Lang, Mayor Gross, President N. M. Davidson, of the Board of Trade, C. A. Ahrens, J. Newton, Oscar Rumpel, Ald. W. T. Sass and George Schlee.

Toronto, Ont.

At Toronto, on May 26, 27 and 28, a wide variety of evidence was received from employers, employees and farmers. W. C. Good, of the United Farmers' Association, told of the operations of their institution and how it had cut costs to consumers in Sydney Mines 12½ per cent. He did not place the suggestion before the Commission as a cure-all, but as one means of eliminating the middleman profiteer. A. A. Powers, also representing the United Farmers' Association, advocated government action to assist in securing farm help.

Mr. W. A. Douglas, appearing for the Single Tax Association, made a strong plea for the adoption of the single tax system. Under the present system, he said, thousands built houses without ever owning them. Mr. Thomas Harrison, Weston, contended that the small population in Canada required a different solution for its industrial problems than did that of Great Britain, and he outlined a scheme which he thought would be applicable.

At the morning session, S. R. Parsons, president of the British-American Oil Co., said in his evidence: "It should be pointed out that fuel has been added to the revolutionary fires to be found in our Dominion by a few, well-meaning

theorists in church and state, as well as in our college halls. These men are like doctors without a practice.

"The profits of industry have been greatly exaggerated in the minds of many of the workers, and they have been led here and there to believe that industries were always both greedy and prosperous. As a matter of fact one of our great writers on industrial problems in England has figured out that over a period of one hundred years the profits of industry, considering the good and the bad times, the capital that has been lost as well as that which has made good, have not been over 5 per cent. In Canada probably the same comparison would hold good.

"It should not be overlooked that if we attempt to destroy individuality in our social and industrial life and bring all men to a dead level, we simply destroy human liberty, which must be preserved at all costs.

"In the matter of hours of work, my own conviction is that eight or nine hours a day should be considered ample. Where the work is very hard and wearing, probably eight hours is as much as should be expected. Men ought to have a reasonable time for rest and recreation. If they do not use their leisure hours properly it is the fault of our civilization, and opens a wide door of opportunity for all organizations that are formed to serve mankind.

"The question of wages is a most difficult one, particularly at the present time. Employers are on a war-time basis of general costs, wages and values of raw materials, and so far as the seemingly high wages are concerned, these must be maintained as long, at all events, as the high cost of living continues. The business that is being done, however, is on a peace basis, which means in most cases heavy reductions of both volume and profit. While on the one hand manufacturers, generally speaking, are not thinking of profits just now, but rather keeping their organizations going and their people employed, yet it is difficult on account of conditions mentioned to meet the views of many of the employees. Those who have wages or salaries larger than a low average, do not need to spend such a large proportion of them in the actual necessities of life, and, therefore, do not find it so hard to get along. We ought to face this problem very honestly and sincerely and address ourselves to the task of making sure that the costs of living are fair and reasonable at the present time."

From A. McMordie, general secretary of the Letter Carriers' Association, came the advice that this Commission had better recommend something worth while, or else chaos might follow the present unrest among the workers. In the last five years, he said, the letter carriers had been robbed of \$1,505 by the government, and the Ottawa powers had even so far refused a conciliation board to listen to their arguments. "If this Commission won't go the length of putting the workingman where he can reap the benefits of his own labor, we are not going to be able to allay the discontent which is in evidence." The reason the Toronto postmen were not out on strike now, Mr. McMordie said, was because they were good, sensible people. "That means," he added, "that we are more abject slaves and duller than those people in the West who are on strike. They say so. You can no more stop this tide that is coming than you can stop the Atlantic with a pitchfork." In conclusion, he advocated a tax on land.

Canadian Conditions Best in World

An analysis of present conditions by Thomas Findley, general manager of the Massey-Harris Co., which employs 4,000 men in its four plants, evidently impressed all members of the Commission. After describing the company's own industrial councils and retirement system, he said: "I attribute the general unrest, more than anything, to the expectations that have been held out during the past two or three years to workers generally of vastly different conditions after the close of the war. I believe myself there will be betterment, but I am very pessimistic about the immediate future. I do not think that everything can be expected to be done at once under present industrial conditions. There never was a time, it seems to me, when it was