

# Labor News From Coast to Coast

## "OUR OVERSEAS COLUMN"

**BELGIUM**  
**Favor Marine Accident Compensation**—It is said that public opinion in Belgium favors the enactment of a marine accident compensation law, and that urgent legislative steps may be taken in this direction in the near future.

**NORWAY**  
**Ironworkers Continue Strike**—Two thousand striking ironworkers have returned to work as a preliminary to an attempted adjustment of the difficulties existing between Norwegian employers and workmen, and are demanding that the former's lockout against employees in other industries should first cease.

**LATVIA**  
**Consider Expulsion Regulation**—The Riga City Council is considering the issuance of a regulation which will prevent the expulsion from their dwellings, for failure to pay rent, of persons who have been registered as unemployed.

**MEXICO**  
**Labor Shortage in Cotton District**—Due to the active emigration of laborers to the United States, with the past few months, a serious labor shortage has arisen in the cotton-growing sections of the Laguna District, with the resultant increase in wages and damage to the growing crops.

**NEW ZEALAND**  
**Threatened Railway Strike**—A breakdown in the negotiations between the railway men and the Wages Board, which has been trying to settle wage and hours-of-service differences, is being followed by indications of an early strike.

**FRANCE**  
**Knit Goods Industry Expands**—Since the war, the knit goods industry in the Nancy district has expanded to a surprising degree, and in the presence of the increased demand seven spinning mills, with 99,000 spindles, are now in operation, in comparison with four in 1914. In addition, it is estimated that 20,000 persons are employed by the factories in the Department of the Aube, as compared with 22,000 before the war.

**SOUTH AFRICA**  
**New Industrial Conciliation Law**—The new industrial conciliation law, recently made effective, sets up an interesting experiment in the adjustment of relations between capital and labor in industry. Standing industrial councils, conciliation boards, mediators and arbitration agreements are among the features of the new law, the details of which have been carefully worked out.

**SWEDEN**  
**Unemployment—Due to the steady decrease in the number of Sweden's idle workers, the unemployment situation is now regarded as normal.**

## HARVESTERS COMING INTO "GOLDEN WEST"

Calgary, Alta.—Harvesters continue to pour into this and other cities of the province. Many of them are in the most destitute circumstances and are depending upon the harvest to secure a much-needed grub-stake for the coming winter. Wages are lower than usual and the crop not being heavy it is not expected that the fields will absorb anything like all the workless now in the bread line. The police are demonstrating renewed activity throughout the province and workers are being pushed with vagrancy charges on the least possible excuse.

In certain sections the I.W.W. is actively engaged in an attempt to organize the harvesters. Some progress has been made. The general labor movement of the country, however, demonstrates no interest in the harvesters and is making not the slightest attempt at organization. Conditions of labor show that no improvement—if anything they are worse than usual. Harvester excursions are coming from the east as well as from the Pacific coast despite the thousands of workers unemployed in the various towns. Competition for jobs is keen in the extreme, with the resultant lowering of wages. The Labor Bureau are at their old game of lowering wages on all possible occasions.

## Injunction Against I.W.W. Is Dissolved

**New Move Made in Lumber Camp Troubles at Cranbrook.**

Cranbrook, B. C.—Some surprise was occasioned when it became known that the action of the I.W.W. in this city to have the injunction held against them by the lumbermen of the district dissolved had been arranged satisfactorily out of court. Peterson and Sampson were the two leaders named though the injunction was really aimed at the I.W.W. organization. According to the settlement now arrived at it will cease to be in effect. W. R. Ross, K.C., Vancouver lawyer, acted for the I.W.W., and H. W. Herchmer, Cranbrook, for the lumbermen. The disposition of the costs was not learned.

## White Fishermen Replacing Japanese

**Transfer From Fraser to Skeena—Salmon Fishing Brings Good Results.**

Prince Rupert, B.C.—This year a number of white fishermen from the Fraser River have transferred to the Skeena, and during the first week have done well. It is planned by the whole of the canneries here to increase the number next year, and have them gradually take the places of the Japanese, who are being restricted by Dominion regulations. The first week of salmon fishing on the Skeena has brought good results, an average of thirty sockeyes to the boat has been taken at most of the canneries. While the Japanese were on strike some good hauls were made by white fishermen, but now the catches are more evenly divided. The last of the Indians has arrived from Massett, and they are all out with their boats. So far the new regulation allowing gas boats on the Skeena River has made no material change in conditions. The men are out as usual with the canneries, propelled by oars and sail, and all is proceeding much as usual. Spring salmon fishing has fallen off slightly during the week.

## Post Office Pay Day Shows End of Bonus

**Employees Sense New Regulations in First Semi-Monthly Pay Since Trouble.**

Winnipeg, Man.—There was much advance interest in the post office in the semi-monthly pay, which was received by the postal clerks and the letter carriers. The railway mail service staff receive individual cheques direct from Ottawa through the mail; the post office employees' cheques come through in bulk and they are paid in cash at the post office. The bonus which had been paid from April 1 to July 1 has now ceased. During those three months while the negotiations were on at Ottawa, the new bonus was continued. That was given, however, only to the married men. Those receiving \$1,200 salary received the old bonus; from \$1,200 to \$1,500, two-thirds of the old bonus was paid; from \$1,500 to \$1,800 one-third of the bonus was paid, and over \$1,800, no bonus. Now the pay reveals that all the bonus payments have ceased. The top grade letter carriers received \$10 a month less and become second grade men. The division in the postal clerks

## More Government Extravagance

Ottawa, Ont.—A protest against the "extravagant scale" upon which things are run around the Parliament Buildings was made in the House of Commons by J. S. Woodsworth (Labor, Centre Winnipeg), when the estimates for legislation were up for consideration. "Since there is need for economy," said he, "we might very well begin at home."

## William Royce Died in London

**Labor M. P. Had Host of Friends in Dominion.**

W. M. Birks, ex-president of the Montreal Board of Trade, received word recently of the sudden death in London, England, of William S. Royce, M.P., for one of the Lincolnshire constituencies in the Labor interest. Mr. Royce had a host of friends in Montreal and throughout the Dominion. He was one of the leaders of the British Parliamentary delegation which accompanied the Trans-Canada tour of the Montreal Board of Trade in 1922. Mr. Royce was chosen as one of the main speakers at nearly every place visited on the tour especially in Western Canada. Born 77 years ago, Mr. Royce ran away to London when only 17 years of age. Later he went out to South Africa where he made an immense fortune as a railway and building contractor. On his return to England Mr. Royce purchased an estate which is one of the show places of Lincolnshire. Several times defeated for Parliament as a Unionist, Mr. Royce ultimately joined the Labor forces and became a prominent member of that party. The position of governor of Tasmania was offered to and accepted by Mr. Royce a short time ago. Mr. Birks was informed that he had gone to London to make preparations for his departure and died suddenly while riding on the top of an omnibus.

## Does Not Favor Strikes

**E. J. Manion, Telegraphers' Chief, Urges Establishment of Labor Banks.**

Toronto, Ont.—Three hundred members of the Order of Telegraph Operators met in convention at the King Edward recently. Grand Chief E. J. Manion, of St. Louis, was present and addressed the gathering. Canadian telegraphers are in a better position, wages compared with living costs, than their American brethren, he said. Mr. Manion said that La Follette, candidate for presidency in the U.S., was being supported by the Order of Railway Telegraphers. The speaker hoped that the next Government of the U.S. would be solidly labor. He urged the establishment of labor banks. "Strikes must eventually be abolished. If the employes win, they also lose," he said. "If the corporation wins it too loses, and the public loses both ways. We must keep peace if possible. Strikes are only a last resort."

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Mr. Woodsworth criticized particularly the expenditure on the Parliamentary restaurant, for which \$20,000 is contained in the main and \$7,000 in the supplementary estimates. This, he said, was in addition to a free building, free light, free heat, free equipment, and free furnishings. He figured out that the cost of the restaurant for 400 privileged persons worked out at \$75 a head. He recognized the value of the facilities which the restaurant furnished, but at the same time he called attention to the fact that many of the members came from districts where people were having the utmost difficulty to make ends meet. He saw no reason why the restaurant should not be run on a self-supporting basis.

Hon. Rodolph Lemieux, who as Speaker, is in charge of the estimates of the Senate and House of Commons, told the House that his department last year had a surplus of \$25,000 on the right side of the ledger, and that this year that figure had risen to \$32,000. The Speaker referred to a decrease in the estimates for legislation this year of \$33,338. Regarding the restaurant, he said that it was necessary for Parliament to have a restaurant that was kept up to a decent standard and that should be comparable with any restaurant in the city. At the same time the prices charged must not be too high. As the restaurant was open only half the year, the cost of the personnel was necessarily higher than in another restaurant. For example, it was necessary to keep the chief all year in order to retain his services. The Speaker announced that the restaurant committee this year had initiated a sinking fund and that \$3,000 had been placed to the credit of that fund. "We must not be extravagant," he said. "We will not be extravagant, but we must have an up-to-date restaurant and the prices must be fair."



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## Women Workers Minimum Wages

**Satisfaction at Salaries Paid to Women in Industries**

Toronto, Ont.—Minimum wage schedules for female employees in the rubber and tobacco industries were explained and presented in detail to J. W. McMillan, chairman of the Ontario Minimum Wage Board. Minimum wages in the rubber and tobacco industries are to correspond exactly with those of the leather trades, including boot and shoe industries. A number of women workers from some of the city rubber plants were present and expressed themselves as being fully satisfied with the scale of minimum wages. The tobacco industry was not represented.

As outlined in the new schedule the minimum wage for an experienced female employee over 18 years of age in the City of Toronto shall not be less than \$12.50 per week. Inexperienced adults over 18 years of age shall receive \$10 a week for six months and \$11 for the next six months. Young girls under 18 years of age shall receive \$8 for six months \$9 for the next six months and \$10 for the next six months.

## 37,000 Harvester Will Be Required

**Eastern Canada Must Furnish 18,000**

Winnipeg, Man.—Eighteen thousand workers from Eastern Canada are required this season to assist in harvesting Western Canada's grain crop, it was decided at a conference here recently of representatives of the railways, the provincial governments, farm organizations and employment services. Nineteen thousand men, it was estimated, can be secured in the west and in British Columbia, and the total of 37,000 will be sufficient to complete the task. Last year about 65,000 harvesters were employed.

It was thought that harvesting will commence in Manitoba about August 20 and in Saskatchewan and Alberta about August 25, but these dates will be confirmed before excursion dates are settled finally. It was announced by the Canadian Passengers' Association that rates and other conditions for the harvesters trains would be the same as last year.

## Grant Strikers Pay During Idleness

**Ontario Foreigners Agree to Re-employ Recalcitrant Domestic Provided Walkout Called Off.**

Canton, B.C.—Residents of Shameen, the foreign quarter whose domestic life has been almost paralyzed by a strike of Chinese employees, at a meeting recently voted unanimously to re-employ the strikers if the walkout was called off. The strike was called in protest against recent orders requiring, along with other items, that Chinese employed on the island later than 3 p.m. obtain passports, with

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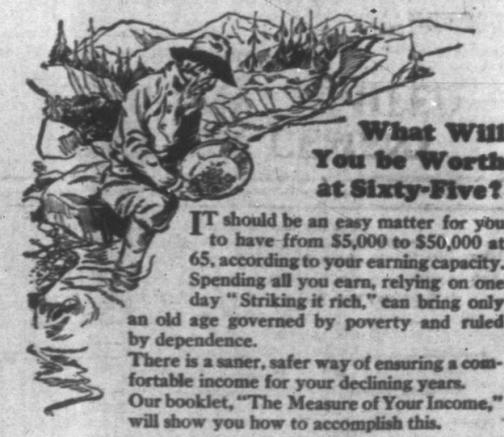
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## Windsor Postal Men Still Dissatisfied

**Windsor, Ont.—C. H. Taylor, provincial vice-president of the Letter Carriers' Association and a prominent leader locally in the recent postal strike, announced that he had wired to the Dominion Officers of the Association, stating that the local employees were ready to walk out again, following the announcement of the Government's disposition of the strikers' cases.**

Mr. Taylor expressed great indignation over the pay terms announced, declaring that the Government had broken the "gentlemen's agreement" made with the men when the strike was settled on June 29.

The wire to Ottawa states that more trouble than before is likely to arise here.



**The Royal Bank of Canada**