

# CANADIAN LABOR PRESS

A National, Sane Labor Paper

True Confidence and Understanding Between Employer and Employee Absolutely Necessary for Industrial Peace.

VOL. V. \$1.00 Per Year. National and Rational OTTAWA, ONT., MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15th, 1924. Live News and Views Single Copies 5c. No. 37.

## B.C. Electric Will Assist Unemployed

Vancouver, B.C.—In reply to a circular letter sent some time ago to a number of the larger business firms and companies here, Mayor W. R. Owen has received a letter from Mr. George Kidd, president of the B.C. Electric Railway Company with regard to the forthcoming unemployment conference in Ottawa and the employment possibilities of the B.C.E.R.

A number of men will be required for the work on Stave Falls and Alouette Lake, states Mr. Kidd's letter, and while work naturally falls off in the winter months, the B.C.E.R. will do its best to maintain as large a staff as possible when work is most needed.

## Fair Wage Clause Is Under Fire

Murdoch's 8-Hour Day Attitude Also Attacked

Much criticism was handed out to Hon. James Murdoch, minister of labor, at the Labor temple recently for his action in regard to the eight-hour day question when before the federal house. This discussion brought up the fair wage clause for government work, and it was announced that the Provincial Council of Carpenters, in session in Kingston recently, passed the following resolution in regard to certain changes made in the bill. The resolution sent to Ottawa, protesting the change is as follows:

"Whereas, amendments to the fair wage policy by order-in-council of April 9, 1924, which apply to the 'A' conditions there is a part of section two which, unless altered, has a tendency to nullify the original purpose and intent of the fair wage policy of the Dominion of Canada and opens the way to any one interested to evade the provisions of the fair wage policy. The language is clear and provisions is made whereby the contractor could, by requiring his workmen to sign contracts either as an employee or employees, prevent the application of this said fair wage policy. The part to which exception is here taken, being as follows: 'The powers of the minister of labor hereunder shall not be exercised as to any employee or employees where it is established to his satisfaction that an agreement in writing exists and is in effect between the contractor and the class of employees to which such employee or employees belong, or to the authorized representatives of such class of employees fixing rates of wage, overtime conditions and hours of labor.'

"The explanations and statements made and issued by Minister of Labor Murdoch, in reply to criticisms of these above-mentioned paragraphs, are not at all satisfactory to the carpenters."

## Ottawa Man Is Vice-President

Ottawa, Ont.—At the recent convention of the Ontario Provincial Council of Carpenters, held at Kingston, Mr. Charles R. Nichols of this city, business agent for the Local Brotherhood of Carpenters, was elected vice-president. Mr. Arthur Exton, of Kitchener, is the new president of the council, and Mr. T. Jackson of Toronto, for the past thirteen years secretary-treasurer, was re-elected to office.

The following delegates were named to attend the general convention of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters which will be held in Indianapolis, G. Brooks, Windsor; N. Hawley, St. Catharines; T. Jackson, Toronto. The delegates were chosen by the proportional representation ballot, which was superintended by Mr. Adam of the Federal Labor Department.

## Telegraphers Expect Wage Increase

London, Ont.—Wages of district telegraphers, in line with the revision of wages by the heads of the C. N. R. and C. P. R. commercial telegraphers presented to the Dominion government, will likely be raised. Confidence is expressed that a board of conciliation will be appointed to deal with the case.

Some 30 telegraphers and linemen in this district are affected and as there standard runs below the eastern scale justification for their participation in the claim is felt.

## Strike May Destroy the Coal Industry

THE complacency with which the public has viewed the present Western coal strike will soon disappear. We are now past the middle of September. It will not be long before the people will be seriously thinking of replenishing their coal bins.

The situation now is that American coal is replacing Alberta coal in the markets of Manitoba and in some parts of Saskatchewan. If the strike continues much longer Alberta consumers may have to depend upon fuel brought in from the United States.

Perhaps the miners do not care if that happens. But others care. This is not a matter that should be judged by its effects upon individuals, whether miners or operators, but by its effects upon the country. Whether the mining industry of this province shall carry on or sink under the combined attacks is a question of national importance.

In a frank statement of the present position of the case one mine manager has told his men that if the Alberta mines cannot ship a cheaper coal during the next month the extended markets that the coal trade and the government worked so hard to obtain will be lost to the Alberta mines. His company, he said, could offer the men continued work from now on through the winter if the men would accept the reduced rate that would make Alberta coal attractive to retail purchasers. Failing this, the company would be faced with the possibility of discontinuing operations in the Lethbridge district.

What are the miners holding out for, under the direction of their leaders? It will be well to refresh the public's memory on that point.

The scale they are offered is but 2 per cent. less than the highest wage rate paid in the United States. It would still stand at 40 per cent. more than the Nova Scotia miners' scale. It would be 25 per cent. higher than the Vancouver miners' scale. It would be from 20 to 40 per cent. more than the non-union rates paid in Alberta.

Are the miners justified in holding fast to the determination made for them by their union leaders to accept nothing less than the highest rate paid anywhere on this continent?

They are injuring themselves by this course. Retail and wholesale trade throughout the province of Alberta is being damaged. The comfort of the people is imperiled by it. A national industry laboriously built up is threatened with the loss of its markets.

The time has arrived when something should be done to bring the opposing forces in this dispute to an amicable settlement.

## Company Union is a Success

### Besco Experience in Favor of Conferences to Deal with Labor Problems

THE British Empire Steel's plant council system, at Sydney, N.S., for handling the relations between the company and the employees since the memorable strike of last summer, has been found too unwieldy and is being changed. Under the original plan, there was a general committee of representatives of each department, elected by the men, and meeting twice a month and heard all complaints and prepared recommendations.

A central committee, merely a smaller delegation from the general committee, met an equal number of company officials in what was called the joint committee, the decision of which was final.

The arrangement consumed too much time, and so the general committee has been split into four standing committees as follows: (1) rates and conditions; (2) safety, compensation and benefit; (3) personnel and central; (4) joint. Each receives complaints and suggestions coming under its jurisdiction and later discusses them with the central committee, which in turn takes them up with the company representatives in joint committee.

This procedure expedites business and prevents undue discussion and loss of time, an important point, since the sessions of these committees take place in working hours and at the company's expense.

On the whole the plant council system has worked out well since it was inaugurated last fall. There has been prompt adjustment of thousands of minor grievances which, under the old pre-strike system, there was no method bringing to the attention of the management and which therefore grew and festered in secret, until they finally culminated in outbreaks out of all proportion to their real importance.

## Hamilton Women's Labor League

Does Not Feel Single Girls Getting Square Deal

Hamilton, Ont.—A regular meeting of the Hamilton Women's Labor League was held here recently. Many matters were discussed relative to the welfare of women and children. An earnest discussion took place regarding the excessive and apparently unnecessary number of married women who are filling hundreds of positions in Hamilton, while hundreds of single girls are running around out of a job. Caustic remarks were passed on men in jobs driving their wives in their own cars and dropping them off at their places of employment, and in some instances passing through a queue of out-of-work girls. One member shrewdly remarked that if this type of woman was stopped from working to this extent she would have no alternative but to throw herself on the city, as her wants always exceeded her capacity to supply them.

This remark was provocative of much feeling, and the twentieth century idea of economic insecurity for workingmen's wives came in for much ridicule. A convention call was read from the Federated Labor League, to be held in London in September.

where the delegates would confer with the Dominion of Canada Trades Congress on many matters interesting to the working class as such. One of the questions scheduled for September will be, What, in your locality, are the most pressing questions for

## Ranks of Jobless Growing in Quebec

Labor Leaders Hope Lumber Industry Will Improve Soon

Quebec.—Unemployment is growing in the District of Quebec notwithstanding the fact that construction is more active than in previous years at the same period. Building activities is not sufficient to compensate for the reduction in the activity in the lumber industry and the usual slowing down in textile and shoe factories in summer.

No real hardship is reported yet but at the Provincial Employment Bureau it was admitted that conditions are not too bright and that while applications for work are flowing in large companies do not seem anxious to take the risk of overloading themselves with help.

The only hope entertained by Labor leaders is that the lumber industry may regain some activity in a few weeks.

## Tramway Workers Approve Contract

Over one thousand Montreal tramwaymen recently unanimously approved the wage contract arranged between the Montreal Tramways Company and its employees and passed a vote of thanks to the union officials for negotiating the agreement. The meeting was held at the union headquarters and was presided over by Gerard Gagon, President of Division 750, Amalgamated Association of Street Railway Employees of America.

The contract was read to the meeting in English by Raoul Trepanier and in French by H. Champagne, business agent, and points were explained. P. J. Shea of Detroit, representing the international president, spoke of the value of the tramways organization and of the satisfactory work it had achieved. A vote of thanks was passed to R. L. Calder, K. C., for his readiness to act as arbitrator between the company and the employees when the question of a board was under consideration, his name being received with cheers.

The contract is for three years and gives an increase of three cents an hour to the employees with an additional five cents an hour for Sundays and holidays.

## Men Flock to City for Viaduct Work

Reports from various centres throughout the Province indicate that there has been a slight improvement in the employment situation during the past two weeks, but conditions are still far below normal. In Toronto itself, so far as the number of out-of-works is concerned, there has been no improvement whatever, registrations still being over 3,900. The settlement of the Esplanade viaduct dispute is responsible in a measure for this. Believing that the agreement reached meant that work would be started straight away, men have been coming into the City from all directions. Last week at the Government Employment Office, on Front Street there were no fewer than 6,000 entirely new registrations, and inquiries made by the officials indicated that many of the men had been attracted to the city in the expectation of work on the viaduct. There may be a little preliminary work done this year, but bonds have to be floated; surveying work has to be done; and tenders have to be called for the materials collected before the main work can be started. He would be an optimistic man who imagined this work would begin before March next year, unless extreme efforts were put forth.

So far no reports have been received as to the number of men likely to be required for the Western harvest fields. The Western trek generally begins about the second week in August. Last year the first shipment of men from Toronto was on August 15th. The lumber camps also begin to call for men about this time, so that there should be a marked improvement in employment soon. Employment officials, however are anticipating a bad winter. From various lumbering will not be so active as last year, and some people acquainted with the situation are forecasting that a number of the smaller companies will not attempt to function. Wages, it is stated, will be lower at the camps, \$25 to \$30 being mentioned as compared with the \$35 to \$50 of last year.

## Demand Fair Wage in School Contract

With the strict provision that the contractors pay their men a fair wage, the Central Board of the Catholic School Commission recently accepted the tender of Corbell and St. Louis for the construction of a residence to the Gedeon Oulmet School for the

The Central District Board of the Commission had accepted the tender for \$37,740, without taking into consideration the wages of the men for sum of \$33,140.

At the meeting recently it was pointed out that the Central Board had gone on record in favor of the fair wage scale for employees of contractors, and it was felt, therefore, that the resolution of the central district could not be jamed as it stood. Mr. Piette stated that the tender could not be accepted unless it was provided that the workmen should receive a fair wage. It was pointed out that the difference was \$400, and the meeting therefore accepted the tender for the sum of \$33,140, conditionally upon the fair wage provision.

## VOCATIONAL EDUCATION IN CANADA

"VOCATIONAL education for the 'teen age group' was the subject of a recent address by Mr. A. W. Crawford, director of the technical education branch of the Department of Labor at Ottawa. Mr. Crawford stated that the objective of vocational schools is to give sound general education which includes sufficient vocational training to enable pupils to intelligently select a suitable vocation and to enter employment with a thorough training in the fundamental principles and operations of the chosen occupation. Hence, the schools are both cultural and vocational. They are not trade schools which produce qualified journeymen nor are they such practical institutions that they over-emphasize the importance of earning a living and omit training which develops character and gives students an intelligent interest in the other activities of life.

Reliable statistics show that over fifty per cent. of Canadian children leave school before completing an elementary school training. Less than ten per cent. complete a high school training, and only about one per cent. finish a university course. Despite these figures, the universities complain that too many young people are being sent to them who are unsuited to university work and who lack a proper training in the work already covered. The vocational courses of study provided for "teen-age" children are in the early stages of development. No prescribed courses have been laid down for use in all schools. The work is organized in each locality to meet the existing educational and industrial conditions. Changes are made every year and a constant effort is maintained to perfect the courses already established and to develop new courses to meet the needs of workers not being served.

### Pre-Vocational Courses

In communities of five thousand people or less, the day school work has been limited to pre-vocational or junior high school courses for boys and girls who have not completed the elementary grades before the age of fourteen, and for those children who have passed the high school entrance examination but do not intend to complete a secondary school training. The purpose of these courses is to prepare pupils for entrance to more advanced vocational training and to give sufficient vocational guidance and practical experience in various types of industrial occupations to enable each pupil to select suitable employment. The pupils' time is usually divided on a fifty-fifty basis; half time in the regular academic subjects of the corresponding grades in academic schools, and half-time in shop work and drafting or home-making subjects.

The shop work consists of woodworking, metal-working, printing, applied electricity, etc. Each pupil spends approximately the same amount of time in each shop or department until he has selected the type of work which best suits his abilities and limitations. The practical subjects for girls include cookery, sewing, elementary dress-making, home nursing, applied art or design, laundry work, household mechanics, etc. Both boys and girls receive instruction in elementary commercial subjects, and those who show no aptitude or liking for shopwork or domestic science may spend the full shop period in commercial training, which qualifies them for junior positions in office work or retail salesmanship. The courses usually extend over two years but, in many schools, pupils may take a third year, during which they specialize in one branch of shopwork before entering employment as apprentices or learners.

### Vocational Courses

In the larger industrial centres pre-vocational courses are followed by secondary vocational courses which are intended to fit students for employment in various types of industrial or commercial occupations. Secondary vocational schools are usually organized in one or more departments, each of which provides courses designed to meet the special requirements of workers in one type of work. The departments most commonly found in established schools are, industrial home-making, commercial, finance and applied art and technical instruction. In a number of schools, agricultural departments are organized to provide special vocational training for young people from the farms and for boys who intend to become farmers. A few schools have highly specialized departments which provide advanced training for workers in such occupations as tractor engineering, automotive repair work, electrical installation, mining, navigation and pulp and paper making. In most schools, however, this type of work is included in the general industrial department.

(Continued from page 3)

## Winnipeg Ignores Electrical Workers

No Action Unless City Hydro Employees Make Application for Board

Winnipeg, Man.—Winnipeg will give no recognition to the application to Ottawa for appointment of a board of Conciliation to consider changing the clause in the Hydro linemen's working agreement which forbids affiliation with outside labor unions, it was decided at a meeting of the Legislation and Wage Committee.

The solicitor was instructed to wire Hon. James Murdoch Minister of Labor, advising him there was no dispute between Hydro linemen and the city in regard to working conditions, and that the city could not recognize any application which did not come from its own employees.

The matter was brought to the Legislation Committee by Mayor Farmer through the City Council. He received a letter some time ago advising him the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers had applied through J. L. McBride, of the Winnipeg local, for a board of conciliation to work on the restriction clause in the city's working agreement.

Hydro Men Not Pressing  
The committee was advised the Hydro linemen were not directly pressing for this board, and no communication was before the city from their own employees regarding the question.

Ald. McKeerchar enquired whether or not the government had power to appoint a board, even though the city refused to take part in such a move, but Ald. Sullivan was of the opinion the government would not take such a step unless the employees themselves brought some grievance before it.

## Plans for a Luncheon to Cricketers

attending the Western Canada cricket tournament, which will be held in Winnipeg in August, were approved and the chairman and clerk instructed to make the necessary arrangements for from 150 to 160 guests.

## Amazed at Action of Federal Gov't.

Bring Men to Canada Unfit to Work

Hamilton, Ont.—Crippled with rheumatism, an English war veteran, who reached Canada recently, and arrived in Hamilton, became a charge on the city. The man applied to relief officer McMenemy for a card that would admit him to the public ward of the general hospital.

Questioning him, the relief officer learned that he had not done any work in England since 1918, when he was discharged from the army as physically unfit. He received an eighty per cent. pension in the Old Land, which brought him about £2 per week.

Expressing amazement that Canadian immigration officials should have approved of the man entering Canada when he was unfit to work, Mr. McMenemy asked the man who induced him to come to Canada.

The man replied that "the church army and agents of the Federal Government" had advanced his passage money. He was promised that he "would be taken care of in Canada for twelve months," he said, after which he was assured he could get light work.

## Favor Request for Increase in Wages

Ottawa, Ont.—The report of the board of arbitration appointed to consider the wage dispute between the city of Moose Jaw and the Saskatchewan Steam Operating Engineers and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, has been submitted to the Minister of Labor. A majority report, signed by James Smith, chairman of the board, and W. G. Baker, recommends that the increased wages asked for by the men be granted. The report embodies a report submitted to the city recently by Mr. Peters, electrical superintendent of the city. The general increase of five cents per hour asked for by the electrical workers and the specific increase asked for by power plant employees are regarded as fair and the majority of the board recommend that the city enter into a new agreement with the men. N. H. Craig, representing the city on the board, submitted a minority report stating that the evidence did not warrant the increase asked for.

# King George's Navy



That's real QUALITY tobacco

## CHEWING TOBACCO

Smell that! See how moist and tough it is! That's what I call real chewing and no minds about it! 25c.—the new low price for TWO plugs! Some buy! The finest in quality and value!

for 25c

Quality Tobacco Co.