

# The Canadian Engineer

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## THE NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL CONFERENCE

**D**ISTINCTIVE among the features of the National Industrial Conference held last week was the ready agreement as to the benefits to be derived from uniformity in labor legislation, and from industrial councils at the meetings of which questions arising in any plant or in any industry could be discussed. Curiously enough, these both concern the form rather than the substance of labor adjustments, for in the case of legislation the conference did not commit itself as to what legislation should be adopted, but suggested that this should be investigated by a commission, which would use existing labor legislation as its material.

On the subject of hours of labor, most of the employers' representatives were convinced that the eight-hour day would reduce production. The labor delegates did not debate this issue, but on the other hand would not compromise it, preferring to stand by the eight-hour day as part of the program of organized labor throughout the world. The third group, as represented in the committee on the eight-hour day, passed a somewhat colorless resolution urging that it should be confirmed by legislation in those industries in which it had already been adopted. On this question, one of the principle subjects of debate at the present time, there was therefore no appreciable progress made.

Regarding the recognition of union, however, practically all employer delegates expressed themselves as not being opposed to organization, provided the employee was not forced to join the union. In reply to a question on this point, Tom Moore, president of the Trades and Labor Congress, stated that the recognition of a union did not imply the closed shop, unless this was specified in the particular agreement. There seems in fact to be no general objection to the organization of labor, provided that every employee is at full liberty to use his own discretion, and that employers

are not forced to deal with organizations which extend beyond their own industry, and which can tie it up in spite of the fact that there is no disagreement at the time.

## BARE vs. WEATHERPROOF WIRES

**I**N reply to a circular sent to central stations throughout Canada, A. A. Dion, of Ottawa, chairman of the Canadian Electrical Association's committee on overhead lines, received the following letter from one of the companies:—

"Re bare wire for line use under 2,200 volts. It has never been the practice of this company to use bare wire for city distribution and although it is generally understood that the insulation on the wire, especially after it has been baked out, is no adequate protection for 2,200 volts, it is useful in the erection of the lines so as to avoid mechanical injury and also from coming in contact with live lines already placed.

"Our company's rules provide that all lines are normally considered alive by our men and work done accordingly. Lines are only treated as dead when known to have been killed properly and the proper clearances given. In order to show differentiation between primary and secondary lines, lines of 2,000 and 4,000 volts are erected on porcelain insulators, while low voltage lines are on glass insulators.

"Use of both bare and weatherproof wire would necessitate carrying two classes of wire in stock as well as on repair and construction wagons. In city work the primary is only a small part of the distribution system and it would be still necessary to supply insulated weatherproof wire for all service work.

"In outlying districts where primary runs are long and service connections few, it would likely be considerably more feasible to use the bare wire."

Mr. Dion states as his own opinion that while ordinary weatherproof triple-braided insulation is not altogether effective, and linemen should treat all wires as alive, still the insulation is some measure of protection in dry weather and he favors its use on city streets.

## ENGINEERING INSTITUTE ELECTIONS

**A**T a meeting of the council of the Engineering Institute of Canada, held September 23rd, 1919, in Montreal, the following elections and transfers were announced:—

Members.—W. H. Boyd, Ottawa; C. A. K. Cornwall, Victoria; David Kyle, Sault Ste. Marie.

Associate members.—H. W. Ault, Ottawa; H. E. Balfour, Quebec; J. A. Beauchemin, Ottawa; V. S. Chestnut, East St. John, N.B.; H. W. Frith, Vancouver; H. P. Fuller, St. James, Man.; L. E. Habben, Shawinigan Falls; D. W. Hodson, Nelson, B.C.; D. W. Jamieson, Ottawa; W. C. Macdonald, Woodman's Point, N.B.; J. G. MacLachlan, Kamloops; T. V. McCarthy, Toronto; J. C. McDougall, Montreal; J. F. O'Connor, Aylmer East, Que.; S. R. Parker, Regina; F. M. Perry, Sault Ste. Marie; Maurice Polet, Edmonton; C. H. Pozer, Vancouver; H. W. Racey, Westmount, Que.; A. S. Runciman, Montreal; H. B. Sherman, Regina; Sigmund Wang, Hawkesbury, Ont.; K. E. Whitman, Halifax; W. A. Winfield, Halifax; W. I. Young, St. John, N.B.

Juniors.—A. L. Bishop, St. Catharines; W. E. Plummer, St. Catharines.

Transferred associate members to members.—A. R. Archer, Port Washington, N.Y.; J. T. Farmer, Montreal; J. P. Hodgson, Vancouver.

Transferred juniors to associate members.—J. G. Caron, Montreal; G. H. Kohl, Hamilton.

Transferred, students to associate members.—R. G. Bangs, St. Catharines; A. K. Hay, Ottawa, C. F. Szammers, Toronto; F. W. Taylor-Bailey, St. John, N.B.

Transferred, students to juniors.—Ralph Allingham, Grenville, Que.; G. H. Chalmers, Turbine, Ont.; C. H. R. Fuller, Toronto; E. C. Little, St. Catharines; J. E. Pringle, Hamilton.

Transferred, junior to associate member.—W. H. Norrish, Ottawa.