

Price of Coal Takes Drop in Montreal

FROM TORONTO FINANCIAL POST WAGE INCREASE STARTS SECOND INFLATION MOVE

Manufactured Products Will
Tend to Advance as Result.

CROPS AND BUSINESS.

Western Situation Continues
to Improve and Whole Outlook
Satisfactory—Banks
Prepare to Finance Grain

The important increase in the wages of common labor reported last week with the United States Steel Corporation making a general advance of 20 per cent, from the 30 cent per hour minimum basis, is making its significant influence felt throughout the industry. The effect of this advance and the shortage of coal is expected to be reflected in higher prices for steel and as steel is one of the most important of the fundamental manufactured products general price advances are being predicted. In some quarters where the significance of these developments is best understood it is accepted that the period of deflation has not only come to an end but that a period of inflation has set in. Nor is it a matter of surprise to economists who have noted that after every great war there are succeeding waves of inflation and deflation in the progress to lower price levels. The first period of violent inflation was in 1919 and was succeeded by the equally violent deflation of 1920-21. Now we are again headed toward rising costs and prices. Probably the second period will be short-lived and less intense than the first, and it is reasonably certain it will be followed by another let-down, though it is to be hoped this will not be so severe as the last.

COMMON LABOR SCARCE.

The situation in the industrial centres of Canada is that common labor is scarce, the present day demand exceeding the supply with the result that there has been an increase in wages in most lines. The unskilled worker, until a month or so ago, was commanding 25, 27 and 30 cents per hour. To-day, in the face of increased demand, 35 to 50 cents an hour is being quoted. From both the workers and employers' point of view, the situation can be best described by stating that there is no excess for any able-bodied man being out of work.

The demand for skilled labor is fair. The metal trades show a little heavier call but clerical demand is quiet. The building trade demand for skilled hands exceeds the supply and in many cases, employers are finding difficulty in getting the right help and have to take what the market is offering. The farm labor situation is not bright. Men are coming forward to answer the West's call for harvesters in fair numbers but nothing like what was expected or hoped for by those interested. There is quite a steady demand from the railway tracklayers. The wage offered is 25 cents an hour for a ten hour day and single men are the most suitable.

The Ontario farm help situation varies. Experienced men are being given \$40 to \$50 monthly for the harvesting and plowing season and unskilled workers \$20 to \$25. Good men are being hired by the year for from \$350 to \$500.

CROPS AND BUSINESS.

Estimates as to the Western crop returns vary to a great extent, but continue to improve under favorable harvesting conditions. The Grain Trade News estimates 350,000,000 bushels; the figure of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics is 297,000,000 bushels and of the Canadian Pacific 317,000,000 bushels. However, it should be remembered that acreage is more than fifty per cent greater than in 1915, when the banner crop of 360,000,000 bushels was harvested, so that the yield per acre is far from the bumper return which was predicted early in the season.

However, Western Canada as with other parts of the country will have a crop which should be encouraging to business and should help materially in the thawing of frozen agricultural and trade credits, particularly on the prairies. Calls are being made upon the bankers to assist in the financing of the crop. The banks have financed the crop in past years

CHARLES ASKWITH UNANIMOUS HEAD OF OTTAWA G.W.V.A.

Lively Nomination Meeting. C. Grant MacNeil Makes
Statement on Unemployment Winter Prospects.
Urges Community Action.

ANOTHER WINTER THE SAME AS LAST YEAR.

What the Present Pension
Probe has Accomplished.
More Important Work Lies
Ahead. Resolution on Near
East Situation.

OTTAWA.—Mr. Charles Askwith was unanimously elected president of the Ottawa command of the Great War Veterans at the annual nomination meeting, other nominees withdrawing. Col. A. C. Kemmis was elected first vice-president. There is keen competition for the other offices and strong candidates were nominated. The election will take place at the regular meeting on Oct. 2nd next.

For second vice-president, the following were nominated: Comrades M. Wake, S. Brown, G. H. Brown, H. Fox and H. Lewis. For the four positions on the executive committee there were nominated Comrades V. McClintagh, D. McKenna, W. V. Latham, J. Vivian, W. Bullock, and D. McIsaac.

The statement issued by the Prime Minister on the Near East situation was read to the meeting. After a discussion the following resolution was passed: "Resolved, that the Ottawa command, G.W.V.A., reaffirms its loyalty to the British Empire and pledges its unstinted support, should the Empire find it necessary to undertake military action in the Near East."

Mr. C. Grant MacNeil, secretary of the Dominion command, made a statement by the request of a number of members on the prospects for work this winter. He said that the prospect for unemployment this winter was more serious than represented in many quarters at the present time.

There were 200,000 unemployed last winter and while most but not all had been absorbed in casual employment this present summer, the fact still remained that the principal industries in Canada had only to a slight extent increased their pay-rolls and this winter the ex-service men would be facing the same thing as last winter, and possibly something even worse.

and can be expected to meet the situation as usual. No one is more interested in the successful handling of the crop than they. The bank statement shows an unusual midsummer effort to concentrate funds for the grain movement. However, it may easily be that improvement can be made and that the bank system may aid in bringing some of the benefits which were expected of the Wheat Board—which has died a natural death. Premier Dunning of Saskatchewan is suggesting a conference which could do no harm and might result in good. At least it would create the feeling that the banks were doing everything in their power to meet the situation to the advantage of the grain growers as well as themselves—a feeling which is contrary to the teachings of the more radical of the farmer politicians. Premier Dunning's suggestion that the Department of Trade and Commerce might also assist in greasing the marketing machinery to the benefit of the grain growers is also worthy of attention with a minister at the head of the department who has a real understanding of commercial and marketing problems.

You wouldn't expect humor is a dictionary, but it defines "allies" as persons or states united.

That first seeking a motto to print on pay envelopes might try "Hail and farewell."

MONTREAL OFFERS MANY LOCAL FIRMS AT CITY HALL SEEK ORDERS \$8.25 A TON LOWEST. COUNCIL ACTION BROKE COMBINE.

Montreal.—There are thousands of tons of Welsh hard, smokeless, semi-anthracite coal available from the coal merchants of Montreal at prices ranging from \$8.85 a ton to \$11.40 a ton. This is the conclusion reached at the city hall as the mayor and the executive committee were literally besieged with offers to provide coal by the thousands of tons at prices below the offer made by C. T. McAllister on behalf of an English colliery firm.

Andrew Baillie, Ltd., wrote the mayor offering to supply 30,000 tons of standard grade of Welsh dry large smokeless coal at \$11.40 per ton of 2,240 pounds c.i.f. at Montreal, and further undertook to unload it into carts direct from the ship at a price of 65 cents a ton. Guy Tombs, Ltd., made an offer to supply 30,000 tons of semi-anthracite at \$9.85 per gross ton. This would be at about \$8.85 per ton of 2,000 pounds.

Alderman Brodeur, chairman of the executive committee, said he had one at \$10.50 a ton, and Ald. O'Connell declared he had received a quotation of \$9.23 a ton. Ald. Brodeur added that he had one lower than that, but he did not disclose what it was. Senator Lorne Webster, on behalf of the Canadian Import Co., called on the mayor and made an offer which it was said was even better than those mentioned. Others also made quotations at low prices.

The decision of the city council last evening to empower the executive committee to make arrangements with a bank to borrow a million dollars for the purpose of purchasing coal required to ensure the citizens being supplied this winter, apparently brought all the coal merchants into the market. The mayor declared that he was convinced there had been a combine to keep the prices up, and that the decision of the council to enter into the coal business and protect the people had resulted in its being broken, and prices were tumbling as a consequence. The decision of the aldermen had cleared the atmosphere and he believed the situation cleared now and coal assured.

Alderman O'Connell said the committee would have to study the question very carefully, for in addition to the unloading there would be the cost of transporting the coal to the domiciles of the people and he thought this would cost an average of \$3 a ton, considering the long distance some of it would have to be carted. There would also be wharfage dues to be looked after and this would amount to \$600 amount to \$600 a month, and it would take 500 carters two months to unload 60,000 tons and haul it away.

The mayor did not agree with these figures, pointing out that it would be easy to get the Tramway Company to lap a temporary line the ships and have them transport the coal to the various city yards.

Ald. Brodeur said the committee would have to study the offers made, and then go to the banks and see if they could get the money. The mayor did not anticipate any difficulty in regard to this in view of the telegram of Premier Taschereau that the government would do its utmost to prevail on the legislature to authorize any expenditure made for coal purchases.

CLAIM COAL DEALERS HAVE FORMED A RING

Central Council of Municipal Councils to Ask City How
Fuel Supply Stands.

At a special meeting of the Central Municipal Council in the city hall, Ottawa, an alleged ring of coal dealers in Ottawa was unsparringly condemned, and a resolution was passed asking the city council to furnish immediately a plain unvarnished statement as to how the city stood for its winter fuel supply. The coalescence and a discussion on how to lower the price of meat in Ottawa took up the whole session. In connection with the latter it was decided to go ahead with the organization of citizens' retail butcher stand on the market and the subscription lists for this were opened at the meeting offering shares at ten dollars each. It is proposed to sell 100 shares, one thousand dollars being considered sufficient to launch the project.

The whole meeting, particularly that part dealing with the coal question, was characterized by a spirit of indignation. Everyone wanted to know why citizens were to be forced to pay \$19.50 per ton for coal, when the representative of a Welsh mining firm had stated that Welsh coal with practically as efficient heating properties as the American anthracite, could be delivered in Montreal for \$12.50 a ton, which meant that it could be delivered on cars in Ottawa for about \$14. President John Firth, who presided, broached the subject, and immediately a heated discussion began.

Mr. E. D. Ingall stated that he had no faith in the coal committee, and that he would not trust them further than he could throw the whole city council, and he wasn't very muscular. Mr. Cochrane, not a member of the council, termed the coal dealers "scoundrels," and stated that he was not in good health and believed that they would put him in the grave by freezing in the winter to make \$5 a ton on coal.

Mr. J. Lorn McDougall asked just how far the authority of the fuel controller extended. He had never seen it defined, and wanted to know if individuals could buy coal, if they got an opportunity, at a price lower than \$19.50 set by the controller.

ASK FULL INFORMATION.
After the discussion the following resolution was moved by Mr. C. J. Tulley, and adopted by the meeting:

COMMITTEE ON UNEMPLOYMENT TO BE CALLED

Ottawa.—Mayor Frank Plant at yesterday afternoon's board of control meeting stated that he intended to call together last year's civic advisory committee that acted with the mayor, board of control and city council in connection with unemployment, suggesting work that could be done to relieve this condition.

The mayor stated that the committee last year had done excellent work, and had been of very great assistance to the city and had accomplished much. He stated that the committee this year could probably be enlarged.

He also suggested that other functions might be taken on by the committee this year, if thought advisable. For instance, no matter how much employment is available this winter, there will always be some distress. While the city gives a certain relief it does not give clothing nor does it pay rent. If this committee or a similar central body would act, they could look after such relief work that the city could not attend to, in addition to advising on available work.

The mayor made it clear that he was not taking a pessimistic view of prospects this coming winter. He thought, however, that the city should be prepared for whatever might arise next winter good and early in order that if unemployment was present in Ottawa in any quantity, the plans for meeting it would be prepared good and early.

The other members of the board agreed with Mayor Plant's suggestion. All the members were present at yesterday's meeting with the exception of Con. Balharrie, who was busy with his Exhibition duties. Apart from the mayor's announcement, the docket was not heavy.

APPROPRIATIONS NEARLY USED.

Con. Ellis pointed out that the city hall playgrounds, comfort stations, and town planning appropriations were coming rather close to the vanishing point. The heads of the departments concerned will be written to.

CIVIC FAIR WAGE RATES.

Commissioner of Works Macallum reported that the following were the fair wages for the present year and these rates will be embodied in future civic contracts:

- Bricklayers, 85 cents; stone-masons, 85; carpenters, 80; electricians, journeymen, 70; and improvers 50; stone cutters, 85; structural steel workers, 72½; painters and glaziers, 65; paper hangers, 65; plasterers, 85; builders' laborers, 45; concrete workers, 53; garbage loaders, 50; laborers, 50; sidewalk finishers, 53; boiler firemen, 70; teamsters, 50; teamsters (garbage), 58; single horse cart and driver, 70; team and wagon and driver, \$1.00; hod carriers, 45; steam and light hoist engineers, 75; steam roller engineers, 75; concrete mixers, 70; cableway men, 75; derrick runners 70; air compressors, 70; plumbers and steamfitters, 80.

Temporary Employees Let Out.

Toronto.—Some 56 letter carriers and 44 porters at the terminal station have been notified that their services will be dispensed with on October 5th.

Many of these men have been in the service of the post office for more than a year, taking the places of men on holidays, and doing extra work. The others have been filling in at the holiday season this year and will not be required after October 31.

It was said last night that all those men, when sworn in for service were warned that they would not be kept after October 31, and that therefore they could not expect to be retained for a longer period.

POSTPONE STRIKE ACTION ON CANADIAN RAILWAYS

Situation to be taken up by
Policy Committee of N. Y. City
at Chicago.

TALLON AT CONFERENCE.

Proposition to End Strike in
U. S.—Decision Expected
Late To-day.

Chicago, Ill.—R. J. Tallon, who is attending the conference of the policy committee of ninety and the international presidents of the striking railway shop crafts, being held here, said to-day that the situation on the Canadian roads will be taken up by the executive council when a proposition now before it for settlement of the strike in the United States has been dealt with. In the meanwhile he has postponed a strike call.

PROPOSITION MADE.

The conference adjourned after an all-day session, to reconvene to-morrow morning according to B. M. Jewell, head of the strikers. "A proposition has been offered for consideration," said Mr. Jewell after the meeting; "there was a general discussion of the proposition this afternoon."

Just what this proposition was, Mr. Jewell declined to announce. He said it would not be made public until after adjournment of the final session of the union leaders and predicted that it would come late to-morrow.

MICHIGAN CENTRAL DISPUTE.

One of the official actions of the executive committee, it was announced, was to order the Canadian boilermakers of the Michigan Central at St. Thomas, Ont., who had voted to strike to remain at work, pending the outcome of the conference here.

The Canadian employees of this road are members of the American shop crafts organization and were subject to the same reduction of pay. They voted to strike on the wage cut and then, as provided by the Canadian government, submitted their difference to a conciliation board.

RESUMED NEGOTIATIONS LIKELY.

Montreal.—The Railway Association of Canada wired Hon. James Murdock, minister of labor in reply to his recent telegram, that the association will immediately open the question raised by the minister with the various Canadian railway companies.

Indications, according to unofficial statements made by railway executives, point to fresh direct meetings between the Canadian railway shopmen, on the wage dispute issue, and the companies' representatives.

Charles A. Dickie, secretary of the union forces, declared to-day that no obstacle exists to the resumption of the negotiations.

SWEEPING FREIGHT EMBARGO.

New York.—The chief eastern railroads declared a sweeping embargo on freight competing with coal shipments. The New York Central, Erie, Lackawanna and Lehigh Valley issued orders stopping practically all freight from the west, except foodstuffs at connecting points.

This announcement, together with a threatened strike of freight handlers and station employees of the Pennsylvania system, were the most important developments of the day in the eastern railroad situation.

The clerks' and freight handlers' brotherhood leaders say they were ordered a strike vote because the Pennsylvania agreement refused to recognize the union.

INJUNCTION IS ISSUED

Washington.—A temporary injunction restraining U. S. Marshal Snyder from interfering with the meeting of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, one of the striking rail shopcrafts, and from doing anything to prevent strike activities "in excess" of the Chicago restraining order, was issued by Justice Bailey in the Supreme court of the District of Columbia.

MOVE DISMISSAL OF PETITION.

Washington.—The U. S. government through its local legal representatives, moved the dismissal of the petition for an injunction brought by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, seeking to prevent enforcement of the restraining order issued by Judge Wilkerson at Chicago. The Supreme court of the District of Columbia has no authority to review or modify the Chicago order, it was contended, and the plaintiffs here will have every opportunity to seek relief before the Chicago tribunal.

NOTHING TO SAY.

Chicago.—"Nothing to say," was the brief reply of union leaders and railroad heads alike to inquiries concerning the strike situation, pending developments next Monday when Judge James H. Wilkerson is due to hear Attorney-General Daugherty's application to make the government's strike injunction permanent.

The policy committee of the six striking shopcrafts is summoned to meet the same day. Both sides in the strike controversy had apparently adopted a waiting policy until then.

The shopmen's strike entered its eleventh week to-day with conditions generally quiet throughout the country.

EARLY RETURN OF SHOPMEN TO WORK.

Negotiations Under Way to
Obtain Quick Ratification
of Peace Agreement.

Chicago.—With negotiations reported under way with several railways in an effort to obtain immediate ratification of the peace agreement adopted by the general policy committee of the striking shop crafts, the hope was expressed by union leaders to-night that the men would be back at work at several points to-morrow.

The Chicago and Northwestern led the way in the parleys which W. H. Finley, president of the road, said would be a "mere formality." He added that he expected his men to begin to return to work by to-morrow. Next in line was the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul, B. B. Greer, vice-president, declaring at the close of a meeting with the system chairmen that it was hoped that some 15,000 men would be back at their jobs by to-morrow night over the entire system.

NOT MUCH OF A SHIP.

The recent report that a cable of the Brooklyn Bridge had slipped, which was accorded so much notice in the daily press, is thus briefly, but satisfactorily, dealt with in The American Machinist (New York).

"One of the four cables of the Brooklyn Bridge slipped lengthwise 1½ inches. That is to say that the total effect of uneven loading over a period of forty years was a shift of 1½ inches in more than 4,000 feet. To some people this means that the bridge is faulty, unsafe and should be rebuilt. To others it means increased respect and admiration for the men and the profession who can build a structure which, after forty years of continued service and overload is still so fit that an almost negligible shift startles the world out of its dream than anything can be made by human hands which will last forever. Surely if this job did not reach perfection, it came near it."