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### CANADIAN BANK OF COMMERCE OPENS BRANCH RIO DE JANEIRO

With Canada's growth as a manufacturing, as well as an agricultural country, has come searching investigation of the possibilities of foreign markets for her exports and South America, with its large and increasing population, is one of the fields to which attention is being turned. This tendency to widen our international trade leads special interest and significance to the announcement by The Canadian Bank of Commerce that they are about to open a branch in Rio de Janeiro, the capital and principal city of Brazil. Our trade with Brazil, although it has grown from \$273,000 in 1904 to \$4,677,000 in 1920, is still in its infancy and the wonderful resources and great fertility of the Republic promise a steadily expanding market in which Canada should be an active participant. The adverse exchange situation, the over production (the result of heavy war demands) from which Brazil is suffering, and the trade de-

pression general in the Americas, militate against an exchange of products at the present time but these conditions will gradually adjust themselves.

Direct representation in Brazil by a Canadian Bank will prove an advantage to our exporters in meeting the keen competition which will arise with the revival of trade.

### CHICAGO MEAT CUTTERS VOTE TO STRIKE

Completion of the strike vote in the packing industry, taken by the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen of Chicago, was announced by G. J. Hayes, president. He said the poll stood 35,354 yes and 3,490 no.

A conference of executive officers and representatives of allied crafts will be held, Mr. Hayes said. A strike of packing-house employees at the John Morrell Company plant at Ottumwa, Iowa, which began this week, Hayes said, was the most important strike in the industry since the war. He reported 1,000 men out.

## POSITION OF A. F. OF L. ON UNEMPLOYMENT CONFERENCE

An expression of minority opinion on the measures proposed by the Committee on Manufactures of the U.S. President's Unemployment Conference was presented to the Conference on the final day of its sessions at Washington on the signature of Samuel Gompers, President of the American Federation of Labor; Sara A. Conboy, Secretary of the United Textile Workers of America; and Roy Dickinson, Associate Editor of Printers' Ink, New York City.

Inasmuch as only unanimous committee reports were taken up by the Conference for action, this minority report, as well as the majority report from which it dissented, was merely presented to the Conference and not acted upon. This was the case with a number of other reports which came to the Conference without unanimous committee support.

The report signed by Mr. Gompers, Mrs. Conboy and Mr. Dickinson, as follows: Although the undersigned constitute a minority of the members of the Committee on Manufactures in this Unemployment Conference, they can not by any stretch of the imagination be regarded as representing a minority of the citizenship involved in the industrial field of our country.

We dissent from the conclusions and decisions reached by the majority of the members of our committee, and submit for consideration a brief statement of the reasons for our inability to agree with the majority report.

The third preamble is so entwined with proposals that one cannot discern where "Whereas" ends and resolutions begin. The third whereas or preamble is artfully worded and intended to imply that business men are now selling at a loss and that the profits and interests have been deflated, and that the only factor that remains for reduction is the wage earner in his wages, a matter with which we shall deal later in this report.

On the recommendation for the repeal by Congress of the so-called Adamson Law, attention is called to the fact that wholly apart from, independent of and prior to the decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States declaring the Adamson Law constitutional and before its provisions were put into operation by railroad managements, a voluntary agreement had been reached between the presidents of the railroads companies and the chief executive officers of the railroad

brotherhoods representing the employees in the railroad service, negotiated and endorsed by a commission of four citizens appointed by the President of the United States, by which agreement the eight hour work day was established in the railroad service of our country. The recommendation for the repeal of the Adamson Law can only be interpreted as an effort to break down the principle of the eight hour work day.

It would hardly seem necessary that in this enlightened period there need be made any statement in support of the eight-hour workday as a measure for protecting and promoting the health and welfare of the employee and protecting the life, limb, and property of the public.

The proposal of the committee majority for the abolition of the Railway Labor Board service, under the Esch-Cummings Law upon which labor has or is supposed to have representation of persons of their own choosing, would remove the only responsible governmental agency to which the workers may present their claims relating to wages and conditions of employment.

While we agree with the declaration that waste in industry and transportation (more than 50 per cent of which has by competent engineers, been allocated to capital and management) should be eliminated and that cooperation of workers and management is necessary to accomplish this purpose, the attempt of the majority of the committee to place the wage earners of our country, human beings, in the same categorical position as "business" and "transportation" is based upon the assumption that men and women, human beings, are in the same category as commodities or articles of commerce to be weighed, measured, bought and sold in the same manner as commodities or articles of commerce.

The statement by the author of the resolution was that this conference and the citizenship of the country should condemn and denounce any resistance on the part of railroad employees—the men engaged in the railroad service—should they resist wage reductions. From this we most emphatically dissent.

The statement of the committee majority that "every element in our citizenship should frankly set its face against any group whether in agriculture, business, labor, or transportation that selfishly undertakes to resist necessary economic adjustment in any narrow endeavor to protect its personal interests at the expense of the permanent betterment of our national life" is vague and indefinite but evidently is intended to imply that the workers (mistakenly called "labor") are seeking selfishly to promote their interests by narrow endeavor.

We dissent from this point. Every thinking person, freed from purely selfish gain, understands that reduction of the earning power of the working people is most injurious to the whole people, economically, industrially, commercially and socially. Indeed, the determination unanimously adopted by this Unemployment Conference at its meeting on September 30 urged the people of our country to make purchases of commodities to the fullest extent of their means for the purpose of reviving industry and business so as to give work to the unemployed. If a low wage is the barometer to be taken for industrial and commercial prosperity any nation, then China should stand at the head of the civilization of the world.

On sections (a) and (b) of recommendation No. 1 relating to the settlement of the financial relationship between the Government and the railroads, we sustain the declaration of the General Conference adopted on this subject at its meeting October 11 as follows: "Settlement of the financial relationships between the Government and the railroads, having in mind the immediate necessity for increased maintenance and betterments, making effective increased railway employment, in order that the railways may be prepared for enlarged business as it comes," with the distinct understanding and conditional upon the adoption of the minority report of the Transportation Committee and signed by W. S. Carter as follows: "Inasmuch as this conference has been called by the President for the sole purpose of relieving unemployment, we also recommend that in the disbursement of the funds advanced to the railroads as provided in Senate Bill 2337, the railroads should be required to devote to the benefit of the entire sum so appropriated to the purchase of labor and material for maintenance of way and structures and for maintenance of equipment, and that the maintenance of equipment be performed in the shops of the railroads to their capacity, thus insuring the expenditure of the money so appropriated in the re-employment of railroad labor."

We further recommend the following addition to the Minority Report of Mr. Carter: "That any railroad company which fails or refuses to abide by the decisions and regulations of the Railroad Labor Board and the Industrial Commerce Commission shall not participate in the funds provided for in Senate Bill 2337."

Summarizing this report with relation to railroads, we beg to call attention to the fact that the recommendations of the majority of the members of the Committee on Manufactures would provide:

1. The repeal of the Adamson Law.
2. The abolition of the Railway Labor Board.
3. The granting of vast sums of money to the railroad corporations; and
4. For the tolling masses of our country the lengthening of their working day and the reduction of their wages.

And this has been seriously proposed by a majority of the Committee on Manufactures as a remedy for present and future unemployment.

In addition to all other reasons for dissent, we declare again as we have declared in the committee, that questions relating to transportation, such as the repeal of the Adamson Law, the question of financial arrangements between the Government and the railroads, and the abolition of the Railroad Labor Board, were not proper questions for discussion by the committee on manufactures, but properly belonged to the committee on railroads.

We feel that dissent from the report of the majority is incomplete unless it goes beyond criticism of what is contained in the report and

deals with subjects which have been omitted entirely. The majority has erred as grievously in omission as in commission.

We deem it necessary at the outset to emphasize more fully the industrial disaster that must result from any further application of a policy of wage reduction. The industrial prosperity of the country is based upon the purchasing power of the masses of our people. The masses of our people are wage earners, and ability to purchase commodities depends upon their wage. Mistaken reasoning has never expressed itself more falsely or more crudely than in the declaration that reduction of wages would induce a return of prosperity. The industries that to-day are in the most deplorable condition are those which are affected to the highest degree by reduced buying power of the people. As a proper course in relation to this particular phase of the general subject, we place before the conference the following recommendations:

1. There must be adopted no policy of wage reduction. On the contrary, there must be a policy calling for the highest possible rate of wages in every industry. In terms of industrial well-being this means the adoption of a policy of placing in the hands of all of the people the highest average of buying power in order that there may be the greatest possible consumption of commodities and the greatest possible consequent demand for the production of commodities. Reduction of buying power stops purchasing which, in turn, inevitably stops manufacturing and creates unemployment.
2. There should be adopted as a permanent policy everywhere business standards which eliminate profiteering, place commodities upon the market at the lowest possible cost per unit and enable manufacturers to base unit costs upon one hundred per cent utilization of the productive capacity of plants. Managements having assumed the responsibilities which go with its functions has no moral right to tax the public for its inefficiency by costs fixed upon a basis of part time production.

There has been placed before this committee ample evidence of the fact that those commercial lines of

essential to that understanding. We see in this proposal a constructive and logical substitute for State regulation or control. We propose that there be made available through responsible agencies voluntarily created, information on production costs showing the cumulative influence of each turn-over and the pyramiding of commission expenses.

3. We propose uniform cost accounting and publicity for production accounts. We see in this proposal a better understanding of the ills of our industrial organization because through it we shall be furnished with information which is

and forecasts that the winter season in Quebec city and district will not create all the hardship, which had first been feared, is intimated from information given by Provincial Employment Bureau officials. The demand for lumberjacks and lumber camp employees is increasing and in the last week the average number of men sent to the Abitibi region at the request of lumber corporations has been of 35 to 40 per week.

The Provincial Employment Bureau is now in charge of supplying work for women and there is a fair demand in fur factories as well as in the shoe and leather trade.

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# The National Crisis

"My appeal is to the whole people; to every man and woman who wants to do right by this country; to everyone who breathes the spirit of our fathers who founded this British Dominion."

Arthur Meighen

THE Election to be held on December 6th will be the most momentous in Canadian history; for as men and women vote will depend the economic stability, the political stability and, indeed, the national stability of this country.

Today we find group striving against group, class against class, the industrial and financial structure of the country assailed by false and unsound doctrines and theories, while our great neighbour to the south has adopted a trade exclusion policy directed against Canada's vast agricultural interests.

The currencies of nearly every country in the world are depreciated. The Canadian dollar in the United States is subject to a heavy discount causing a loss of over one hundred million dollars in exchange annually.

Europe is overwhelmed with war debts—unemployment is acute—and the restoration to pre-war conditions is slow.

While Canada is in a much more favorable condition than many countries, yet there is evidence of stagnation, instability, unemployment and lack of confidence.

Taxes are heavy because of the country's efforts in the Great War, but have become burdensome on account of the misconceived policies and blunders of Governments that directed Canada's affairs prior to 1911.

These conditions are largely the direct aftermath of the war, but they must be dealt with fearlessly and constructively. This is no time to consider experimental changes, or the theories of visionaries.

This is no time for Crerar and his Free Trade Policy.

This is no time for King and his wobbling "charted" policies, varying with each provincial boundary.

It is the time to cling to orderly, stable Government in the interest of all the people; to be guided by the experience of the past proceeding upon lines that have been proven sound.

It is the time to place the destinies of Canada again in the hands of a Government led by a sane, courageous Canadian who has safely brought the country through the trying years of reconstruction, and upon whom we can rely to retain and initiate policies in the interest, not of a group or class but of all the people.

It is the time to support Arthur Meighen and his Candidates.

# Meighen will lead us through

The National Liberal and Conservative Party Publicity Committee.