

Labor News From Coast to Coast

Overseas News

Protection in Britain

London, Eng.—House of Commons recently adopted a resolution imposing a duty of 23 1-3 per cent. on gloves and a duty on gas mantles. At a secret session the efforts of the Opposition to secure a reduction in the proposed duties on knives and scissors proved fruitless.

Unemployed in Moscow

London.—The latest official data concerning unemployment at Moscow gives the number of unemployed at 135,771. It is interesting to note that among the unemployed are skilled textile workers, food workers, Civil servants, and railwaymen. At the same time there is a shortage of textile and foodstuffs, while railway transport is in a state of extreme disorganization.

Nearly half of all the unemployed are trade unionists, whilst the remainder have so far been unable to obtain any regular work and have had to be satisfied with any casual work that presented itself.

Russia May Have to Curtail Exports

Moscow.—Owing to failure to realize full expectations for this year's wheat yield, the Soviet government will be obliged to curtail its exportation of grain. The authorities expected originally to export between six million and seven million tons, but up to November 15, according to official figures only 1,000,000 tons had been sent abroad.

As far as can be ascertained the government has not actually stopped exports, but it will be compelled to alter its original estimates so as to provide for increasing domestic needs.

Two British Unions Amalgamate

London.—At a conference held at Leeds the National Union of Engine-men, Firemen, Mechanics and Electrical Workers confirmed the recent ballot vote in favor of amalgamation with the Transport and General Work-

Charges K.K.K. With Gratt

Victoria, B. C.—Charges of gratt and fraud against the Ku Klux Klan organizers now working in British Columbia, were read by A. Manson, Provincial Attorney-General at the B. C. Legislature.

This assault on the Klan organizers was followed by a strong denunciation of the Klan movement by John Oliver, former British Columbia Premier.

A final vote on the future of the Klan in this province will be forced in the Legislature very soon. Opponents of the Klan are urging a resolution asking the Dominion Government to exclude the Klan organizers.

Mr. Manson's charges against Major L. E. Powell and K. K. Allen, Klan organizers, who came here recently, were contained in a document which he had received from the United States.

Can Help Themselves

Toronto, Ont.—A member of the Committee on Unemployment which was appointed some time ago to deal with the problem this winter reported at the Labor Temple that the committee had decided to "let them help themselves." Local unions could handle their own problems, and the unorganized who are unemployed could organize on their own behalf, he said.

"Why should we run down to the Government Employment Bureau to organize these men?" he asked. "We did so last winter, and what did the trade union movement secure from it? If they want help, let them help themselves."

Sulphite Plant Is Completed

Three Rivers, Que.—The St. Lawrence Paper Mills, Limited, have just completed the construction of a new plant for the manufacture of sulphite, with a possible production of 80 tons a day. A large percentage of the production will be exported to the United States since the company only requires about half its capacity production for the manufacture of its newsprint. The new plant will supply employment for about 50 work-

ers' Union.

It is understood that the Engine-men's and the Firemen's Union is to retain its General Secretary, Mr. Geo. Parker, to preserve intact its internal working and to continue to be separately affiliated to the Trades union Congress. The two unions will, however, to all intents and purposes, be one.

The membership of the Engine-men and Firemen's union is about 25,000, while that of the Transport Workers at the end of 1924 was 237,568.

French Children Are Denied an Education

Paris.—The system of primary education in Europe, once among the best in Europe, has now fallen upon evil times. Successive Budgets since the war have cut down expenditure upon education, beginning, of course, at the bottom, until the £18,000,000 now allotted has become an irreducible minimum.

The figure, indeed, is so inadequate—even for the school population of France, which is about one-half that of Great Britain—that in order to keep the primary school system within the financial bounds rigidly set by the Ministry of France, many schools in country districts have been closed, and many others are run with diminished staffs.

The teaching profession in France is now, and has been for some years, so miserably underpaid, that it attracts no fresh blood. A teacher in a lycee, or secondary school, with the title and diploma of professor, is paid less than a bus conductor. A University professor is paid hardly better.

And how the unfortunate teachers in primary schools, with large classes, housed in dirty, ill-ventilated, and often underheated school rooms, manage to exist on their meagre pittance, in view of the increasing cost of living, is a miracle.

The only reason for their remaining in so ill-remunerated a profession is, of course, the expectation of a pension, the promise of semi-security and genteel half-starvation in their old age—this, and the social status which accompanies the position of teacher, a status of which, however, the value diminishes yearly.

Miners' Agreement

Bryan, Alta.—A joint agreement between the members of the three locals, Mt. Park, Cadomin and Luscar, and their various coal companies has been arrived at. The few men who were working went on the reduced wages which are practically the Blairmore rates on November 18th.

They were able to save an organization out of the wreck and that was all. The company agree to no discrimination, the compulsory check-off one member of pit committee not necessarily an employe of the Company, and a few minor concessions in the general clauses, most of which were in the old U. M. W. of A. agreement, but not in the Fernie agreement and some of them not in Blairmore.

Wants Shorter Hours

Indianapolis, Ind.—Reduction of the hours of the working day is the only certain remedy for unemployment resulting from overproduction brought about by labor-saving machinery, Jas. M. Lynch, president of the International Typographical Union, has written Secretary of Labor Davis.

Law fixing a minimum salary for workmen, will be introduced at Three Rivers.



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Need Standard Wage in Coal Fields

The basic evil from which the anthracite miners suffer has not yet been attacked by the Union, and is not being attacked in the present strike. This evil is the absence of a standard, basic rate of wages. All the wage advances won by the anthracite miners have been based upon the chaotic "scales," in effect at the time of the formation of the Union in 1900, with such changes in the hundred and one classifications as the employers desire or feel strong enough to put into effect. This has left open the door for the most systematic juggling of wages by the companies to the detriment of the miners, an opportunity which the capitalists have taken full advantage. In every section of the anthracite district, the miners have an enormous accumulation of grievances from this cause, which will not be remedied even if the present strike is successful, and which will remain a running sore in the anthracite industry, until the Union has established that minimum for the beginning of some sort of workers' control over their own working conditions, a basic rate of wages.

Furuseth Fights to Retain Sea Charter

Washington.—Andrew Furuseth, author of the seamen's act and president of the International Seamen's Union of America, has drafted a minority report on behalf of the labor group in the forthcoming merchant marine conference sponsored by the U. S. chamber of commerce, disclosing that the business interests are plotting the nullification of the seamen's act in all essential features. Furuseth will lead a fight in the conference against all proposals of subsidy, as well as against all schemes for weakening the existing maritime laws. President Green of the American Federation of Labor is supporting his attitude. When defeated by the ship owners and other business men in the conference, the labor group will take the right to congress.

Painters Fight Ban on "Reds"

Seattle.—Submission to the membership is asked by Painters local 360, Seattle, of an amendment to the international constitution adopted by the Montreal 1925 convention which specifically bars Communists from the point out that the amendment can be brotherhood. The Seattle painters used to expel unionist "who advocate united and militant action by the workers against the bosses," to publicize public opinions, to incite members on other questions of union policy and that it tends to divide and split the brotherhood instead of uniting it in a "common struggle for the better things of life."

The amendment goes to referendum if 25 locals in 5 different states or provinces demand it.

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