

Soft Coal Miners Strike Certain

SOUTH AFRICAN STRIKE SITUATION SERIOUS

A shot was fired at the automobile containing General Jan Christian Smuts, the premier, today as he was being driven towards the Rand near Pretoria. The premier was not hurt, although a bullet struck the car. General Smuts has issued a reassuring statement, predicting an early restoration of peace. The prediction seems justifiable in view of the easing of the situation in some directions and the rapid concentration of the government forces. At least one hundred persons are believed to have been killed in Saturday's fighting here, and the wounded will reach a much larger number. Desperate efforts are being made by the commandos to gain control over the town before the forces under Major-General Sir J. L. Van Deventer and Brig-General Conrad Brits can arrive. Only the northern part of Johannesburg is free from the commandos. The fighting for the most part takes the form of sniping, there being only occasional volleys. The only government forces to be seen are those guarding the city hall. The striking miners are reported to have burned the police station at Fordsburg. A communique from Pretoria says large numbers of troops will be available shortly and that recruiting is going on at a satisfactory pace, although many evidently fail to realize the seriousness of the situation. Captains despatches say that outside the Rand the general strike has had a limited success. At Durban, a meeting attended by eight hundred persons, mostly strikers, resulted in the formation of a commando of three hundred men, who paraded without violence. A similar meeting at Bloemfontein favored formation of commandos, but a single arrest led to the dispersal of the gathering before the decision could be carried out. The troops have captured 1,500 revolvers and shotguns and are clearing the neighborhoods, as important as the positions are strong and an occupation presented grave.

TILE WORKERS' STRIKE PROGRESS

Recourse by mill-owners to the suits to obtain an injunction against picketing, adopted by the plant, is being opposed at eight hundred plants affected by the strike, was forecasted yesterday. In a statement issued at noon Governor Sam Goulet declared he had advised the manufacturers who are protesting law against what they termed "unlawful mass picketing" as mills to seek relief in the courts. Strike leaders in the Pawtucket and Blackstone valleys replied with statements that picketing would proceed "injunction or no injunction." In reply to the protest of representatives of the manufacturers against mass picketing, said the governor's statement, "I am advised by the courts that if they believe picketing is lawful they should apply to the courts to determine the facts, as this is properly a judicial function." Another development yesterday in the strike situation was the decision of a meeting of the state board of mediation and conciliation for Monday next. The announced purpose of this meeting is to consider the proposal for asking the Legislature to amend the act relating to the law which would give the board mandatory powers to conduct investigations and enforce its decisions. With National Guard cavalry and coast artillerymen, deputy sheriffs and police on hand, the protest against the return to work of the Crompton Company at Crompton, R.I., yesterday morning re-opened its picketing department which, with the rest of the plant at Crompton, has been closed since the first day of the strike. A large crowd of strike sympathizers assembled about the mill premises at opening time, but there was no disorder. Later Superintendent John A. Swanson of the plant, stated that no workers had accepted the invitation to return. He added that the mill would be kept open. The Gleason works at East Providence, owned by the Sayles Iron Works, did not open yesterday morning. The Gleason Print Works was still operating, but with a reduced force. A statement made public yesterday by Labor Commissioner George H. Webb, estimated that, since the beginning of the strike, about 800,000,000 in wages alone. This estimate was based on a total of 15,000 strikers, and an average weekly wage of \$17.50, based on conservative figures, according to the commissioner. Since all over Rhode Island, the statement contained, was feeling the effect of the strike in a financial way. Vice-President James Starr, of the United Textile Workers of America, said yesterday that the strikers at the Amoskeag and Shaw mills were ready for peace, but were prepared for a long struggle in their effort to force the mill officials to withdraw the 20 per cent wage reduction and the 54 hour week. Twenty thousand operatives have been idle since the mills were shut down at the start of the strike on February 13. A new situation developed in the Rhode Island textile strike, now at the end of its seventh week, when R. B. and R. Knight, Inc., owners of many textile plants in the state, announced their decision to close their Nashua and Pontiac mills indefinitely.

MONTREAL VETS WANT FUNDS TO BUILD WORKSHOPS

Writing by ex-service men to determine the disposition of Canada's share of the profits of the navy and army castles has now been ended, the votes counted, and the result made known. The proposal which gained the approval of the majority of those who cast their ballots was as follows: "The establishment of memorial workshops for the provision of sheltered employment and home employment for disabled ex-service men, including those suffering from tuberculosis." In all 350,000 ballot papers were distributed, and of these slightly less than 25,000 were returned. Of these, 8,000 voted for the above proposal, constituting an easy majority over those voting for any other plan. This result will be made the subject of a report which will probably furnish material for the Parliament committee of re-establishment, which, it is announced, will meet during this session. The amount for disposal under the act is not exactly known. It was at first announced to have been a very large sum, but has been gradually dwindling since the first announcement. Still \$2,000,000. Major N. P. Parkinson, deputy Minister of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment, stated last night that the report of the committee in charge of the balloting would be made to the Government. The estimate fund had not dwindled, but still remained at approximately \$2,000,000.

ONTARIO MUNICIPALITIES BUILDING COMMUNITY HALLS

There are about 25 community halls being constructed in the Province of Ontario at the present time. The Ontario Government pays 25 per cent of these buildings up to a total grant of \$2,000. That makes it possible to erect buildings costing up to \$5,000, and to be able to pay a quarter of the cost with the provincial grant. The halls, however, as a rule, are costing considerably more than that. Of the two completed last October, and received the grant was one at Lakeshore costing \$5,000. It is, however, a municipal building as well as a community hall. The other, at Blythe, cost \$25,000. These buildings received the maximum grants of \$2,000 each.

CAPITAL'S UNEMPLOYMENT SITUATION

Mr. C. F. Ford, supervisor of the Ottawa zone of the Ontario Free Bureau, states that there were 2,174 men in Ottawa out of employment. Mr. Ford was engaged in placing 115 men for Monday morning on the Rideau canal retaining wall job, and a minimum of 100 men for civic work. This reduces last night's unemployment figures by that much, but these 215 men only take the place of others who will be out of work Monday. Mr. Ford states that things are more hopeful, however, than for some months. He has had a number of enquiries from farmers for men, but in almost every case experienced farm hands are asked for, and these are not easily obtained. Several applications have recently come in for men who would be employed steadily on work in the city, and these have been filled.

MACHINISTS' LOCKOUT

The lockout in the engineering trades, brought about by failure of the negotiations between the employers and the unions for adjustment of their differences, largely concerning shop management conditions, became effective at noon yesterday as far as the Amalgamated Engineering Union, with 400,000 members was concerned. Some fifty other unions indirectly involved, namely the shipyard men, the general workers and foundrymen, have accepted the proposal of the employers to take a ballot on the proposed managerial control agreement. In substance of this agreement 1,000,000 ballot papers will be sent out to the union members Monday, the ballots to be returned by March 22.

SOME TIME TO ELAPSE BEFORE EXACT VOTE IS KNOWN OF APRIL 1 ACTION

From Indianapolis comes word that the strike vote of soft coal miners is completed by local unions scattered throughout Canada and the United States and though the exact returns will not be known for a week, officials of the United Mine Workers of America believe that nine-tenths or more of the workers past their ballots for a walkout April 1 unless a new wage agreement is made in the meantime. Chance of getting wage conference with the operation of the central competitive field, comprising western Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois, seemed remote to the union chiefs for no change in the attitude of operators opposing an inter-state conference resulted from the appeal of Secretary of Labor Davis for the two sides getting together. The only possibility of a conference, as viewed by union officials was for the Government calling both operators and miners to Washington, but no one at union headquarters had any information that such a call was contemplated by administration officials.

DOMINION MINERS OF BITUMINOUS COAL INVOLVED

The Labor party in the Canadian house of commons this session consists of two members. With a dozen other members of the house who have affiliations with Labor, but there are only two who look to Labor as their first allegiance. The two straight Labor members are James Woodworth of Winnipeg and William Irvine, of Calgary. Mr. Irvine was nominated by the Dominion Labor party of Alberta, and endorsed by the Progressives. Mr. Woodworth was nominated by the Independent Labor party of Manitoba. Mr. Woodworth has no other affiliation than with Labor and Mr. Irvine the claims of Labor first. Besides these two members who enroll themselves distinctly under the name of Labor, there are understood to be about a dozen others who have been nominated by joint conventions of Progressive and Labor or have some other affiliation with Labor bodies. In these instances, however, the first allegiance of the members is to the Progressive party. The Labor group, composed of Messrs. Woodworth and Irvine, are not associated with the Progressives as a party, but it is very likely that there will be co-operation between the two groups. Mr. Woodworth occupies a desk together at the end of the front bench Progressives.

ONTARIO SHOWS A LITTLE RELIEF

Reports coming in to the Ontario labor department from the different employment bureaus of the province show a falling off in unemployment with the milder weather. Some of the factories are taking on more work, and the first alligations of change and in some extent offset by less activity in some lines of the building trade. The reports, however, show that the outlook is bright for more active building operations as soon as spring opens up than has been the case for several years back.

HOUSING CONDITIONS

At a conference of women's organizations to day concerning public health and child welfare, Dr. Marion Phillips said that owing to the almost entire cessation of building since 1914, housing conditions in Great Britain had fallen into such chaos that it was almost impossible to handle the problem. One and a quarter million houses, said Dr. Phillips, were required to day in Great Britain, and barely a quarter of a million were being built. In England and Wales over a quarter of a million people were living in homes of one room. In Scotland conditions were still worse. Dr. Sloan Ghazzer, describing conditions in Chicago, said two to three thousand women died there annually in childbirth and there was a terrible amount of child disease owing to the poisonous housing conditions. Thousands of families went knowingly into cellars, attics, other insanitary dwellings in which one would not put farm animals. A resolution was adopted expressing deep disappointment over the present situation and abandonment of its housing scheme.

ACTORS' ACTION

Taken by the Actors' Association for the benefit of unemployed actors and actresses, the Battersea Palace will be the scene, from Monday next, of the first co-operative venture by actors. "East Lynne" will be presented. One month's lease of the theatre has been taken. Every member of the association is an actor or actress who has been out of work for a considerable time. "Mr. Pitt Hardacre, whose version of 'East Lynne' will be produced, has accepted greatly reduced fees, and intends to extend the scheme to the provinces if it is successful. "Each week a new play will be presented, and we hope to prolong the season beyond a month if it goes well. As far as I know, this is the first occasion on which a trade union has managed a theatrical season on behalf of its members." The Mayor of Battersea has promised to attend this memorable and interesting first night, and the Mayor of Wandsworth and Mr. John Burns hope also to come.

COMMUNIST ORDER

The London police have communicated to the press a copy of the instructions issued by the Communist party in its organizers throughout the country regarding the disputes in the engineering and shipbuilding trades. The organizers are urged to do their utmost to prevent any compromise, and also to induce all other branches of labor to support the engineers and shipbuilders, not with

TORONTO STATEMENT IS DISPUTED

Toronto is apparently being used as a receptacle into which the rest of the Dominion is pouring its unemployed, Mayor Maguire, told the board of control that Col. Morrison, of the D.S.C.R., had reported to him the arrival of fourteen men from Winnipeg. Civic authorities in that city had given them sandwiches and railway tickets and put them on a train for Toronto. Col. Morrison reported the action to the federal minister of labor and when the latter proved skeptical, Col. Morrison secured affidavits from the men to convince him. "Not thirty per cent of the men who are applying for relief at the local mission are Toronto men," said the mayor. "They are sending unemployed men here from every where." Characterizing it as an "outrageous reflection on Winnipeg," Alderman W. B. Simpson, chairman of the unemployed relief committee, of Winnipeg, stated that no men have been shipped out of Winnipeg for Toronto. A despatch from Toronto declared fourteen men claiming to have been given sandwiches and railway fares from Winnipeg applied for relief in that city.

FEDERAL LABOR REPRESENTATIVES

The Labor party in the Canadian house of commons this session consists of two members. With a dozen other members of the house who have affiliations with Labor, but there are only two who look to Labor as their first allegiance. The two straight Labor members are James Woodworth of Winnipeg and William Irvine, of Calgary. Mr. Irvine was nominated by the Dominion Labor party of Alberta, and endorsed by the Progressives. Mr. Woodworth was nominated by the Independent Labor party of Manitoba. Mr. Woodworth has no other affiliation than with Labor and Mr. Irvine the claims of Labor first. Besides these two members who enroll themselves distinctly under the name of Labor, there are understood to be about a dozen others who have been nominated by joint conventions of Progressive and Labor or have some other affiliation with Labor bodies. In these instances, however, the first allegiance of the members is to the Progressive party. The Labor group, composed of Messrs. Woodworth and Irvine, are not associated with the Progressives as a party, but it is very likely that there will be co-operation between the two groups. Mr. Woodworth occupies a desk together at the end of the front bench Progressives.

EMIGRATION TOPIC

We are approaching the season of migration in the natural world, and migration was the subject (of a correspondent) of a pilgrimage to Mr. Churchill, at the Colonial office, undertaken by the Empire Migration Committee, and a large number of societies interested in this question in its various aspects. Sunshine flooded the big room in the colonial office, where the appeals of the deputations were addressed to the secretary of state, who was attended by Col. Amery, chairman of the Overseas Settlements Committee. Sir Godfrey Luggan, chairman of the Council of the Royal Colonial Institute, formally introduced the deputation, whose case was expounded by Lord Sydenham, Sir Arthur Stanley and Miss Odham. The speaker dwelt on the old antithesis between the necessities of folk in this country and the "de-

VICTORY REVIEW

J. E. Sutton has won the Clayton division of Manchester from the Coalition by the handsome majority of 3,624, having polled 14,562 against 11,938 recorded for the Conservative candidate, W. H. Flanagan. Before the last redistribution of seats J. E. Sutton represented East Manchester, having been returned at the 1919 election. He was badly defeated in 1918 by Dr. E. Hopkins, the Coalition Unionist candidate. The swing round to Labour is great indeed, for Sutton has almost doubled the vote he polled at the General Election. Have a certain number of Coalition electors gone Labour this time sooner than back a Conservative candidate. J. R. Sutton, who is a member of the Miners' Federation, brings the Labour group to 71 members.

THE TRADE UNIONS AND THE NEW TURN IN HUNGARIAN POLITICS

Much has been written on the new turn in Hungarian political affairs in the official newspapers, reports have appeared that the Hungarian Government has at last taken steps to adopt a conciliatory attitude towards labour. The fact of the matter is that the Hungarian Premier, Graf Becken, has invited the representatives of the social democratic party and the trade unions to open negotiations. The reason for this "condescension" has been perfectly obvious to everyone who is acquainted with Hungarian conditions. Air raids have been made for the past two and a half years to suppress the underground labor movement with all and every means. But all in vain. The organized workers have remained loyal to their trade unions, Christian, Social and other fellow organizations, favored and privileged by the Government, have not been able to make headway. It has now been realized that normal economic conditions can not be restored without the cooperation of the workers. The trade unions are still a factor which the Hungarian Government has to consider. The demands made by the workers were as follows: 1. That the Right of Combination and Assembly be guaranteed to all parties without distinction. 2. That trade union activity and the right to form trade union branches shall be guaranteed. 3. That dissolved trade union organizations be allowed to resume activities. 4. That the confiscated properties and moneys of trade union organizations be restored. (Furniture, Books, House, Meeting Places). 5. That the Workers' Insurance Society shall have its original rights restored. 6. A General Amnesty for political offenders and fugitives. 7. Abolition of the Internment System and the revival of all laws relating to this form of imprisonment. 8. Abolition of Police Supervision and the Compulsory System of Registration. 9. Abolition of the Special Courts of Summary Jurisdiction. 10. Repeal of the (State of War) Emergency laws. 11. Withdrawal of the Military Supervision of mines. The miners shall be guaranteed the right to elect their representatives to the Diet. 12. That the Dictatorship over Wages be withdrawn. 13. Reduction of the High Cost of Living. 14. The Inauguration of a Commercial and Industrial Policy which will render possible the reconstruction of economic life. Acceptance of these demands would have been of great significance. The deplorable conditions, which have existed in Hungary since the outbreak of the World War, the formation and activities of trade unions always depended upon the disposition of the authorities. Any section of the workers who wished to organize, had first of all to submit their draft rules to the Minister of the Interior. Sometimes the official approval was refused, or the amendments demanded by the Minister had first of all to be incorporated in the rules. In any case it took a very long time—often a year or longer—before the decision of the Minister reached the interested parties. To illustrate how the Hungarian Minister intimated his wishes we give an example of the official stereotyped answers sent to trade unions in pre-war days. The trade union for workers engaged in the food trades wanted to effect an alteration in their rules and duly advised the Minister of the Interior. After a long delay the following answer was received: "In the rules it must be stipulated that members of the Union can only be Hungarian subjects. It must be further stipulated that in the event of a strike no benefits whatsoever may be paid to any of the strikers. Finally it must be further stipulated that no person may become a member of the Executive Committee of the trade union, who is not a member of the union or who behaves or acts in a way contrary to the rules of the union and that such person or persons must be removed from their position as members of the Executive Committee." This letter will give some idea of the treatment meted out to the trade unions. While the organizations of the employers and Christian-Social enjoyed complete liberty of action the trade unions were dealt with in the above manner. Under such conditions the workers were compelled to form the so-called free organizations side by side with the legal trade unions to conduct wage movements. And it can be affirmed that relatively more strike movements were conducted in Hungary than anywhere else. After the collapse of Bolshevism the conditions in Hungary went from bad to worse. The trials of the Bolsheviks were conducted by Special Courts of Summary Jurisdiction (all most like court martials) the formation of which were decided upon by the Friedrich Government in August, 1919. For this purpose special courts were set up. Meanwhile the National Assembly had passed a law relating to the more effective protection of state and social institutions. This law conferred powers which were formerly confined to emergency law. The rights of assembly and combination were strictly curtailed and political meetings were absolutely prohibited. Even the trade union could only hold their conferences and meetings under police supervision. In the case of the Workers' Insurance Society was abolished and the General Co-Operative Society was also subjected to severe persecution, because the Christian Socials and the so-called "Awakened Hungarians" may have only to notify the police of the place of meeting, as these have the right to have a representative in attendance. 2. The Provisional Party Organization must give notice of large meetings, approval being given on the merits of each case. 3. The trade unions are required to give notice of their usual meetings as hitherto, but these do not require an official approval any longer. These meetings may be held without the attendance of a police officer. 4. National trade unions can form local branches, the formation of which must be notified to the authorities; if no answer is sent to the application within 30 days the branch can commence its activities. 5. The Electric Tramway men shall regain possession of their organization, moneys, and meeting place. 6. The Railwaymen may issue a journal and may be represented on the board of the case up to the Revolution in October, 1918. 7. The Factory and Workshop Conferences are not subject to an official approval, but may be held like ordinary meetings of the party or organizations, after notice has been given to the authorities who have the right to be represented at such conferences. 8. The Printers Trade Union is to be re-organized, the ordinary criminal proceedings against the union are to be stopped. 9. The meeting places, which have been taken away from the trade unions are to be restored; the furniture and moneys shall be returned to the trade unions as far as can be ascertained in whose hands these are at present. If the original meeting places cannot be returned, other meeting places will be allocated to the unions. 10. The military supervision of the miners shall be withdrawn and their freedom to accept engagement with whom and where they please shall be restored. 11. Courts of Summary Jurisdiction are to be abolished. (The decree to this effect has already appeared). Legal proceedings now pending are to be concluded by these courts. New trials are already being conducted in accordance with the ordinary criminal code. 12. Emergency Decrees are to be revised and gradually abolished. 13. The Amnesty for persons sentenced up to 5 years' imprisonment as to be general in application. Persons sentenced from 5 to 10 years' imprisonment can be included in the amnesty after the merits of individual cases have been duly considered. This decree applies to fugitives as well as to incarcerated persons, convicted persons or those persons against whom judicial proceedings are pending. 14. Interned persons are to be released but the institutions are only to be gradually closed. Persons who are getting on better for any organization or party are to be set at liberty. 15. The abolition of police supervision and compulsory registration shall also take place gradually. 16. Regarding adjustments of wages, the Government will endeavor to act as mediators with the object of concluding collective agreements. If such action is not successful the Government will promote courts of arbitration by legislation in accordance with the precedents established in other countries. 17. The Government will cancel the present restrictions against the sale of propaganda literature. 18. The Government will take the necessary steps to combat the advance of the "Red" living. Such are the promises made by the Hungarian Government to the workers. Certainly they do not amount to much.