

# WAGES IN CANADA INCREASE 90.3 P. C. SINCE 1913

## Labor Department Compiles Statistics on Increase in Living Costs and Wages.

OTTAWA.—The tremendous advance in cost of living, and the increase in wages in Canada, during the period from 1913 to 1920 is shown by a lengthy statement, which will be published by the Labor Department as a supplement to the March issue of the Labor Gazette. The statement, covering increased wages, is a most exhaustive one, consisting, for the most part, of tables showing the advances in the various trades and occupations under review. The rates of wages compiled from statistics obtained in 21 Canadian cities scattered across the Dominion.

An increase of 82.1 per cent. in the hourly rates of wages paid in 1920 over the 1913 scale is shown by the statement. As far as the weekly scale of wages is concerned, the increase is only 79.3 per cent. over 1913, but it is pointed out that there was a decrease in the number of working hours per week, which is responsible for the discrepancy in the two rates. In regard to the cost of living, the department points out that the average increase in all items, for a family, when the peak was reached in July, 1920, was 101 per cent. over 1913. Food had dropped to a level of 152 per cent. over 1913, but fuel continued to increase, reaching a level of 118 per cent. above 1913.

The occupations under review in the bulletin with reference to wages are as follows: Seven building trades, five metal trades, two printing trades, railway motor men and conductors, and six classes of steam railway employes.

The department took as its index number for 1913, the figure 100, and on this basis it was discovered that the average increase in hourly wage rates for building trades, was 89 per cent. since 1913, and weekly rates for 82 per cent. over 1913. Street railway motor men and conductors secured average increases of 84 per cent. in hourly rates and 75 per cent. in weekly rates. In steam railways, the increases per day and per mile for the six classes averaged 84 per cent. but it is pointed out that overtime rates for excess hours or mileage have been paid since January, 1918. This means a great increase in the rates now given.

The increase in factory wage scales over 1913 is very large. Index numbers of these rates show an average increase in common factory labor of 116 per cent. in hourly rates since 1913, and 98 per cent. in weekly rates. In lumbering and sawing the average increase in the 15 samples given appears at 103 per cent. in hourly rates and 81 per cent. in weekly rates.

# SPEED THE PARTING GUEST



Trade reports show that business is improving practically throughout the whole of Canada. (News Item.)

## Trades and Labor Councils

**OTTAWA**—If the spotlight of public gaze had been sought by an embryo alderman, no better means could have been found than that adopted by Ald. L. P. Whyte, who has introduced a motion that laborers in the city employ be paid the sum of 40 cents per hour, commencing on May 1, the present rate being 55 cents per hour.

From what angle this budding civic representative has looked to make such a move is beyond fathom by your executive. We do not wish to attach him to any yard, but our information is that smallwages is his business, and small wages is apparently his objective.

It is too ridiculous to be treated in serious fashion. Such a move—40 cents per hour for a 44 hour week, means with no stoppages for weather or other causes, \$17 a week salary, with employment uncertain for many months of the year. At this time it appears this civic representative will be unable to find even a sponsor to what is possibly the most unfair proposal in regard to wages that the Ottawa City Council has heard advanced.

Your executive could not ignore this item, owing to its general adverse comment it has caused, but record that the presentation of such a motion allows for a display of big men as our civic representatives by leaving this budding alderman and his misty motion severely alone on Monday night.

The above was the recommendation of the executive of the Trades and Labor Association at its last regular meeting relative to a proposal of Ald. Whyte. It may be interesting to note that when Ald. Whyte did introduce his resolution at the city council he received no support.

Resolutions urging appointment of unemployed men to positions as deputy returning officers and clerks in connection with the coming referendum; the adoption of a system of licensing passenger elevator operators by the Ontario Government; pledging support to the Building Trades Council in their "respect of scraps of paper," and effort to uphold contracts, and condemning Brig. Gen. G. W. Griesebach for "an unwarranted attack on Federal Union 66 in the House of Commons," featured the meeting.

An appreciation of Hon. Walter Rollo's action "in his presentation of a bill that seeks to prevent unfair charges to tenants," and of the council's action in this connection, by the G.W.V.A. was unanimously endorsed.

The present system of garbage collection was commended as against the proposal of a return to the contract system, and it was decided after some discussion to notify the city clerk that the meeting endorsed this view. The street railway question was discussed at length, but nothing definite was decided upon.

Mr. Tom Moore, president of the Trades and Labor Congress, was of the opinion that nothing could be gained by reversion to the contract system of collecting garbage in Ottawa. Private individuals tendering for the work were not likely to be influenced by anything other than the thought of "what money was to be made. This attitude would make for either inefficient collection service or reduction in wages to employes. He failed to see why the city could not efficiently administer the same.

Delegate House drew attention to statements made by Brig. General Griesebach in the House of Commons "concerning the return of 66 to the O.R.U. and the I.W.O. President Hayden stated that the "policies of the Civil Service Federation harmonized with those of Associated Federal Employes Union 66 harmonized with the views of the Allied Trades and Labor Council." He said that General Griesebach "was the man who did the Government's dirty work in comparing an organization composed of 89 per cent. returned soldiers to the I.W.O." A large section of both Liberal and Conservative parties, he said, were strong for the return of the "spoils system" in the Civil Service, and he had not much faith that the Agrarian party would do the same.

Advocating adoption of legislation requiring licensing of passenger elevator operators, the executive report called attention to the necessity of safeguarding passengers, "the increasing number of women being utilized for this class of work, ac-

spect for United States citizens, he denounced the abominable and damnable tactics employed in the Thorold district, which were on a level with the work of Pennsylvania armed men in the past. Mr. Fleet closed by saying that every attempt to reduce wages should be opposed. Delegates Burton, Lawrence and Halford were named a committee to address the next meeting of the bricklayers and masons, building laborers and local No. 294, structural iron workers, to urge that the organization affiliate with the T. and L. Council. Delegate Foster reported that as a result of representatives from the council visiting the last meeting of local No. 394, O. B. U. efforts to induce the union to quit the A. F. of L. had been thwarted.

**BROCKVILLE**—Endorsement of the stand taken by Tom Moore, President of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, regarding the statement of Hon. Dr. J. D. Reid, Minister of Railways and Canals, relative to the merger of railroad labor, was made by the Brockville Trades and Labor Council at its regular meeting. Different delegates took exception to the statement of Hon. Dr. Reid that responsibility for the deficit on the Canadian National Railway rested on the high rate of wages paid the men.

The council further urged that labor be represented in a fair proportion on any committee of investigation which may be selected to probe the minister's allegations.

ing with it a lower standard of wages and the attendant evil of underpaying the position of elevator operators. Whilst standing solid for equal rights of sexes, it appears to us that this position is not one appropriate to the female sex, with the hazard entailed.

**HAMILTON**—A communication read at the last regular meeting of the Hamilton Trades and Labor Council from the G.W.V.A. stated that that organization had registered a protest with the Federal Government against a return to the patronage system. The several speakers who took the floor commended the action of the veterans. A resolution asking Secretary Foster to communicate with Premier Meighan, backing up the veterans' stand, was carried without dissent.

Following the reading of a letter from a central labor union affiliated with the A. F. of L., which asked that organized labor rally to the support of the railway brotherhood and endeavor to offset the efforts of the railways to bring about a reduction in wages, a delegate announced that the T. & L. Council, C. had given notice that, effective immediately, what is called the back shop, would close down. Mention was made that blacksmiths, boiler-makers, and machinists would be thrown out of work. Delegates were advised that the company intended to farm out its repair work.

The delegate asked that every effort be made to organize the National Steel Car works, in view of the fact that that firm was to give some of the work. Men who receive 37 1/2 cents per hour will be employed on it, while railway shop laboring help, in accordance with the McAdoo wage scale, are paid 82 cents per hour. After the council had been informed that the railway shopmen were holding a special meeting in the 29th Century club, the delegate was assured that no time would be lost by the T. & L. Organization committee in trying to organize National Steel Car employes. The council will ask the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada to circulate allied Canadian labor unions to protest against any contemplated cut in railway employes' wages.

Organizer John A. Fleet, A. F. of L., gave a resume of the recent conference of the American Federation of Labor executive and international and national union officials in Washington, when it was decided to combat the employers' American plan campaign. Mr. Fleet dealt with the lockout of the Beaverboard company's employes in Thorold, which he characterized as the first step in Canada towards establishing the American plan idea. The speaker criticized the firm, which he said, was American, with headquarters in Buffalo, for using armed men against the locked out employes. Mr. Fleet after stating that there were no defections in the ranks of the men who refused to have their wages reduced, said that while he had every re-

spect for United States citizens, he denounced the abominable and damnable tactics employed in the Thorold district, which were on a level with the work of Pennsylvania armed men in the past. Mr. Fleet closed by saying that every attempt to reduce wages should be opposed. Delegates Burton, Lawrence and Halford were named a committee to address the next meeting of the bricklayers and masons, building laborers and local No. 294, structural iron workers, to urge that the organization affiliate with the T. and L. Council. Delegate Foster reported that as a result of representatives from the council visiting the last meeting of local No. 394, O. B. U. efforts to induce the union to quit the A. F. of L. had been thwarted.

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# Labor Espionage in the U.S.

## Practice of Employing Spies in Industry is Now National in Scope.

Espionage in industry is not an institution which is agreeable to contemplate. It is a practice which is general in the United States and is rapidly being instituted in Canada. It has been developing inconspicuously these many years, says Sidney Howard in the New Republic. Recent labor disputes show that it can no longer be considered in terms of locality; it seems to have become a factor in industry as a whole. He continues:

"Given an employer suddenly face to face with the probability of labor trouble in his plant, ignorant of the character and point of view of his employes, with no access to their plans, very fearful of their organization. The result is almost inevitable panic and the labor spy exists to exploit this panic. He capitalizes the employer's ignorance and prejudice and enters the plant specifically to identify the leaders of the labor organization, to propagandize against them and blacklist them and to disrupt and corrupt their union. He is under cover, disguised as a worker, hired to betray the workers' cause. Espionage in industry is not a credible institution, but it seems to go on very generally.

"The labor press of the last few years is filled with the records of spies discovered in unions and expelled from them.

"In December ten important officials of the labor unions of Akron, Ohio, were exposed as confessed and convicted spies of the Corporation Auxiliary Company, a concern whose business is the administration of industrial espionage. Last spring two similar corporations entered the courts of Philadelphia and left there a complete (and unpublished) record of their proceedings in the employ of the textile manufacturers of Philadelphia.

"It is strange that this business should have gained such a hold. It is strange that the employer should not reasonably suspect its effect. Though he proposes only to relieve immediate labor difficulties by the destruction of a particular union, he may well accomplish very different ends. This labor spy, often unknown to the very employer who retains him through his agency, is in a position of immense strength. There is no power to hold him to truth telling. The employer who depends upon espionage rather than upon his own eyes is, in great measure, at the mercy of his spy. The very nature of the spy's business makes it necessary for him to do either of two things. He may falsify his re-

# His Smoke

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A mere layman can't understand why efficiency experts don't get into business for themselves and monopolize the world.—Cleveland News.

And as far as we are personally concerned, Uncle Sam can't take our excess profits tax and buy himself a button with it.—Dallas News.

Maybe the noise of riveting in our shipyards makes it impossible for Japan to hear the talk at Geneva about disarmament.—Little Rock Arkansas Gazette.

Blatchford truly reminds us that "the majority are imperfect, but can we trust the minority to be less imperfect?"

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**Imported "Booze"**

Shall the importation and the bringing of intoxicating liquor into the province be prohibited?

**WHILE** importation of intoxicating liquors into "dry" provinces was forbidden by war-time Order-in-Council, Ontario's jails were half empty. Since that order was rescinded, imported "Booze" has been filling them up again.

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1920 ..... 4,511	1920 ..... 14,756
Net increase, 1,096.	Net increase, 1,660.

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