

Labor News From Coast to Coast

Our Overseas Column

Emigration Drops Off

But Many Artisans Are Desirous of Coming to Canada

London, Eng.—Emigration from Scotland to Canada since the beginning of 1925 shows a substantial decrease compared with the same period in 1924, it being 4,599 and 9,960 respectively.

For twelve months Scotland sent 19,136 while those of Scottish blood from all over the United Kingdom totaled 29,660. The total movement to Canada last year was 88,290.

The indication is that a considerable number of artisans will go to Canada soon, if conditions warrant it.

Australia to Attract British Women

Melbourne, Australia.—With a view to encouraging the migration of British women to Australia, the Commonwealth Government proposes to create women's committees which will send requisitions to similar committees in Great Britain for a definite number of girls to whom employment will be assured.

Socialists Are Badly Beaten

Belfast, Ireland.—Viscount Charlemont and Sir George S. Clark have been elected to the Northern Senate, each receiving twenty-nine votes. The Socialists, Margaret MacOubrey, well known to many Toronto people as former suffragette leader, and Robert Dorman, received four votes.

To Strengthen Arbitration Court

Sydney, Australia.—A bill to amend the Federal Arbitration Act is now being drafted. It is directed mainly towards strengthening the powers of the arbitration court. The chief provisions invest the arbitration court with definite powers to enforce awards and compel the unions to respect the awards; to deal with individuals as well as groups of employers and employees; to subject unions funds to supervision, somewhat on the lines of friendly societies and to Government inspection; to penalize employers who seek to discriminate between unionists and non-unionists; to invest trade unions registered under the Act with the rights and status of corporations and to subject them to the same responsibility and liability and to deal severely and thoroughly with agitators and strife-mongers and to make unionism compulsory as far as circumstances permit.

Adverse Publicity Harms Immigration

Quebec, Que.—The emigration of colonists to Canada from Britain and Scandinavian countries this year will be less than last year, said Col. J. S. Dennis, head of the Department of Colonization, Canadian Pacific Railway, who arrived on the Montroyal after a six weeks' tour of Great Britain and the continent.

Col. Dennis expressed himself as disappointed at present conditions as regards the prospects of future settlers for the Dominion. He ascribed this lack of enthusiasm on the part of prospective emigrants to a seemingly organized campaign of publicity against emigration to Canada, which campaign, he said, was resulting in a pronounced increase in the exodus to Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and South America.

The Governments of these other Dominions were encouraging settlers by offering very low rates of transportation, he explained, and in some cases the poorer people were given free passage. Col. Dennis spoke enthusiastically concerning the movement of boys from Great Britain to Canada declaring that it was the only phase of the situation showing a promising outlook.

He believes that it is essential to combat the adverse campaign of publicity against Canada and to render some assistance to families and single people desiring to emigrate but prevented by lack of means.

Employment Shows Slight Betterment

Conditions Improve in Canada During Month of March

Ottawa, Ont.—Employment conditions throughout Canada improved during March, as compared with February. The general level of employment, however, was less favorable than during March, 1924.

There was an increase in the volume of business transacted, according to reports received by the Employment Service of Canada. The

Take Empty Houses

Labor Member Has Bill to Prevent Overcrowding

London.—First reading was given in the House of Commons recently to the bill introduced by E. Thurtle, Labor member for Shore-ditch, providing for municipal authorities acquiring unoccupied houses for the purpose of relieving overcrowding.

Mr. Thurtle said large numbers of people were living in houses unfit for human habitation, and on the other hand there were numbers of houses empty. It was time this dog-in-the-manger policy was ended, he declared.

A. Hopkinson, Independent, opposed the bill, and said it seemed to be an example of cold and callous cruelty on the part of the Labor party in dealing with the housing question. The bill, he added, would be another device for warding people off from taking any part in building houses.

Benes Is President of Labor Conference

Geneva, Switzerland.—The biggest International Labor Conference in the history of the International Labor Bureau opened recently in the Electoral Palace, Edouard Benes, Foreign Minister of Czechoslovakia, was elected President.

Besides the questions of workmen's compensation, social insurance, and final action on three draft treaties for the six-day week in glass works, the elimination of night baking and the equality of treatment for alien workers in foreign countries, the Labor Conference will discuss immigration and child labor in China.

Moscow Back of Anzac Campaign

London, Eng.—Serious evidence of the hold of Communism on the Australian Labor Party is to be found in the election campaign now in progress in New South Wales. The Labor Party in New South Wales, the most important part of the Australian electoral, is completely controlled by the Trades Hall Council, which here and in other states is outrightly Communist and in regular touch with Moscow. With mounting interest in the present election, Land, the leader of the Labor Party, is being challenged to declare his attitude towards the Red objective, which he steadily refuses to do. The premier, Sir G. W. Fuller, declares Moscow is conducting a campaign in Australia equally dangerous as that of last in England.

average number of vacancies recorded daily in March last, was 10 per cent higher than in February and the placements effected seven per cent higher.

At the beginning of April, the percentage of unemployment among members of trade unions was 8.5 as compared with 9.5 per cent at the beginning of March, and with 6.7 per cent at the beginning of April, 1924. These calculations were based on reports received from 1,550 local trade unions with 154,558 members.

Reports from 5,820 firms showed that they were employing 718,524 persons on April 1, as compared with 718,162 persons on March 1.

The time loss caused by industrial disputes was somewhat greater in April than either in the previous month or in April, 1924. Twelve disputes were in progress at some time during last month, involving 11,951 employees, and resulting in a time loss of 290,633 working days. These figures include the continued dispute in the coal mines of Nova Scotia.

Paper Makers Strike

Port William, Ont.—Paper makers employed at the Fort William Pulp and Paper mills have walked out on strike following differences with plant officials. The strike affects 225 men and operations at the mill have been suspended.

New Coal Find

Vancouver, B. C.—Reporting a discovery of 535 feet of coal of continuous formation and practically unbroken by shale seams at Hat Creek, on the Pacific Great Eastern Railway 170 miles north of Vancouver, A. C. McDougall returned in the city recently. The area where the drilling is being conducted is 3½ miles long and 2½ miles wide. It is located 15 miles from Pavillion Station.

Employ Local Men

Toronto, Ont.—In letting the contracts for laying York County water mains there was a clause in each contract calling for the employment of at least 50 per cent of local labor and at a minimum wage of 50 cents per hour.

New Bridge Assured Over Niagara River

Bridgeburg, Ont.—Frank R. Baird, of Buffalo, announced that the work of building a vehicle bridge across the Niagara River between Fort Porter, Buffalo, and Walnut street, Fort Erie, will begin by August 1st, Mr. Baird is president of the company, W. M. German, M.P., is vice-president.

Every preliminary obstacle has been overcome. Formal approval of the plans by the United States War Department was announced last week. The Canadian Department of Public Works and the New York State Government also have approved.

The bridge will be nearly one mile long from street level to street level. An unusual feature is that it will be higher on the Buffalo side, over the Black Rock ship canal, than over the middle of the Niagara River. This increased height over the navigable channel was insisted upon by the United States engineers to eliminate the necessity for draw spans. The span over the canal will be a truss and the others will be steel arches resting on concrete piers. There will be a sharp turn south on the American approach, the terminus being in the centre of what is now Fort Porter. The city of Buffalo has acquired the army post for \$400,000 and has agreed to resell a portion of the land to the bridge company for \$300,000.

John S. Stevens, the chief engineer of the American construction in Panama said recently that there were no serious engineering problems to be solved in building the bridge. He has been engaged by the underwriters to report on the project.

The structure will be known as the Peace Bridge, the directors announced and would be dedicated as a monument to the century-and-more of peace prevailing between the United States and Canada. The original peace bridge project was promoted by Fort Erie residents in 1918, but was abandoned on account of the war.

The Fort Erie ferry carried 500,000 automobiles last year as compared with 50,000 in 1915.

New Paper Co. for Beauve, Que.

Quebec, Que.—Letters patent have been issued by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council to the concern which will be known as the Ste. Anne Paper Company, Limited, with a capital of \$3,000,000. The new company has been authorized to construct mills and shops at Beauve, a few miles from Ste. Anne de Beauve, and carry on the industry of manufacturing pulpwood, etc. The company is headed by Toronto interests, where there is a branch.

The promoters of the new company have also applied to the Government for rights to construct a wharf at Beauve, and engineers of the Department of Public Works have been sent to the scene of future operations to look over the ground and report back to the authorities.



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