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Labor Opposes Reconstruction of Compensation Board BALDWIN TO LEAD CONSERVATIVES

EMPLOYERS' PROPOSALS CONTESTED

Spokesman Says Labor Men are Flatly Against What is Suggested.

SPIRITED SESSION

Premier Takes Part in Discussion Over Phases of Compensation Act.

Flat opposition to all the proposals submitted by the representatives of the employers of the province in the matter of the Workmen's Compensation Act and its administration in New Brunswick, was voiced by representatives of organized labor at this morning's session of a conference which opened here yesterday. W. L. Best, of Ottawa, official representative of the labor interests, presented his case, which was followed by a lengthy and at times rather acrimonious discussion. His presentation was the result of a meeting of the labor delegates held last evening after the case for the employers had been presented to the conference.

On Three Grounds. The labor people opposed the proposal that the scale of compensation and benefits as laid down in the original act before the amendments of 1920 be restored on three grounds:— Firstly, that to lower the present scales would defeat the primary object of the act, which was to prevent dependents from becoming chargeable on the community; secondly, that the present cost of living did not justify any reduction; and thirdly, that a tendency in other places since 1920 was to increase the scale and any reduction would be a backward step.

The proposal to reconstruct the board and the administration be placed in the hands of one man was opposed on the grounds that it would not well place the administration of such important legislation in the hands of one individual, but that it required the judgment of at least three commissioners.

The suggestion that employers be given the option to carry their own insurance, the labor men declared as economically unsound. It was pointed out that in Pennsylvania during a five-year period, out of more than \$80,000,000 paid out in insurance premiums, only \$45,000,000 went to provide benefits, while in Great Britain \$3,000,000 were collected and less than \$3,000,000 paid out in 1920.

Regarding the suggestion of the employers that the associations representing the employees may obtain through assessment under the act, such funds as they may require to carry on their work, the labor men replied that they were in favor of co-operation between the board and the employers in effecting practical means for the prevention of accidents, but they felt that where associations were formed for this province, workmen should have representation therein.

Premier Takes Part. Premier Veniot presided and took a prominent part in the discussions. During the proceedings he made his startling statement to the effect that an alleged labor organizer some time ago came to Chatham from the United States and decamped with \$750 of the men's money. Others who took part in the discussion were H. W. MacDonald, of Toronto, representing the legal department of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association; F. W. Wegenast, of Toronto, representing the employers; Angus McLean, Bathurst, and Donald Fraser, of Plaster Rock, lumber operators; A. D. Taylor, Miramichi; J. W. Simms, St. John; J. A. Martin, M. L. A., Chatham; John McKinnon, St. John; L. A. MacKinnon, Moncton, representing the Trades and Labor Council.

Representatives of the employees were heard at the opening of the morning session.

Speaks For Labor Men. W. L. Best said he represented all the labor men of the province, but more particularly the locomotive firemen and engineers. He read a letter from Tom Moore, president of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, regretting his inability to be present and asking Mr. Best to represent the congress at the hearing.

(Continued on page 2, first column.)

Uses Gasoline to Put Out Fire

New York, Jan. 11.—John Rizzo, who is 10 years old and lives in Long Island City, found some old Christmas trees while playing with two other boys in a lot in Webster avenue near his home. They decided to be firemen. They set up the trees and lighted them, and then the Rizzo boy, with many shouts, grabbed a bucket and threw the contents on the flames. The boy thought the bucket contained water, but it was gasoline. The flames shot up and set his companions on fire. His companions ran, screaming, and the Rizzo boy shouted for help. He was blowing all over when a woman drove by in a limousine. She stopped the car and smothered the fire with a fur robe. The boy's legs were burned and the flames hurt the woman's hands. The boy was sent to St. John's Hospital. He will recover.

BIG CUT IN LIGHT RATES PREDICTED

New Brunswick Power Co. Directors Expect to Make Reduction.

TO EXTEND RAILWAY

Local Members of Board Suggest Many Improvements in Service.

At a meeting of the board of directors of the New Brunswick Power Company held yesterday afternoon plans for the extension and improvement of the company's street railway, electric and gas systems were considered by the local members of the board. While the company's statement for the month of December has not been completed, certain preliminary figures were presented which indicated that results of the company's operations for the year 1923 were satisfactory in view of the conditions which have prevailed. The directors of the company feel confident that the reduced gas rates which became effective on January 1, together with the proposed improvements and extensions of the company's gas system, will result in a material increase in the business of this department. In fact, the company has already received many applications for gas service.

On Rental Basis.

It was decided by the directors to have a plan worked out by the management of the company under which gas stoves would be installed by the company on a rental basis, that is, the company would install any type of gas range which the consumer might select and would charge a nominal rental for the use of same. In this way the consumer would be able to enjoy the convenience and economy of gas cooking without making a large initial investment in the purchase of a stove.

Much Lower Rate.

While no definite action was taken regarding the proposed plan, the directors, the members of the board felt that some revision in these rates might be made which would permit consumers to increase their use of electricity for lighting or for the many electrical household uses at a much lower rate than is now in effect.

At the suggestion of the board of directors the management will give this matter immediate attention and a decision will probably be made at the next meeting of the board of directors, at which time a complete statement of the company's operations for the past year will be available.

Police Fail In Clean-up; Fired

Philadelphia, Jan. 11.—Heads of police officials began to feel yesterday with the passing of the "zero hour" in Brig.-Gen. Butler's campaign to close up Philadelphia. Six lieutenants and two sergeants of South Philadelphia districts who had failed to clean up to the satisfaction of the director of public works within the 48-hour period set by him for the complete elimination of vice, gambling and bootlegging, were suspended on charges of incompetence and neglect of duty.

PRESBYTERY SPLITS ON INSPIRED BIBLE

150 Clergymen Reject Dictum by The General Assembly in U. S.

Auburn, N. Y., Jan. 11.—One hundred and fifty representative Presbyterian clergymen have united in a formal protest against the dictum of the 1923 General Assembly that "the Holy Spirit did so inspire, guide and move the writers of Holy Scripture as to keep them from error," and have signed their names to a statement that they profess to be for the purpose of upholding the whole Presbyterian following in the work of saving the human race. The conservative forces were in the majority in the last General Assembly and afterwards a small number of those who felt that the scope of the church was being restricted by the narrow interpretation of the scriptures gathered in Syracuse where they organized and adopted a statement of their beliefs. The Rev. Dr. Murray S. Howland, pastor of Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church of Buffalo, was chosen chairman of this committee of ten, and the Rev. Dr. Robert H. Nichols, professor of church history in Auburn Theological Seminary, secretary.

THIS IS STRANGE CASE OF THEFT

Wealthy Girl Steals Diamond Ring and Dress From Friend.

London, Jan. 11.—A strange story of a rich girl's thefts while being entertained at the home of a friend, was told at Wealdstone. In the dock was Catherine Barnes, aged 24, a smartly-dressed girl of prepossessing appearance. She admitted stealing a diamond ring worth \$600 and a lady's gown worth \$100. The girl's father is manager of a large mine near Johannesburg, and she came to England two years ago to study at the Royal Academy of Music. At the Academy she became friendly with a fellow-student, and stayed at the house of her friend. Later the dress and ring were missed. To a detective Miss Barnes said, "I can't think what made me do it." The prisoner did not lack money, for she had an allowance of \$125 a month from her father, and received additional sums from him, but from some sudden temptation she took the ring and the dress.

FOUR ARE RESCUED

Passengers Taken Out Through Hole Sawn in C. P. R. Observation Car.

Bellefleur, Ont., Jan. 11.—Four passengers were taken out through a hole sawed in the observation compartment of the C. P. R. train stationing here at four o'clock this morning, when the C. N. R. train from Ottawa crashed into the coach, which was not quite clear of the tracks (C. N. R.) at the station. Rain and fog prevented the C. N. R. engineer from seeing that the coach was fouling the tracks. Fortunately no persons suffered more than a shakeup in the collision which turned the observation coach nearly completely over, wrecked the rear-end and smashed in the pilot of the C. N. R. engine. The jar broke nearly all the electric lights in the C. N. R. train.

OWL FOILS HUNTERS IN KING SQUARE

Police and Public Works Department Called Out to Assist. EFFORTS FUTILE

Snowballs of School Boys Fail to Unroost the Big Bird.

St. John's Owl arrived in St. John sometime during last night or early this morning. His arrival was unheralded. And while he was not given the freedom of the city he caused just as much commotion in various civic departments as he did in the streets. Sir Hoo Hoo Owl selected the vicinity of King Square where he was given a rousing reception especially by school boys who bombarded him with snowball bouquets.

Call on Police

A hurry up call was sent to police headquarters and Police Officer Phinney was called to guard King Square and see that the stranger was accorded the courtesy for which this Loyalist City is famed. Crowds gathered as the owl winked blindly but intelligently at the assembled mob below. Then a call went to the Public Works Department. Fire Chief Blake was called into action. He granted permission to have a long ladder taken from No. 2 Hook and Ladder No. 1 Station.

Body of Woman Found In Bed With Gas Stove Burners Going Full Blast

Windsor, Ont., Jan. 11.—Lying upon a bed in an unventilated room, where stood a gas stove, everyone of its six burners lighted and pouring an intense heat into the small apartment, the body of a woman, about fifty years of age, was found last night in what is known as the Old Record Building, in Sandwich street west. The police believe the woman, known to other tenants in the building as "Mrs. Reid," had been dead at least ten days.

FIRE PATROL WORK

Utility of Aeroplanes to Protect Forests is Discussed at Conference.

Ottawa, Ont., Jan. 11.—Utility of aeroplanes in forest fire patrol work was discussed at yesterday afternoon's session of the Federal Provincial forestry conference.

MARGARET G. LOST

Crew of British Schooner Picked up After Terrible Experience.

Havana, Jan. 11.—The officers and crew, six in all, of the British schooner Margaret G., which was lost off the Bahamas Islands on Sunday during a storm, were brought to Havana late yesterday by the U. S. liner Esparta which picked them up yesterday morning. The men had been aboard the schooner, the decks of which were awash, since last Sunday. The schooner was lumber laden and bound from Mobile for Gibara, Cuba.

Lady Diana Won!



Lady Diana Manners and Princess Matchless were engaged to alternate as "Mademoiselle" in "The Miracle" to decide which would play the part opening night the two stars drew lots. And Lady Diana (left) won.

HORNE NOT TO ACCEPT LEADERSHIP

London Denies Baldwin is to be Ousted From the Leadership.

NO CHANGE MADE

Conservative Party to Hold Meeting When Labor Assumes Power.

BY HARRY N. MOORE. (British United Press.)

London, Jan. 11.—Despite strong rumors that have been widely circulated during the past few days that Stanley Baldwin has been ousted from leadership of the Conservative party and that Sir Robert Horne or some other man prominent in the party will succeed him, I understand that no such change is likely to take place just now.

Sir Robert Horne, whose name has been the most frequently mentioned, is out of the country just now and should reach Montreal tomorrow unless he changes his plans made before sailing on the Majestic for New York last Saturday.

Meeting is Planned. There will be a meeting of the Conservative party just as soon as Mr. Baldwin has been defeated in the commons when the future organization and policies of the party will be under discussion. The retirement in some quarters of the cabinet who are believed to have exerted all possible pressure to force the election.

40 WHITE PEOPLE OCCUPY LONELY ISLE

Fanning Isle in South Seas Has Temperature of 90 Above.

London, Jan. 11.—Recently returned from Fanning Island (in the South Seas) P. J. Mann of Dartford is now lecturing on the lives of the little colony of white folks to whom Miss Blich, who was an sailing school teacher, is now journeying 10,000 miles to be married and to settle there.

Mr. Mann says the number of white people consists of about 80 employees at the Pacific Cable Board's station, with six white women and half a dozen more at the copra works, who act as overseers of the black labor and do the clerical work.

The natives are a simple, hard-working and happy kind of folk, who will do anything for you if you treat them kindly. Most of them are from the Gilbert Islands, and as they grow tired of any spot or any particular kind of work in 12 months, they are always being changed.

The white colony imports all its meat and vegetables and practically all other necessities except fish. Recently a strike in Sydney prevented the supply vessel arriving, and they had to live on fish and tinned meats, and suffered in weight and from thinning of the blood in consequence.

Everyone plays on the hard tennis court. As the temperature is always about 90 degrees, the exercise is somewhat trying, although there is sometimes a little breeze off the ocean.

The men wear white cotton shorts and shirts, without boots or stockings. For evening dress they add a pair of white trousers. The ladies also are usually dressed in white cotton.

Weather Report

Toronto, Jan. 11.—The disturbance which was in the Mississippi Valley yesterday is now centered in the Ottawa Valley. Heavy rain has fallen in southern Ontario and is now falling in western Quebec, while in the northward there has been a snowfall. The weather is becoming colder again in the western provinces.

Believed Lost In Great Storm

Brest, Jan. 11.—The Italian steamer Tasmania is reported to have been seen foundering in the heavy sea off the French coast during the storm. One of her small boats, with a number of the crew, was picked up, but another boat containing the captain and remainder of the crew, is said to have drifted away. The Tasmania is a vessel of 2,400 tons.