

MOTHERS' PENSION RECOMMENDATION

Hon. Walter Rollo, Minister of Labor, and His Dep. Make Report.

Following an exhaustive investigation instituted by Sir E. Hoar, and continued on the confirmation of his instructions by the present Minister of Labor, in November of last year, Hon. Walter Rollo and W. A. Riddell, Ph.D., have issued a report recommending the passing of an act by the Ontario Legislature to provide for the payment of allowances in certain cases to mothers of dependent children.

The estimated cost, allowing for approximately a three-year development, is \$295,532. The recommendations are comparatively conservative. Among the conditions suggested in the report are the following: "Allowances available for mothers of children should be issued under the following conditions: (1) - Convicted status of the father, or the widow, wife of an inmate of a provincial hospital for the insane, or the wife of a man who is totally disabled; (2) - The father is dead; in every case a suitable guardian for her children.

"Allowances should be available only to families of two or more children, and where the mother is unable to support them by reason of the age of the child, and where she is in the immediate care of their mother. The allowance shall only be paid when the father was a British subject, or the mother a British subject, and where the father and child were normally resident in Canada at the time of the death or total disability of the father, and where the mother normally resided in Canada for a period of three years immediately prior to the application for an allowance, and resident in Ontario at the time of application, and for a period of two years immediately previous; and where there is continued residence in Ontario of the family while in receipt of allowances."

Mothers' Pensions; Minimum Wage Law And Other Advanced Social Legislation

Members of the Drury Cabinet made important announcements concerning new legislation at a meeting at Elora on Friday last in connection with the Elora-Walton hydroelectricity scheme. The Minister of Labor, stated that measures would be introduced at the approaching session providing for mothers' pensions, a minimum wage law, while amendments to the Workmen's Compensation Act and other progressive enactments would be introduced in the Legislature. Hon. W. E. Roney, Attorney-General, spoke of the proposed appointment of a purchasing agent to administer the purchase of at least \$400,000 annually, and stated that the Government will announce in a few days the selection of a committee to select the purchasing agent. He also announced that the Government is going to change the election law back to the basis of the 1914 electoral lists for the reason that the recent general election cost \$1,500,000 which was ten times the cost of the 1914 election.

"It is the intention of the Government," said Mr. Rollo, "to introduce a minimum wage bill for the Province of Ontario. It is the duty of the Government to see that the classes of industry, such as the workers in the textile industry, laundry workers, confectionery workers, and the like, are protected. We are advertising for a purchasing agent," said Hon. Mr. Roney, "and we intend to pay a good salary for an efficient man. We will be economical without being parsimonious. Four million dollars worth of goods are purchased annually for the various Government departments, and we think at least 10 per cent. can be saved. We are not looking for a friend of the Government to fill the job."

WINNIPEG TRADES COUNCIL MAY WITHDRAW FROM DEFENCE COMMITTEE.

Relations between the Winnipeg Trades and Council and the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress and the American Federation of Labor, have finally carried their dispute to the point where the Council has announced its intention to withdraw from the Council on Tuesday, March 2.

In the meantime Secretary P. M. Draper of the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress is being supplied with definite information from a report of the Council, as to the Winnipeg Trades and Labor Council's attitude and the One Big Union question.

RY. MEN ASK WILSON TO VETO MEASURE

Labor Objects to Measure Handing Back Lines—Ask at Least for Delay.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—Railroad labor decided tonight to ask President Wilson to veto the Railroad Regulation Bill. In a memorandum to be submitted probably late tomorrow, the representatives of the 22,000,000 workers will request the President to withhold his signature from the measure until they can present a brief of their reasons why it should not have executive approval. The next step in the union programme, which will not be developed until the bill is approved, is to test the constitutionality of the law. Various methods of bringing this about were suggested, but all were held in abeyance pending the President's action.

Decision of the union officials to present their views to Mr. Wilson was reached suddenly. There had been incident violence for such action by many of the local committees called here to discuss the President's wage settlement proposal. It was said, until it appeared no other plan would be generally accepted by the rank and file. The bill, which would be signed, appeared almost unanimously in favor of formal protest against the measure to the President.

Mothers' Pensions; Minimum Wage Law And Other Advanced Social Legislation

Members of the Drury Cabinet made important announcements concerning new legislation at a meeting at Elora on Friday last in connection with the Elora-Walton hydroelectricity scheme. The Minister of Labor, stated that measures would be introduced at the approaching session providing for mothers' pensions, a minimum wage law, while amendments to the Workmen's Compensation Act and other progressive enactments would be introduced in the Legislature. Hon. W. E. Roney, Attorney-General, spoke of the proposed appointment of a purchasing agent to administer the purchase of at least \$400,000 annually, and stated that the Government will announce in a few days the selection of a committee to select the purchasing agent. He also announced that the Government is going to change the election law back to the basis of the 1914 electoral lists for the reason that the recent general election cost \$1,500,000 which was ten times the cost of the 1914 election.

"It is the intention of the Government," said Mr. Rollo, "to introduce a minimum wage bill for the Province of Ontario. It is the duty of the Government to see that the classes of industry, such as the workers in the textile industry, laundry workers, confectionery workers, and the like, are protected. We are advertising for a purchasing agent," said Hon. Mr. Roney, "and we intend to pay a good salary for an efficient man. We will be economical without being parsimonious. Four million dollars worth of goods are purchased annually for the various Government departments, and we think at least 10 per cent. can be saved. We are not looking for a friend of the Government to fill the job."

PRESENT WAGES TO CONTINUE U. S. RY.

Under Bill Returning Railways to Private Control Arbitration Compulsory.

Wages established by the American railroad administration during the war would continue in effect until September 1, under the Railroad Organization Bill, the conference report on which was presented last week in the House and Senate.

Under the wage provision pay of railroad workers would remain at the present level for six months after the rail properties are returned to private control and operation. The bill, as reported, also seeks to stabilize rates for the same time, providing that prior to September 1 no rate may be reduced unless approval of the Interstate Commerce Commission is obtained.

The outstanding points of the railroad measure as finally agreed upon are: Compulsory submission of labor disputes to a permanent Federal Board appointed by the President and composed of nine members equally divided between the employees, employers and the public. No provision is made for enforcing the board's decision.

THEATRE WORKERS ARE UNDER COMPENSATION ACT.

Theatre workers of Ontario have been brought under the Workmen's Compensation Act, according to an announcement in this week's Ontario Gazette. The new regulation will become effective on March 1, and it includes employees in moving picture theatres. This extension of the Workmen's Compensation Act, which has been made in response to an appeal from the Ontario executive of the Dominion Trades Congress, which waited on the Government last December with reference to the matter.

GOMPERTS OPPOSES LABOR PARTY IN AMERICA.

Formation of a political Labor Party would be "detrimental" to the interests of labor, and exactly in line with the policy of the American Federation of Labor plan to have workmen elect their friends and defeat their enemies. The Indiana State Party, made public at Washington, on Sunday, Mr. Gompers wrote in reply to a telegram from Mitchell, opposing the Indiana Federation of Labor plan to have workmen elect their friends and defeat their enemies. The Indiana State Party, made public at Washington, on Sunday, Mr. Gompers wrote in reply to a telegram from Mitchell, opposing the Indiana Federation of Labor plan to have workmen elect their friends and defeat their enemies.

STATE INSURANCE FOR MANITOBA.

It was announced in the Manitoba Legislature, on Thursday last, that a system of state insurance would be introduced into the province. That tentative definition of collective bargaining had been reached in the negotiations of the Industrial Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers of America was announced by Robert Jacob, chairman in the Legislature. The legislative branch of the conference, composed of members of the House, have been instructed to frame a new definition, and to submit it to the conference as a whole, as soon as possible.

ONTARIO TEACHERS WANT RIGHT TO ARBITRATE.

The Ontario Federation of Secondary Teachers asked Hon. R. H. Grant, Minister of Education, last week to increase the fees paid to teachers who are appointed examiners each summer. Last year the rate was \$3.40 a day, and they asked for \$12 to \$15 a day, and also asked that the law be amended to settle disputes between teachers and Boards of Education, by appointment of Boards of Conciliation.

NO BINDING TOGETHER OF DOMINION VOTES.

There was absolutely no binding together of the Dominion votes as alleged by Republican McCormick, declared P. M. Draper, secretary of the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress, and who was speaking at the first gathering under the League of Nations the British Government delegate, Hon. G. N. Barnes, had found so difficult in binding together the votes of all the British dominions. Mr. Draper, who represented Canadian labor at that conference, said the records would show that on many occasions the delegates from the dominions had not voted in accord with the British Government delegate, and he was emphatic in his statement that there had been no attempt to "bind the dominions" together in a solid block for voting purposes.

Weekly News Letter



Montreal Trades and Labor Council.

At the Montreal Trades and Labor Council meeting last Tuesday, S. Maguire, former president of the Montreal Steam and Operating Engineers and now business agent for the same union, laid a complaint as to the partial failure of the administrative Commission and H. A. Terrault, the newly appointed superintendent of the city's water works, in fulfilling the pledge they had given the Trades and Labor Council's executive to take back all the aqueduct strikers.

Delegate Maguire complained that two men who were working at the low level pumping station have not been taken back, as agreed, and a similar omission had been made, Mr. Maguire said, in the case of three outside aqueduct workers. Mr. Maguire said he had interviewed Superintendent Terrault on the subject, and that the latter had answered in a rather haughty and harsh way, that according to his interpretation of the agreement between the Administrative Commission and the Trades and Labor Council, he was to take the men back only if he wanted them.

FARM LABORERS' UNIONS.

A union of farm laborers for the protection of farm help was discussed at a meeting of the Regina Trades and Labor Council. At the present time, it was stated, there appeared to be no legislation in existence for the protection of the laborer. All the legislation seemed to be for the protection of the farm owner.

Some Collectors For Defence of Strike Leaders Preaching O. B. U. Propaganda

That the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress was watching events in Winnipeg and have all available information was again exemplified at a meeting of the Ottawa Trades Council on Friday night last. The executive of the Ottawa Trades Council received a communication from the Winnipeg Defence Committee appealing for funds and recommended that the money be referred to the local defence committee. Delegate P. M. Draper rose and stated that the local committee, Delegates Cole, who is the secretary, informed the Council who complied the committee and also stated that the sum of \$100 had been collected in Ottawa for the defence of the Winnipeg strike leaders and that a balance sheet would be issued to the very near future.

CO-OPERATION THE BETTER WAY.

The General Federation of Trades Unions of Great Britain announces that during the last quarter 1919, 799,000 men were employed in connection with the cotton industry and iron moulders' strike. The saddest thing, says the Federation in connection with the announcement, is the failure of the expenditure to obtain anything beyond what might have been secured through negotiations.

CHARLES SWAYZE CHAIRS THE LABOR WHIP

Caucus of Labor Group Picks W. A. Crockett, M.P.P., to Second Speech From Throne.

TORONTO, Feb. 24.—Charles Swayze, M.P.P. for Niagara Falls, Ont., will be the Labor Whip in the Ontario Legislature, not Karl H. Mouth, M.P.P. for South Waterloo, as reported a short time ago. The selection of a whip was made today at a caucus of labor members here. It was decided that W. A. Crockett, M.P.P. for South Waterloo, would second the speech from the Throne on behalf of the Labor group in the Legislature.

PURCHASE ELECTRICAL GOODS MADE IN CANADA.

W. L. Goodwith, of Schenectady, N.Y., urged upon the electrical men in Ontario at Montreal, recently the need of increasing to the utmost the manufacture of electrical goods in Canada, and not to import such goods from the United States unless the amount outstripped the supply of home-made goods.

ONTARIO CARPENTERS' CONDITIONS DURING MONTH.

Conditions are very fair in nearly all parts of the province, especially at this time of the year, says the monthly report of the Ontario Provincial Council of Carpenters. Several of the districts report being held up on account of the very severe weather conditions during the last month, but there seems to be plenty of work as soon as the weather conditions get right.

PRICE OF BOOKS WILL NOT BE INCREASED.

In order that Ontario school children might walk away with certain text books at the old retail price, instead of at the higher prices they would have to pay if charged in proportion to the cost, the Ontario public school trustees have decided to pay more to the publishers for these books.

15,000 OHIO COAL MINES VOTE TO STRIKE APRIL 1.

Delegates representing 15,000 eastern Ohio coal miners, in special convention at Bellaire on Thursday, voted to strike on April 1, unless operators accepted their terms for division of the 14 per cent. wage increase.

O. B. U. Leaders Shout Patriotism Now, But Forgot All About it When Boys Were "Over There"

The leopard does not change his spots, and the O. B. U. leaders who were willing to pledge to assist the dependents of the men who went and pledge as readily as with their fellow workers. This was the remark of Lewis Morgan, of the International Committee of the United Mine Workers of America in referring to the O. B. U. claims of patriotism. Recently William Beard, the president of the O. B. U. miners, has been expressing himself greatly over the maintenance of soldiers' dependents at Lewis Morgan points out that this is very different to his action in September, 1917. He then addressed a letter to W. H. Wilson, of Michel, as follows: "At a special meeting held September 19 and 20 the following resolution was adopted by patriotic contribution. That the August 15 to 31 patriotic contribution be refunded at the earliest possible date. Further that there be no more donations made to this fund. Kindly inform us at your earliest when we may receive the above refunds."

Family Budget Up Again Last Month

The average cost of the weekly family budget of staple foods in Toronto rose \$1.00 at the end of January, 1920, to \$14.73, from \$13.73 in January, 1919, and \$7.73 in January, 1914. The index number of wholesale prices rose to 336.4 for January, as compared with 322.7 for December, 1919, and 186.5 for January, 1914, and 186.5 for January, 1914.

LORD FISHER ON LABOR'S POLICY

Admiral of the Fleet Gives His Reasons For Adherence to Labor's Cause.

Recently the Daily Herald, the workers' daily in England, sent out feelers to some of the prominent men in England who had identified their intention of subscribing to the Labor party's programme. In a recent issue Lord Fisher, admiral of the fleet, gives his views, which are contained in the following letter: "Sir—You ask me for a statement as to what should be the Labor policy for the future, and my reason for my adherence to the Labor cause."

CONGRESS IS EVER GROWING STRONGER

At the fifteenth bi-annual convention of the Grand Council of the National Association of Marine Engineers of Canada, held in Ottawa last week, that organization decided to affiliate with the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress, the recognized official mouthpiece of Organized Labor in Canada.

Marine Engineers at 15th Bi-Annual Convention

Favor of Affiliation With Congress. At the fifteenth bi-annual convention of the Grand Council of the National Association of Marine Engineers of Canada, held in Ottawa last week, that organization decided to affiliate with the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress, the recognized official mouthpiece of Organized Labor in Canada.

Marine Engineers at 15th Bi-Annual Convention

Favor of Affiliation With Congress. At the fifteenth bi-annual convention of the Grand Council of the National Association of Marine Engineers of Canada, held in Ottawa last week, that organization decided to affiliate with the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress, the recognized official mouthpiece of Organized Labor in Canada.

Marine Engineers at 15th Bi-Annual Convention

Favor of Affiliation With Congress. At the fifteenth bi-annual convention of the Grand Council of the National Association of Marine Engineers of Canada, held in Ottawa last week, that organization decided to affiliate with the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress, the recognized official mouthpiece of Organized Labor in Canada.