

LABOR NEWS

BRITISH LABOUR RENEWS FAITH IN PARLIAMENT

Amendments to Unemployment Insurance Act Are Considered As Quite Inadequate.

LONDON, England.—By an overwhelming majority, the resumed national conference of the Labor party and Trade Union Congress carried a resolution in favor of renewed parliamentary action and efforts in the constituencies to bring pressure on the Government to deal with unemployment. It was a distinctly healthy sign that no amendment for direct action was voted on, as it was apparent that direct action did not appeal to the majority as a practical proposition, and two of the strongest unions, the Miners' Federation and the National Union of Railwaymen, had decided not to give it their support.

The Government plans for dealing with unemployment came in for considerable criticism, and the amendment to the Unemployment Insurance Act and the increasing of benefits to 18s a week for men were declared to be quite inadequate. J. R. Clynes, then all his weight against industrial action and was joined by J. H. Thomas in an appeal for parliamentary and constitutional action, but were locked out in the wage scale, and that following their complaint, they were locked out.

BRANTFORD STEEL WORKERS LOCKED OUT.

BRANTFORD.—Machinists of the Dominion Steel Products Company at Brantford are out as a result of a 20 per cent. cut in their wages. The men claim that they did not strike, but were locked out in their pay was made in an arbitrary manner, the company having refused to discuss the cut in wages, and that following their complaint, they were locked out.

OTTAWA'S UNEMPLOYED AT-TEND TECHNICAL SCHOOL.

OTTAWA.—A recent very interesting development of the work of the Ottawa Technical School is reported. The attention of a number of young men in the machine trade, who have been out of work since the slack season, was directed to the facilities of the Technical School for instruction in machine shop practice. A group of enthusiastic students have availed themselves of the opportunity and are now in regular attendance in the machine shop and knowledge of the trade under expert direction. The movement is a most promising one, and should encourage the Government to the use of their unemployment money to the very best advantage. The management of the Technical School expressed willingness to open slack time classes for other trades where they should desire to benefit themselves in a similar manner.

HAMILTON BUILDERS AND WORKERS DISCUSS PROBLEMS.

HAMILTON.—Aiming to get mechanics of the allied building trades to adopt lower wages, consequent upon reductions in the cost of building material, a conference of contractors and workers in the building trades was held on Saturday afternoon, but no decision was reached. H. A. Long, who presided, stated that the only concrete suggestion made at the conference was that two committees be appointed, one representing the builders and the other the Labor organizations. He added that the building mechanics were quite averse to this arrangement and he applied to their committee to build a meeting. It was stated, while not in favor of asking for higher wages, are not opposed to any wage reduction at present.

TORONTO BUILDING TRADES WIN SIGNAL VICTORY.

TORONTO.—The strike declared at the new H. J. McCauldhead building by the Building Trades Council was settled by the removal of non-union carpenters from the job. The one hundred men who went on strike returned to work. "While this strike has been amply settled," declared John Doherty, secretary of the Building Trades Council, "the strike of the painters against a reduction of wages by the McCauldhead Company will continue, and the Building Trades Council will support them to the utmost."

RAILWAY MAIL CLERKS ASK \$1,630 MAXIMUM.

OTTAWA.—Members of the executive of the Dominion Railway Mail Clerks' Association were in the city interviewing members of the Government and Government officials in an effort to have the maximum salary of \$1,630 per year restored to them. This member of the executive stated, they had been allowed up to last year, but the effect of hearing reduced it to \$1,360.

Laundry Workers' Wage To Be Set Soon By Board

HAMILTON.—Opposition on the part of Toronto laundry owners to a wage being set for that city resulted in no action being taken by the Ontario Minimum Wage Board at its conference with the laundry men on Saturday. Looking upon Toronto as the "high spot," as it were, members of the board felt that a minimum wage for that city should be set at an early date. Toronto laundry owners objected strongly to this proposition, and it was learned they contended that a minimum wage scale should be adopted for the entire province or not at all. "We shall confer with the laundry men again," and it is altogether likely that we shall come to a decision and fix a minimum wage for the workers in question," said H. G. Foster, member of the board.

ONT. MECHANICS' LIEN ACT TO BE AMENDED

Bill Has Been Introduced in the Legislature.

TORONTO.—Some important changes in the Mechanics' and Wage Earners' Lien Act are proposed in the bill introduced in the House recently by W. E. N. Sinclair. A summary of the terms of the bill are: The whole contract price for any building or erection should be held in trust by the owner until all labor and material expended upon or furnished for the building has been paid. That fitful contracts at prices which the owner knew or ought to have known were not sufficient should be subject to review, and the owner held liable for the true value of the work done and the material supplied. The lien should attach from the moment of commencing work or delivering material. The owner should not be at liberty to offset to the prejudice of the workmen or mechanics the amount of the abandonment of work by the owner's contractor, or for inferior work done by the contractor.

ANOTHER MOONEY WITNESS TRAINED TO LIE.

SAN FRANCISCO.—"I was coached and drilled in the story that I knew Mooney and saw him at the bomb explosion," said John McDonald, in an examination by District Attorney Brady. McDonald was the most important witness in the prosecution of Mooney and Billings, with the exception of Oxman, "the honest cattleman." McDonald has repeated the substance of his sworn affidavit and has supplemented his first claim with details on the frame up. He said he had seen the defendant in the bomb case, and that he had seen the explosion or anywhere else until they were pointed out to him by officers of the prosecution. His story was prepared for him and he was drilled in it by District Attorney Fickert and his assistant, Edward Fickert, in the examination of Mooney and Billings was arranged by Lieut. Goff when the accused were in jail.

BRITISH COLUMBIA GOVERNMENT TO PAY BOUNTIES FOR PIG IRON.

VICTORIA.—To encourage the establishment of iron and steel industry in British Columbia, the Provincial Government has entered into an agreement with the Coast Range Steel Limited, whereby the Government promises to pay bounties not exceeding 33 per cent on pig iron manufactured from ore mined in the province. The agreement is for a period of five years. The British Columbia Government is prepared to invest the necessary capital "not exceeding ten million pounds" in the establishment of the industry. Engineers are now investigating the resources to ascertain if conditions are suitable for the establishment of the industry.

LET SOVIET SAVAGES KNOW WHAT LABOR THINKS OF ITS BESTIAL SYSTEM

American Federation of Labor Calls Upon All Its Affiliations to Respond to Appeal—A Clear Statement of Facts.

WASHINGTON.—Organized labor throughout the world is urged to raise its voice in protest against the "ruthless persecution and slaughter of labor unions in Soviet Russia in an appeal issued by the American Federation of Labor. "Let the Soviet savages know what labor of the civilized world thinks of their bestial system," the appeal declares. "Let every labor organization in the United States and Canada respond."

MACHINIST WANT TRADE OPENED TO SOVIET RUSSIA

TORONTO.—Representatives of the International Trades Union metal trades branch, will be called together during March by President Harry Kerwin of the Canadian Metal Trades Department, American Federation of Labor, to discuss wage scales and agreements for the ensuing year. Mr. Kerwin, in making the announcement, suggested March 10 as the date for the convention. "The Canadian Metal Trades Department is strongly of the opinion that if trade relations were opened up with Soviet Russia a field is afforded for the products of its members and these products would be immediately absorbed, as well as ensuring a continuity of employment," said Mr. Kerwin. "For instance, Russia needs locomotives which could be built at once in the plants of the Canadian Foundry Company, Toronto; Kingston Locomotive Company, American Locomotive Company, Montreal; National Steel Company and Canada Car and Foundry Company, Fort William."

Proceeding. Mr. Kerwin pointed out that Russia also needs steel rails, yet there has recently been a lay-off of the employees of the Dominion Iron and Steel plant, Sydney, N.S., which is equipped with one of the most modern rail and rolling mills in the Dominion. Trade relations with Russia would give the steel workers of Sydney full employment he maintained. Mr. Kerwin made the announcement that the International Association of Machinists was prepared to enter into trade relations directly with Soviet Russia. "Our Executive Board is communicating with the Wilson Administration in the United States to obtain protection and transportation for commodities to Russia. If this is forthcoming we will position ourselves to export our articles which can be disposed of in Russia," said Mr. Kerwin.

UNITED MINE WORKERS' ELECTION RESULTS.

INDIANAPOLIS.—In the referendum election for president of the United Mine Workers of America, John L. Lewis, present president, obtained 17,964 votes, and Robert H. Harlin received 10,123 votes. For vice-president, Philip Murray (present incumbent) received 132,416 votes, and Alex. Howat received 10,123 votes. Secretary Green had no opposition. President Lewis received the highest vote in the election, followed by Wm. Green, Philip Murray, Alex. Howat, Robert H. Harlin, Frank Farrington, John R. Harlin, Kenneth G. Galt, and 39 candidates for the eight A. F. of L. delegates.

FEW CIGARMAKERS NOW IN TORONTO

Wage Reductions Being Rejected By The Union.

TORONTO.—L. R. Wolfe, Toronto member of the Grand Executive of the International Union of Cigar-makers, stated recently that there was no strike of cigarmakers in the city. The union in Toronto four years ago had numbered easily 500 members; today it numbered 50 only. Recently the management of the cigar factories in Toronto (outside of the factory run by the union itself), had decided to reduce wages, and had written the union executive intimating their desire in the matter. The officials of the union refused to accept any reduction. The lockout followed. The lockout only affects one factory so far as has been ascertained, the Richmond street factory of the Richmond Company, which is of any importance. Mr. Andrew Wilson having transferred his large staff of employees from Toronto to Montreal several years ago, leaving Toronto practically without its once prosperous industry in the trade.

CANADIAN WIRELESS OPERATORS APPLY FOR BOARD OF CONCILIATION.

TORONTO.—Acting for radio-telegraphers, Thomas Taylor, an official of the Commercial Telegraphers' Union, has asked the Federal Government to appoint a Board of Conciliation to adjust demands for higher wages. The union officials intend to present within the near future. Mr. Taylor did not know if the Government would agree that the matter should be referred to a board of conciliation, who are scattered over the Pacific and Atlantic coasts, would be through a board under the Industrial Disputes Act. "The men received increases under the Civil Service reclassification which were dated back for two years, and improved their position considerably, but their remuneration is lower than that of the Marconi operators," said Mr. Taylor. "There are about sixty operators on the Pacific coast, and as many more in the East. We believe the quicker method would be by a board, although it is possible the Government may take the ground that a board cannot be given to civil servants. We think that if left to the Civil Service Commission the adjustment will take much longer."

A. F. OF L. APPEALS TO AMERICANS TO DEFEND "IMPERILED INSTITUTIONS"

Programme Outlined to Combat Attacks of "the Conscienceless Autocrats of Industry and the Followers of Radical European Fanaticism."

WASHINGTON.—The American Federation of Labor, through its executive council, the heads of the national and international unions, in conference here, under the presidency of Samuel Gompers, outlined a comprehensive programme of action and issued an appeal to the American people to rally to the defence of the "imperiled institutions" of America, "from the attacks of the conscienceless autocrats of industry and the followers of radical European fanaticism."

The right to work and to cease work collectively. "The right collectively to bestow or withhold patronage. The right to the exercise of collective activities in furtherance of the welfare of labor. This conference proposes and urges public support for: "Enactment by Congress of legislation which shall protect the workers in their organized capacity against the concept that they own property right in the labor of a human being. No application of the use of injunctive or industrial disputes where they would not apply in the absence of such disputes. "Prohibition of immigration for a period of not less than two years. Election of Judges Desired. "More general application of the initiative and referendum in the local affairs of the United States and of our several states. "Removal by Congress of the usurped power of courts to declare unconstitutional laws enacted by Congress. "Election of judges. "Immediate restoration of expropriated property."

HON. HARRY MILLS TO REMAIN NEUTRAL

Bill Before Legislature Opposed By Fort William I. L. P.

TORONTO.—If Hon. Harry Mills supports a measure asked for by the Public Utilities Commission, of Port Arthur, and the Utilities Committee of Fort William, he will incur the displeasure of the Independent Labor Party, which has nominated him as its candidate for the House. Mr. Mills is still busy trying to choose between the horns of the dilemma. H. Hartley Dewar, K.C., in the House last week drew attention to an item in the News Chronicle of Fort William, stating that the Independent Labor Party had "instructed" Mr. Mills not to assist in any way in the introduction of a bill to increase street railway fares. The resolution passed by the local I. L. P. read: "That the Hon. Harry Mills be instructed not to assist in any way in the introduction of any bill to raise street railway fares, but to be entirely governed by our resolution of January 30th." Mr. Mills is expected to decline the invitation to oppose the bill. Having read the report in the Chronicle, Mr. Dewar asked Mr. Mills if he had received his instructions and was going to abide by them. The Minister said that he had received a copy of the resolution but that he had not committed himself to either side of the question. He explained at some length that he did not intend to take sides until the bill had been introduced to him, and intended to remain neutral until he had received more definite information. "More definite information or more definite instructions" asked Mr. Dewar, but Mr. Mills did not answer.

OTTAWA OFFICERS OF RAILROAD CARMEN INSTALLED.

OTTAWA.—A meeting of the Brotherhood of Railroad Workers and Carmen of America for the installation of officers was held at the Pythian hall, there being a large attendance. Ernest Overall was re-elected president and the other officers elected were: Vice-president, F. Taylor; financial secretary, R. W. Hayes; recording secretary, T. Malone; secretary, C. Bryant; chairman of the local protective board, F. Ballyntyne; members of the committee, E. Laurie and E. Overall. At the conclusion of the election it was announced with much regret that Mr. F. Taylor had resigned from the railroad workers, he having accepted a position with a motor firm. Mr. Kimlin was therefore elected to the office of vice-president. Much regret was expressed by the members of the lodge at the loss of Mr. Taylor, who was a valued worker. Hopes for the success of Mr. Taylor in his new sphere of work were extended to him.

ERECTED 2,334 HOUSES UNDER HOUSING ACT

Ottawa Built 149 in 1919 and 1920, Report Shows.

TORONTO.—The housing report for the province of Ontario for 1920 has just been issued. It shows that the total number of houses erected in 1919 and 1920, under the provisions of the Housing Act, is 2,334. Besides these there are 273 houses to be erected, applications for which have been approved. The total amount loaned by the province is about \$5,230,000. To this is to be added about \$1,000,000, which has been raised on the debentures of various municipalities guaranteed by the province. Of the 273 municipalities which have erected houses, Hamilton has erected 115; London, 127; Ottawa, 149; Windsor, 244; and Walkersville, 125.

LIABILITY FOR UNEMPLOYMENT MUNICIPALITIES

Minister of Labor Replies to Allegations Made By Montreal's Unemployed.

MONTREAL.—Denial of a statement imputed to him by Montreal unemployed to the effect that the city of Montreal was not fulfilling its obligations to the workers, is made by the Federal Minister of Labor in a communication addressed to the Administrative Commission. The letter was sent in reply to a resolution making the allegation, which was passed at a meeting of local unemployed and addressed to the Administrative Commission, being afterwards forwarded by the commission to the Minister of Labor with a request for an explanation. The reply of the Minister of Labor, dated Ottawa, February 23, reads as follows: "Replying to your letter of the 22nd inst., the statement credited to me by the Administrative Commission is quite incorrect. Upon the occasion of a visit here of a committee representing the unemployed of Montreal, which committee was financed by the mayor of that city, I explained in detail the offer of relief by the Dominion Government, applicable to all municipalities of Canada. It was made clear that the committee had no machinery for ascertaining the conditions of the unemployed of Montreal, which committee was financed by the mayor of that city. I explained in detail the offer of relief by the Dominion Government, applicable to all municipalities of Canada. It was made clear that the committee had no machinery for ascertaining the conditions of the unemployed of Montreal, which committee was financed by the mayor of that city. I explained in detail the offer of relief by the Dominion Government, applicable to all municipalities of Canada. 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