

## 12,000 Cape Breton Miners are Now on Strike

### REDUCTIONS FROM RAILWAY PAY-ROLLS WILL BE RESTORED

With the representatives of the railways signifying their intention of restoring the reductions made from the payrolls since July 22nd. The board of conciliation appointed to deal with the claims of the lower paid employees of the Canadian National Railways as represented in the Canadian Brotherhood of Railway Employees, are proceeding with the taking of evidence.

The case for the employees was first heard, A. E. Mosher, president of the brotherhood, presenting the arguments. He declared that members of his organization would be affected to the extent of half a million dollars yearly if the reductions proposed by the railways should be approved. In taking up the question of the cost of living, he pointed out that the statistics compiled by the federal department of labor were totally inadequate to give a correct indication of living conditions in Canada, as they affect the laboring man. Mr. Mosher presented a survey of 18 cost of living budgets, two of which were compiled in Canada and 16 in the United States.

The spokesman of the employees declared that in effect the railways had made a reduction in their pay rolls by a new schedule of working conditions ratified on June 16th, 1932. These conditions had been accepted by the employees though it permitted many scheduled positions to be practically abolished and apprentices to do the work formerly done by fully trained men.

#### The Cost of Living.

Dealing with the cost of living Mr. Mosher adduced evidence purporting to show that the wages paid to the classes of employees which he represented were on the average considerably below what experts on living statistics had indicated as a decent standard of life. The railways, he said, had generally objected to the wage question being considered on the basis of the needs of a married man with a family. No attempt, said Mr. Mosher, had ever been made to set different schedules for married and single employees so that the railways' proposal was to a common level of amounts sufficient to maintain single employees only.

On one group of about 150 clerical positions, Mr. Mosher stated, that with changes in the working conditions schedule last June and the proposed wage reduction at the present time, the management would be effecting a cut of fully 25 per cent. Of this amount 20.5 had already resulted by filling scheduled positions with apprentices at wages below the scheduled rate. Similar conditions prevailed in other groups under the jurisdiction of the brotherhood.

#### Where Railways Save.

Mr. Mosher claimed that the railways had also effected another considerable saving by advancing the time of commencement of overtime rates of pay from the end of the ninth working hour. The greater bulk of the overtime, he declared, came between the eighth and ninth hour, so that the loss to the employees was considerable.

Mr. Mosher produced figures to show that while the same wage increases and decreases had usually been applied in Canada as in the United States, many groups of Canadian employees were actually receiving less wages so that the reduction proposed would work considerably more to their disadvantage. This condition applied to at least three groups of clerks, baggage and parcel room employees, freight truckers, roundhouse men, common laborers, stationery engineers and stationary firemen. In all, Mr. Mosher said that two-thirds of the rates paid in the United States were higher than in Canada. Figures were also quoted to show that similar positions on clerical work in the government service were much higher paid than on the railways.

### MEN REPUDIATE AGREEMENT WITH BRITISH EMPIRE STEEL CO.

### RADICALS ARE VICTORIOUS IN ELECTIONS OF THIS WEEK

Sydney, N.S.—Twelve thousand coal miners on strike, the defeat conceded of three of the four principal executive officers of the Nova Scotia district of the United Mine Workers in Wednesday's elections and the election of a so-called "Radical" slate, the despatch of two hundred and fifty troops from Halifax to Cape Breton, and quiet in the strike areas, were the principal features of reports received of the Nova Scotia coal mine strike. It was reported that all the pumpmen and "protection" men would be taken out of the mines, but no report has been made of opposition on the part of the men to the "manning of the pumps by company officials, etc., which has taken place in some mines.

President Robert Baxter and International Board Member Silby Barrett, defeated in the elections, with Secretary-Treasurer J. B. McLachlan, have been known as the "big three" who have dominated miner policies in Nova Scotia for many years. Some months ago McLachlan disagreed with Baxter and Barrett on the strike-on-the-job policy and other questions, and they have since headed so-called "radical" and "conservative" factions. W. P. Delaney, vice-president, who opposed McLachlan for secretary, was among the defeated. Dan Livingstone, of Westville, Pictou county, the new president, is a former International Board member. Election of the "radical" slate was conceded by a vote of five to one.

### Strike Called.

Sydney, N.S.—A general strike of the miners of the South Cape Breton Coal fields went into effect at midnight Tuesday.

Disregarding notices that the strike order had been recalled and repudiating the settlement negotiated by their executives with the British Empire Steel Corporation on Sunday at Sydney, the men commenced leaving the pits with their tools this afternoon.

At midnight, every mine in the Glace Bay and New Waterford sub-districts were reported idle.

District twenty-six, United Mine Workers' headquarters stated that it looked as if the whole 12,000 membership of the province would be out on strike by sunrise.

Coming on the heels of the optimistic announcement of the Sydney settlement on Sunday, the walkout of the Cape Breton miners came as a paralyzing blow to the general public here, although it was far from unexpected in mining circles.

As a bright spot there is said to be the possibility that it may all be a mistake, the result of misunderstanding, and that the minor officers may be able to induce the men to go back into their pit pending a referendum on the Sydney agreement.

### At New Waterford.

At New Waterford, United Mine Workers locals met and passed the following resolutions:

- (1) To re-affirm the Phalen resolution calling for a strike for 121 rates of pay, and to go on strike at midnight.
- (2) To give the company twenty-four hours' notice of intention to withdraw engineers and firemen from the company power plant, which also supplies the town. (This would leave New Waterford without electric light or water services.)
- (3) To give the company twenty-four hours' to get the horses out of the pit. (Presumably in preparation for the withdrawal of the pumpmen and engineers.)
- (4) To give the company twenty-four hours' notice to get its locomotives into the yards. After that time the miners will not be responsible for their proper housing during the strike.

Every local in the district held a meeting and all those on the south side of the harbor, fifteen in number, voted to quit work.

### Men in Mass Meeting.

5,000 miners held a mass meeting on the grounds of the South Street school at Glace Bay and passed resolutions repudiating the agreement negotiated with the British Empire Steel Corporation and demanding that the strike go on as scheduled.

President Baxter attempted to address the crowd from an automobile, but had difficulty making himself heard and did not talk at any length.

Secretary J. B. McLachlan had little better luck, but managed to explain to the crowd that although he was not entirely satisfied with the settlement negotiated with the British Empire Steel Corporation, it contained so many important gains for the miners that he did not feel like repudiating it on his own responsibility and had decided to give the men themselves a chance to pass on it.

Numerous interruptions in the crowd prevented the secretary from doing anything but voting on one thing and another for months past and were sick of voting. They wanted action. The meeting proceeded to vote for the carrying out of the original plan to assemble at midnight on Linglen Baybech to appoint and assign pickets. The scheme to charter two vessels, one to fish off Glace Bay and the other to carry Prince Edward Island potatoes and farm produce to the strikers was also endorsed.

The most important action of the meeting was inducing President Robert Baxter to wire the mainland locals informing them that the mass meeting had repudiated the Sydney agreement and the order cancelling the strike and that the strike order therefore remains in effect.

### MAKE NEW OFFER TO MINERS OF ALBERTA

Calgary.—The Western Canada Coal Operators' Association have made a new offer to miners of District No. 18, United Mine Workers of America, to resume work on the old working conditions at a reduction of 20 per cent. in wages. The agreement would be continuous until March 31, 1933, but that any schedule adopted by at least 50 per cent. of the United States Coal Operators would supersede this new scale.

The miners are considering the offer, and it is believed they will accept.

### HARDING MAKES TALK TO CONGRESS

Washington.—President Harding in an address to congress on Friday, on the industrial situation declared that the right of employees and employers alike to conduct their business must be recognized and he also deplored what he termed "warfare on the unions of labor."

The president declared a national investigation or constructive recommendations as to conduct of the coal industry to be imperative, and recommended a government commission to advise as to fair wages and conditions.

Immediate legislation to establish temporarily a "national coal agency" with necessary capital to purchase, sell and distribute coal also was urged by Mr. Harding.

Stating that the Each-Commiss act in establishing the railroad labor board was inadequate, being with little or no power to enforce its decisions, the president recommended action to make the board's decisions "enforceable and effective against carriers and employees alike."

To Use Power of Government.

President Harding told congress Friday that he was resolved "to use all the power of the government to maintain transportation and sustain the right of men to work."

The president, in an address to congress in which he recommended specific legislation designed to cure the industrial ills of the United States, declared with emphasis that the right of employers and employees alike to establish their methods of conducting business, to choose their employment and to determine their relations with each other must be recognized.

Government "by law must and will be sustained," the president said, "no matter what storms may gather, no matter what storms may come, no matter what hardships may attend or what sacrifice may be necessary."

Warren Stone Optimistic.

New York, Aug. 18.—Belief that no definite agreement for settlement of the shop crafts strike would be reached Friday was expressed by Warren S. Stone, head of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, shortly before 1 o'clock on leaving the conference between brotherhood men and rail executives.

Mr. Stone said no definite agreement had been reached so far, and that he believed the conference would have to extend beyond today.

The labor leader, who earlier in the day asserted a settlement must be reached at these conferences, professed himself still optimistic about the outcome.

Mr. Stone explained he did not believe there could be a settlement today because whatever plan they had would have to be referred by both sides to their constituents.

The general impression prevailing around the conference chamber at the soon recess was that the conferees had come down to cases and that some definite programme was under discussion.

Mr. Stone, before leaving for a conference with labor leaders up town, implied he had a definite proposition to put before them.

The railroad executives declined to say whether any definite programme was under discussion or whether agreement had been reached on any part of it.

### CAPE BRETON MINES ARE IN DANGER

Sydney, N.S.—One mine was declared lost from flooding and practically all the collieries in Southern Cape Breton areas were in the gravest danger, seventy-two hours from the beginning of the Nova Scotia coal strike. The flooded mine is No. 10 at Reserve. Dominion Coal Company officials say it cannot ever be operated again, while the most optimistic say it could not be dewatered in less than a year. As to the other mines the general opinion is that a great catastrophe is imminent if the pumps and safety equipment are not manned within forty-eight hours. Company officials state that already tremendous damage had been done. The officials working at the pumps have not been able to control the intake of water in the mines.

There have been no disturbances of moment so far in the strike.

The situation in the mainland districts, Cumberland and Pictou counties, remain quiet and the mines are reported as in no danger yet.

Conflicting Testimony.

Interviews with the heads of the disputing factions of the Nova Scotia coal strike yielded a mass of conflicting testimony. District Secretary J. B. McLachlan, of the United Mine Workers, definitely stated that the miners would stick to their decision even if it meant starving, while H. J. McCann, assistant general manager of the Dominion Coal Company, gave a so less firm statement that the company could not yield to the demands of the strikers, even though refusal meant destruction to all the collieries.

Money by Unwatering.

Asked what the miners intended to do if the operators held out until the mines had been hopelessly destroyed, Secretary McLachlan said they would not be destroyed. "Only those men who just marched by (referring to the Great War Veterans-miner parade) can prevent their destruction though nobody else will do it." Pressed for a definite reply in view of the fact that Number 16 had already been abandoned finally, the secretary said, "We can make just as much money unwatering mines as digging coal."

### WHY GOVERNMENT SENT TROOPS TO CAPE BRETON STRIKE AREA

Replying to a telegram from the returned soldiers of Nova Scotia colliery districts, in which they protest against sending militia into the Cape Breton mining district, Rt. Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King, prime minister, states that the calling out of the militia in aid of the civil power is governed by act of parliament. Representations respecting the withdrawal of the militia should be made to the local authorities, who are responsible for calling out the troops in this case, the premier states.

The following is the text of Mr. King's telegram, which is addressed to Henry Spracklin, Glace Bay: "I have received this morning the eight letter signed by Mr. Wm. McDonald and yourself, in which is incorporated a resolution respecting law and order passed by the returned soldiers of the colliery districts, and setting forth that in their opinion no reasonable cause existed justifying the action of the government in sending the militia into Cape Breton, and that the federal and provincial governments be asked to take steps to recall all such soldiers. The calling out of the militia in aid of the civil power is governed by act of parliament. The statute provides that when a requisition signed by certain specified local authorities is made in due form upon the officer commanding the district for militia in aid of civil power, the requisition shall be complied with in accordance with the law's provisions. The local authorities and not the federal government are the parties responsible for the calling out of the militia in aid of the civil power in the colliery district in the present instance, and they are the ones to whom representation should be made respecting the withdrawal of the militia in view of the guarantee of active assistance in the upholding of law and order which the returned soldiers of the colliery districts are prepared to give.

"Perhaps I should repeat in this communication what I said yesterday in reply to the request of the president of the British Empire Steel Corporation to the government for additional troops, namely, that it cannot use of military or naval forces in aid of civil powers, such authority as the government possesses is derived from act of parliament, and must be exercised in accordance with the provisions which parliament in its wisdom has thought it proper and advisable to enact."

### ALL INTERESTS WILL BE HEARD AT UNEMPLOYMENT CONFERENCE

With respect to the federal and provincial conference regarding unemployment called by the Dominion government for assembly at Ottawa on September 5th, a statement issued by the instructions of Hon. James M. Curran, minister of labor, indicates the desire of the federal government that municipalities and other public bodies or organizations which are interested in the subject of unemployment should understand that, whilst it has been deemed necessary to limit actual membership in the approaching conference to the members or officials of the participating governments, it is intended that municipalities or other bodies desiring to submit views or representations on any aspect of the problem of unemployment shall have the fullest opportunity of doing so, and that any views or representations so received at the conference shall have the most careful consideration.

Provinces May Arrange.

It is possible that in some cases the provincial governments will themselves arrange for any necessary representations on the part of their municipalities, but in other cases interested municipalities should communicate direct to the minister of labor at Ottawa. Representations from municipalities or other organizations should be made preferably in written form, and should be in the hands of the minister of labor, if possible, not later than August 26th. Where it is deemed desirable to submit representations in person and to send deputations for that purpose, municipalities or other organizations should, if possible, notify the minister of labor to that effect well in advance of the opening of the conference, express arising out of the attendance at Ottawa of any such delegates to be borne by the municipalities or other organizations by whom the delegations are sent. Information received by the minister of labor indicates that all the provinces will be represented at the conference with the single exception of Prince Edward Island, which is in the fortunate position of not having been at any time seriously troubled with the question of unemployment.

### RAILWAYMEN DO HONOR TO VETERANS

Five grand old men of railroading in Eastern Canada, men who have witnessed the growth of Canada's railroad system from one or two restricted lines in the seventies, to its present extensive proportions, were honored at the Orange Hall, Gloucester street this week, when the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, No. 168, tendered them a banquet and "At Home," and presented each with honorary membership badges in the order. The five men honored were Messrs. W. Borbridge, A. J. Barr, W. King, David Kelly and W. H. Graham.

The occasion was graced by the attendance of Mr. Wm. B. Prenter, general secretary and cashier of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, with headquarters at Cleveland, who for ten years previous to his going to the States twenty-six years ago, was locomotive foreman here, and under whom each of the five gentlemen worked. Mr. Prenter explained that he had made the trip to see his old friends honored, and that he had never enjoyed a function more in his life. With Mr. Prenter in Ottawa are his wife, his daughter, Mrs. E. F. Hackman, and her children, and they had an enjoyable day yesterday renewing acquaintances.

### RAILWAYS REPLY TO PRIME MINISTER

Montreal.—In a telegram despatched today to Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King, prime minister of Canada, over the signature of the presidents of the Canadian National, Grand Trunk and Canadian Pacific Railways, an undertaking is given to rescind the wage reduction on shopmen on the Canadian roads, effective since July 15 last, and to revert to the rates of pay in force prior to that date. This understanding is made consequent on the prime minister's letter of yesterday addressed to the railway heads asking them to adopt the view of the federal department of justice that a wage reduction was contrary to law.

The railway heads, while still affirming the position that their action in cutting wages is legal, agree to accept the ruling of the department of justice with the proviso that the companies' case before the board of conciliation now sitting here will not be prejudicially affected.

### LAKE SEAMEN ARE GRANTED INCREASE

Cleveland.—An increase of 15 per cent. in wages for the Lake Carriers' Association below the grade of licensed officers have been granted wage increases of \$15 per month effective Sept. 1, it was announced in a statement issued by George Marr, secretary of the association, the statement declares will continue to operate under the "open shop" policy.

Situated in the middle of the most thickly populated district of Birmingham, Eng., and almost completely surrounded by factories and works, is what is probably the most unique gardening display in the British Isles. Mr. W. Took, of Claybrook Street, has covered the whole of the wall of his house with boxes of flowers, and there are five windows, surrounded by blossoms. Hundreds of people from all parts of the district have visited the house and admired Mr. Took's wonderful work.

### Telegram to Prime Minister.

The following telegram over the signatures of D. B. Hanna, president of the C.N.R.; Howard G. Kelley, president of the G.T.R., and E. W. Beatty, president of the C.P.R., was despatched under date August 15 to Prime Minister W. L. Mackenzie King at Ottawa:

"Answering your letter of the twelfth instant, we need not assure you that the important business of the country may be carried on without interruption, and that both employers and employees should cooperate in carrying out the laws which have been enacted to that end.

"It is quite impossible for us to change our view as to the legality of the course which the railways have taken, and we believe that such action afforded full protection to the interests of both parties.

"We must respectfully submit that, notwithstanding the view which the

### Garden on a Wall.

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### Items of Interest from Overseas

#### POSTPONE CONVENING 2nd INTERNATIONALE

Prague.—The preliminary conference of the second Internationale was held this week, presided over by Arthur Henderson, the British labor leader. It was decided to postpone the convening of the Second Internationale, set for October at Hamburg, but no date was announced.

It was resolved to have no negotiations with the Communist party. Tom Shaw, Great Britain, was elected Internationale secretary vice Ramsey McDonald, also of Great Britain, who resigned. Delegates were present from Great Britain, Belgium, Denmark, Sweden, Holland, Germany, Ukraine, Georgia and Czechoslovakia.

#### SOCIALIST AMALGAMATION

Berlin.—Representatives of the Majority Socialists and Independent Socialist Parties met in Berlin and discussed the question of amalgamation. Both parties agreed that their independence must not be prejudiced until congresses of both parties had come to a decision on the subject. Meanwhile it was agreed that both sides must avoid all utterances in the Press, as well as at public meetings, that might hamper such amalgamation.—Reuter.

#### NOFOLK HARVEST WAGES

At a joint meeting of farmers' and laborers' representatives at Norwich on Saturday, it was agreed that the rate for harvest wages in Norfolk shall be £10.

#### TINPLATE INDUSTRY

The Welsh Tinplate Joint Industrial Council, which regulates the wages and conditions of the Welsh tinplate trade, employing 37,000 persons, met at Swansea, when the employers agreed to continue the payment of the 7½ per cent. special bonus to lower paid men for the next three months.

#### WORKERS JOIN FASCISTI

Genoa.—Twelve thousand workmen of the port of Genoa have joined the Fascist co-operative organization in the past few days. At Suzzara, near

here, 2,000 more workers also have asked to be admitted. There is still a great deal of Fascist activity in the area.

#### MINERS' WAGES

Wages of Lancashire, Cheshire, and North Staffs miners are to be 32 per cent. above the basic rate of 1931. In Scotland the rate is to be at the normal minimum of 5s. 5d. a shift the lowest possible under the national

#### STUFF TO GIVE 'EM

Mr. D. Glen, contractor, in responding to a vote of thanks at the opening of a large new building at Jarro, refused to take the credit for the work and said it belonged to the workmen down to the youngest apprentice.

Unhappy thought! Suppose we get to Heaven and find the people we don't like holding all the high offices.