Labor News From Coast to Coast.

CANADIAN LABOR PRESS

Weekly News Letter

An Official National Labor Paper.

VOL. 3. $2.00 Per Year. National and Rational. OTTAWA, SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 1921. Live News and Views. Single Copy 5 Cents. 4.

MINIMUM WAGE SET FOR LAUNDRY WORKERS

URGES GENUINE CO-OPERATION IN INDUSTRY

British Employer Declares Workers Will Never Be Content With Pre-War Conditions.

MANCHESTER, England. — Sir Edwin F. Stockton, president of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, speaking in the lecture hall of the Manchester Young Men's Christian Association on "Industrial Problems," gave it as his conviction that the vast masses of the workers will never be content to go back to the conditions which formerly existed, and that no reasonable employer would desire to attempt to impede the improvements in working conditions, the desirability of which, he said, was indisputable when a comparison was made with the unsatisfactory state of things which existed in certain industrial centers in pre-war days.

"The happiness and contentment of the workers," continued Sir Edwin, "must have an important bearing in obtaining any real success and prosperity for industry, and there must be a spirit of good will permeating between the employer and the employed. There cannot be any measure of industrial progress worth having, unless the general welfare of the whole community is the guiding purpose of all sections interested. There are many problems which industry has to face at the present time, and there is nothing gained by underrating them. The difficulties ought to be met in a tolerant and courageous spirit, and every effort must be made to look at the position from the varying points of view with an honest desire to solve the problem in a practical manner.

Strikes Condemned.

Sir Edwin was not sparing in his condemnation of strikes, which were not a paying proposition, even to the workers themselves. "They are almost invariably ended by the application of a mutual spirit of enterprise which, had it been exerted at an earlier period, would probably have saved a loss which rarely can be fully estimated by monetary values. The unsettled state of Labor and sectional stoppages bring about unemployment, and we cannot have a prosperous industrial position unless there is a genuine co-operation between Capital and Labor. It is imperative for all sides to pull the same way, otherwise no industrial organization can achieve results satisfactory to all concerned.

"However difficult our industrial problems may be, they are not insuperable. They can and will be solved," concluded Sir Edwin.

INDUSTRIAL COUNCIL AGAIN PROVES ITS WORTH AT TORONTO.

TORONTO.—Once again the Industrial Council has proven its worth. The dispute between the contractors of the nurses' home at St. Michael's Hospital at Toronto and the painters was submitted to the Industrial Council and a satisfactory settlement made. The men were on strike for four days before the matter was adjusted. John Doggett, business agent of the Toronto Trades Council, states that the settlement was satisfactory to all parties concerned.

SARNIA LABOR MEN PROPOSE MEANS OF ECONOMIZING.

SARNIA.—Combining the positions of city solicitor and city clerk, pooling the salaries, and securing the services of a man to pass upon all legal work as well as draw up bylaws, thereby cutting down expenses, which, under the present system, are said to be rather high, was the plan proposed by the Sarnia Trades and Labor Council officials at a meeting recently to cut expenses in the city payroll. It was pointed out that as things now stand every bylaw put through the council has its legal expenditure in the estimates, and with conferences with the solicitor that are necessary through the year, bringing the annual expenditure for legal advice to a large sum.

GOV'T MEAT INSPECTORS AT TORONTO GO OUT ON STRIKE.

TORONTO.—Because their dining - room accommodation was curtailed, eight inspectors employed by the Dominion Government at the Toronto civic abattoir have gone on strike. The result is that meat being slaughtered for public consumption, while watched by the staff under Manager Cornell, will not have the imprimatur of the Federal Department of Agriculture. Acting Mayor Maguire wired the Minister of Agriculture reporting the circumstances, and asking that some action be taken to restore inspection in the public interest.

BILL TO MINIMIZE EFFECT OF FIRE FIGHTERS' LAW THROWN OUT.

TORONTO—The municipal bills committee of the Ontario Legislature threw out the bill introduced by F. Wellington Haff, M.L.A., North Perth, providing that the one day off in seven for fire-fighters shall apply only to cities of over 100,000 where the double-platoon system is in operation.

Laundry Workers' Minimum Fixed at $12 per Week

HAMILTON.—At a meeting last week the provincial minimum wage board's proposal for a minimum wage for laundry workers and employees of dye works and dry cleaning establishments was unanimously endorsed by the employers' and employees' representatives. The minimum wage fixed by the board is $12 a week for experienced workers, with slight reductions for apprentices. The minimum for inexperienced adult workers is $10 for the first three months and $11 for the second three months, after which $12 is the minimum. For girls under 18 the minimum starting wage was fixed at $9, with an increase of $1 every three months until the $12 minimum is reached. These wages apply only to Toronto. Dr. McMillan informed your correspondent that the minimum for the rest of the Province of Ontario would be fixed at a later date.

TORONTO'S BOARD OF CONTROL INSIST ON OBSERVANCE FAIR WAGE LAW.

TORONTO.—The Toronto Board of Control went on record last week in support of the principle that contractors undertaking city work must observe the fair wage clause. Controller Gibbons (Labor) made it plain that cutting wages would not be tolerated by the city. He had been informed that contractors were cutting wages to the extent of 40 per cent.

Acting Mayor Maguire declared that contractors would have to observe the fair wage clause. Controller Nesbitt said the clause should be enforced and Controller Hiltz remarked that all contracts were awarded on that understanding.

GOVERNMENT ANSWER TO CONGRESS' PROPOSALS EXPECTED IN FEW DAYS.

OTTAWA—While a definite announcement has not yet been made respecting the action of the Government on the legislative programme of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, it is expected that a statement, outlining what the Government is prepared to do, will be made public within a few days. It is understood that the various items of the programme have been referred to the different Government departments for analysis and report. The Trades and Labor Congress asked for ratification of the eight-hour day, repeal of the law making it possible to deport non-Canadian British subjects, and the inception of a programme of unemployment insurance. It is believed the Government is prepared to meet the Labor programme more than half way, and a comprehensive statement, which may lay the groundwork down as legislation, will be made.

NEW REGULATIONS CONCERNING EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN IN ONTARIO.

TORONTO.—The Ontario Minimum Wage Board recently adopted regulations which have been approved by the Provincial Government. These regulations require all employers of female labor to keep a complete record of the names of workers and of the wages paid, such records to be kept open at all times to inspection by the board. Provision is also made for the payment by special permission of lower wages than the standard minimum in the case of handicapped workers, part time workers, apprentices, etc. The board has begun an investigation of women's wages in laundries and dry works in the province.

CZECHO-SLOVAK CHAMBER RATIFIES WASHINGTON CONVENTION.

GENEVA, Switzerland —. The Czecho-Slovak Chamber has ratified almost unanimously the Washington Conventions on the Eight Hour Day, Night Work for Women, and on the Minimum Age of Admission of Children to Work in Industrial Undertakings, according to a bulletin issued by the International Labor Office.

MOST WORKMEN ARE EFFICIENT SAY EMPLOYERS

Department of Labor Conducts Enquiry Into Decrease in Production in Canadian Industry.

OTTAWA.—Certain representations having been made to the Department of Labor to the effect that employers had to contend with a decrease in production, due apparently to slackened effort on the part of their employes, an inquiry was made by the department last August for the purpose of obtaining authentic information on this subject. Questionnaires were sent to about 6,200 employers, and replies giving the information desired were received from 4,106 firms employing about 455,400 workers. Of this number, says the Labor Gazette, 1,304 employers (about 33 per cent. of those answering) having 172,100 workers (about 38 per cent. of the workers covered in the answers) stated that there had been a falling off in production on the part of their labor force. On the other hand, 2,802 employers who had on their pay roll about 283,300 workers, reported that their employes had not shown any decline in production. Supplementary information received showed that conditions were improving in this respect and that the workers were getting back to their former normal output. Among the causes most frequently given for decreased production were the following: So many men had been engaged at other than their regular jobs during the war, and on resuming their occupations had taken some time to get back to their normal capacity; many skilled workers had been killed at the war and their substitutes had not had time to become as efficient; many skilled workers had had their capacity reduced by wounds, disease, etc. Other causes of reduced production were stated to be shortage of labor and high wages in general; market conditions, including increased costs, shortage of materials, luxury tax, etc., reduction of hours of labor, and general unrest.

Taken by provinces and industries, the result of the questionnaire shows little variation from the general result stated above, except that in Alberta the employes of firms reporting "Yes" to the question whether there was any falling off in production, numbered more than those of firms reporting "No." This was attributed to the high percentage of firms reporting "Yes" in the mining industry, which was the only industrial group in which the firms reporting "Yes" exceeded those reporting "No." In two groups of industries, lumbering and mining, the number of employes in the "Yes" column exceeded those in the "No" column. In the manufacturing group less than 33 per cent. of the firms reported "Yes."

ONTARIO LABOR GROUP SEEK NEW MEASURE TO AID INJURED.

TORONTO.—An effort will be made by the Labor group in the Ontario Legislature to have legislation passed to compel municipalities, railway and navigation companies to take back into their employ workmen who have been injured while performing their duties. The intention is to have such partially disabled workmen receive a salary, which, with their Workmen's Compensation allowance will bring their income up to that received before they were injured.

STABILIZING INFLUENCE IN WORLD THE BRITISH EMPIRE, SAYS ROWELL.

HAMILTON. — Addressing the Canadian Club, recently, on the Assembly of the League of Nations, Hon. N. W. Rowell said that the greatest stabilizing influence in the world today was the British Empire. The recent election in South Africa, Hon. Mr. Rowell said, showed to the world that the British Empire faces the world today united for peace, justice and liberty.

Mr. Rowell said he believed that there was more real liberty and a truer independence within the folds of the British Empire than could be found outside of it.

THE COST OF LIVING

By CHARLES L. BAINE, Secretary Boot and Shoe Workers' Union.

We realize that the above is a time worn and much used title, yet it is one of extreme interest to all workers who even in periods of enforced idleness must still live at high cost. In this connection a news item published from the Bureau of Labor Statistics at Washington is of interest. The item is as follows:

"Washington, Jan. 10.—Expenditures of the average American family for rent, fuel and light during the last six months of 1920 were higher than in June 1920, as is shown in figures compiled by the Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. On the whole the average cost of living in the eight cities, Baltimore, Cleveland, Chicago, Detroit, New York, Philadelphia, San Francisco and Seattle at the beginning of the new year was 99.2 per cent. over the average cost in 1914, while at the end of June it was 115.1 per cent.

The increases in per cent. over 1914 figures are:

Food	June	110.9	Dec. 75.6
Clothing ...	"	191.4	Dec. 159.5
Housing ...	"	41.6	Dec. 49.5
Fuel and light	"	57.6	Dec. 79.0
Furniture and furnishings	"	191.8	Dec. 181.9

The percentage increase in the 1920 cost of living in the eight cities over the 1914 cost are given as:

Baltimore ...	June	114.3	Dec. 36.8
Cleveland ...	"	116.8	Dec. 104.
Chicago	"	114.6	Dec. 93.3
Detroit	"	126.	Dec. 118.6
New York ...	"	112.5	Dec. 106.0
Philadelphia .	"	112.5	Dec. 100.9
San Francisco	"	96.	Dec. 85.1
Seattle	"	170.5	Dec. 94.1

The above statement purports to show that the cost of living as compared with 1914 has receded from the peak of 115 per cent. increase in June, 1920, to 99.2 per cent. January 1, 1921.

Assuming the figures to be correct, the cost of living is now 99.2 per cent. above the 1914 level, and even this is subject to added costs due to continuing increase in rent, fuel and light.

A factor not considered in the statement is the cost of transportation, both of persons and commodities. Time was when the five cent carfare was almost universal. Now the average is about double. An extra cost of 60 cents per week to get the wage earner to and from his work is quite a factor in the increased cost of living.

The present high cost of coal may yet be higher. Railroads are asking for higher freight rates on coal. Railroad freight rates on firewood are now prohibitive. Whatever the causes may be, freight rates are becoming destructive of a free interchange of commodities and a large factor in a permanent high cost of living.

We have serious doubts as to the figures of declining costs of the necessaries of life being correct. If there has been a falling off from 115 per cent. to 99.2 per cent., we cannot find it. Meat prices are sometimes lower for a few days when they rise again. Permanent reductions in retail prices of foods are very slight or scarcely discernible.

Living costs in Canada are no less burdensome to wage earners and in some items even higher than in the United States. Yet when committees of Congress find extortion in coal and propose regulation of the coal industry, to eliminate profiteering, the United States Chamber of Commerce opposes and also opposes Federal regulation of the packing business.

In these times and under these conditions, many employers demand that the wages of labor must be reduced. The cost of living is probably well above 100% over that of 1914, yet wages must be reduced. They have made a truly wonderful discovery in economics, viz:—that the way to make business good is to reduce the wages of the workers whose mass purchases constitute the volume of business.

When the mass of workers cannot buy meat, coal or shoes, meat, coal and shoes may be cheaper. But then there would be a narrow market in which to sell them as there is now in China. What American business men seem to want is a Chinese wage rate co-existent with American standards of consumption by wage earners. The middle and professional classes would like high incomes, derived from the wage earners and low cost products of the labor of wage earners.

Neither employers nor professional classes seem to recognize that wage earners are human beings and that they will have a voice in determining their own future; or that continued oppression breeds radicalism. We have today too many reactionaries in business and professional life. They may not realize it but they are steadily working in the interests of the worst and most radical elements of Europe.

The hope of the survival of American institutions lies in the welfare of the mass of the wage earners. Reduce them to the lowest of European standards of industrial slavery and the European revolutionists who have sowed the seeds of anarchy on this side of the Atlantic will reap their harvest. If this is what the reactionaries want, let them continue to ignore living costs while attempting to dictate lower wages to labor.

B. C. Minimum Wage Board's Annual Report

VICTORIA. —Striking proof of the beneficial effects of the minimum wage law in British Columbia is afforded in the report of the minimum wage board, which forms part of the annual report of the Provincial Department of Labor. Ever since the law came into operation there has been a constant movement toward higher wages and shorter working hours among women and girls in the province. The lowest minimum set by the board is $12.75, and the highest $15.50.

LABOR CANDIDATE DEFEATS BRITISH MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE.

LONDON, Eng.—Sir Arthur Griffiths-Boscawen, newly appointed Minister of Agriculture, was defeated in the Dudley byelection by J. Wilson, Labor candidate. The voting was: Labor, 10,244; Coalition-Liberal, 9,968; majority against, 276.

The defeat of the Government Minister and candidate is mainly attributed to the controversy over the question of the embargo on Canadian cattle, used as an argument by the Opposition, which it ascribed to this cause the high cost of meat in Great Britain.

SOCIAL SERVICE COUNCIL OF CANADA TO CONSIDER UNEMPLOYMENT.

HAMILTON—H. J. Halford has been notified by the Social Service Council of Canada, of which he is a member, that a conference is being arranged to deal with unemployment. The circular mentions that the Government will be urged to appoint a commission to go into the unemployment question with a view to establishing an unemployment insurance scheme as soon as industry revives. The committee also advocates that junior divisions be established in the provincial employment service with the immediate object of preventing a further dislocation in the labor market by juveniles leaving school during a trade depression.

DOCTORS WON'T BARTEND FOR MANITOBA "HOISTERS."

WINNIPEG.—Through resolution to be moved in the Legislature by Dr. R. J. Waugh, M.L.A for Norfolk, the medical profession of Manitoba will ask to be relieved of the responsibility of administering the Manitoba Temperance Act. According to Dr. Waugh the present act places the medical profession in the position of bartenders for the province.

TORONTO CITY FEEDING OVER 20,000 PEOPLE

After Exhausting All Its Efforts to Find Work City Decides to Feed Unemployed.

TORONTO.—Addressing a meeting of the unemployed at Toronto last week Acting-Mayor Maguire stated that the City Council was doing everything possible to relieve the deplorable situation in which many citizens of the City of Toronto found themselves. "After exhausting all its efforts to find work," said the Acting Mayor, "the city had decided to feed those who were without resources, and at the present over 20,000 people were being fed by the city." The Acting Mayor issued a note of warning when he said: "I say to those strangers in our midst: Be careful what you do because we will not allow any disregard of law and order in Toronto."

Controller Gibbons, who is an official of the Toronto Street Railway Employes' Union, also addressed the meeting.

After the controllers had left Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Knight, of the One Big Union, took the platform and attempted to put across their "Red" propaganda. Mr Knight censored the meeting for allowing the controllers to address the gathering. All know, however, that the One Big Union can accomplish nothing for the working classes and the ravings of the O. B. U. organizer fall upon deaf ears.

JOURNEYMEN TAILORS' TREASURY IN GOOD SHAPE FOR STRUGGLE.

TORONTO.—At least 30 per cent. of the entire membership of the Journeymen Tailors' Union of North America is on strike or is locked out in 18 of the largest cities of the Eastern States, James Watt, secretary of the Toronto union, announced this week. Five thousand members are drawing upon the strike funds of the organization.

"We had a bitter struggle in the Western States, but won out. The fight now seems to have shifted to the Eastern States and one or two cities in Canada," said Mr. Watt. "Our treasury is in good shape for a fight of some duration."

Mr. Watt said the strike in Sault Ste. Marie had been settled, and there was only one dispute in Canada at the present time.

OTTAWA TYPOS' ENTERTAINMENT FOR BENEFIT OF NEEDY.

OTTAWA—About 1,500 attended the euchre and concert in the Monument National Saturday evening, under the auspices of the Ottawa Typographical Union, No. 102, for the benefit of a special fund to assist members of the union who are out of work.

The committee in charge of the arrangements was Messrs. Charles Boudreault, E. J. McGuire, A. Morel, B. Millet, Jack Partington, J. Matthewson, E. Dorion and A. Beaumont.

WORKERS' POLICY ENDORSED BY CANADIAN AUTHORS AND COMPOSERS.

TORONTO.—Applications to the Parliament of Canada for drastic and immediate revision of the copyright laws is one of the objectives of the Authors' and Composers' Association of Canada, whose newly-elected president, George H. K. Mitford, of Toronto, declares that the present copyright laws and regulations give no protection to authors and composers, in regard to motion picture scenarios and reproduction of songs in phonographic records.

The Trades and Labor Congress of Canada have been pressing for this reform for the past two years and embodied this proposal in their legislative programme submitted to the Government a short time ago.

GLACE BAY MINE CLOSES DOWN—TO LACK OF ORDERS.

GLACE BAY, N.S.—Two hundred miners are out of employment because of the closing down of the Bras D'Or Coal Company's mine, Glace Bay, N.S. The reason for closing down the mines is lack of coal orders.

MONTREAL RUBBER WORKERS ON STRIKE.

MONTREAL—Some three hundred members of the Waterproof Workers' Union went on strike at Montreal last week on account of the refusal of the firms to renew their contracts.

WINDSOR MOULDERS STRIKE ON WAGE CUT.

WINDSOR.—Refusing a 10 per cent. wage cut, 50 moulders employed at the Windsor plants of the Standard Foundry Company, Marshall's Foundry, and the Swedish Crucible Steel Company, walked out last week. During the winter the men had been paid $1 an hour. This was recently cut to 90 cents.

WORKERS IN MANY EUROPEAN COUNTRIES NOW ENJOY THE LEGAL EIGHT-HOUR DAY

Early in 1917 the Legal Maximum Eight-hour Day of General Application Existed Nowhere in Europe—Canada Lags Behind in Forward March.

By J. A. P. Haydon.

Canada, once the leader in advanced social and labor legislation, is lagging very far behind most of the European countries. Many and varied are the reasons advanced for Canada's tardiness in this regard, but the fact remains, however, that Canada is amongst the very few countries, members of the League of Nations, that has not yet put into effect a legal eight-hour day.

The Washington Conference of the International Labor Organization adopted a draft convention calling for a legal workday of eight hours. This was forwarded to the Canadian Government and in due course was sent to the various provincial Governments for action, the Federal authorities claiming that under the British North America Act they have no jurisdiction in the matter. The Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, speaking for the workers of the Dominion, has notified the Cabinet that this action does not relieve the Government from responsibility and in laying their legislation programme before the Cabinet, said:

"The Dominion Government, in our opinion, has a much greater duty to perform than merely carrying out the letter of the law by transmitting the findings of these International Labor Conferences to the several provincial Governments who seem unwilling to accept the responsibility for action thrown upon them."

When the Right Hon. Arthur Meighen, P.C., Premier of Canada, addressed the Windsor Convention of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, he emphasized that as Canada was not a separate element in the industrial world we must co-operate with other countries in the enactment of advanced social and labor legislation. The following extracts from his address tell their own story:

"Canada is not a single and separate element in the industrial world. We are one of the throng of competing nations, and as such we must take care that we do not place upon ourselves a disability that will hold back our progress. The only way to make progress is by working in co-operation with other countries, to the end that we may all march forward together to the lifting up of the status of those who are needy. In this respect, let me say that Canada leads the way."

In a recent bulletin, issued by the International Labor Office at Geneva, the fact stands out significantly that Canada is far behind most of the European countries. The bulletin states "that one of the most remarkable results since the war was the success of the workers in almost all the European countries in securing a legal eight-hour day."

Early in 1917 a legal maximum eight-hour day of general application existed nowhere in Europe.

Eight hour laws were not introduced in Revolutionary Russia and liberated Finland until the autumn of that year. The hours of miners were regulated by law in several countries, but the eight-hour day where it existed in other industries was only a standard fixed by collective agreement, chiefly for the purpose of fixing a limit after which a higher rate of wages should be paid (overtime rates). But the course of events as soon as revolution was accomplished in Germany and Austria showed that this question of a legal eight-hour day, regarded hitherto as an almost unrealizable dream, was the one of all labor questions which touched the workers most nearly.

In Germany the proclamation issued by the Council of the People's Commissioners on the outbreak of the Revolution mentioned specifically that a maximum eight-hour day would be introduced not later than the 1st January, 1919. Actually this was done eleven days after the issue of the proclamation, namely by the regulations of the 23rd November, 1918, and by the special order for bakeries of the same date which prohibits night work and Sunday work in that industry as well as prescribing an eight-hour day. Austria was not far behind. The eight-hour laws of both German-Austria and Czecho-Slovakia are dated December 19, 1918, and Poland also produced a provisional eight-hour decree the same month.

The sentiment in favor of a legal eight-hour day was not less potent in countries which escaped revolution. Although the revolutionary turmoil in the Central Powers led to a more prompt adoption of this reform than was possible in countries where there was no sudden break in constitutional procedure, the demand for similar legislation was quickly felt all over Europe as soon as the incubus of war conditions was lifted. Thus, whereas by the end of 1918 in Europe there existed a legal maximum eight-hour day only in Finland, Germany, Austria, Poland, Czecho-Slovakia, and Luxemburg (and perhaps also in Russia), by the end of 1919 there were laws on this subject also in France, Holland, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland, and a draft convention had been adopted at Washington to make the rule of an eight-hour day in industry universal in all countries which are members of the League of Nations. Of the group of European countries without laws on this subject at the time of the Washington Conference, Greece has embodied the Washington Convention in legislation, and similar legislation is also under consideration in Belgium, Denmark, Great Britain, and Italy. The fact that Great Britain is still behindhand is due to a variety of causes. The power and status of the trade union movement in that country is such that the Government necessarily confers with its representatives before introducing bills on labor questions. The discussions preliminary to the introduction of an eight-hour bill revealed a difference of opinion on the scope of that measure. Organized labor demanded the inclusion of agriculture and commerce. The Government, foreseeing the difficulties in enforcing an eight-hour day on so wide a basis, objected, and no agreement has been come to at the time of writing. It has also to be borne in mind that the well organized trades in Great Britain have in some measure already secured a standard working day of eight hours or less by collective agreement, and the coal industry has already a legal seven-hour day. Thus, the well-organized trades were not so concerned to press for the early passage of the bill, but, if passed, it will of course strengthen their position as well as extend the benefit of the eight-hour day to those trades which have not already secured it.

The above facts demonstrate more clearly than anything else that Canada is lagging behind other industrial countries. We appreciate the remarks of the Prime Minister at Windsor when he said: "The duty of the Government of Canada, as well as all other Governments, is to seek to make practical progress towards putting into effect its terms by co-operating with other countries concerned."

Parliament is now in session and as the Right Hon. Arthur Meighen said at Windsor, "Canada abides not merely to the letter to the convention, but in the spirit of that convention and loyally will do so as long as I can speak for the Government," we submit that performance is better than promise and the workers of this country **demand that a legal maximum work day be established** so that Canada may march forward with other industrial countries to the lifting up of the status of those who toil.

The writer will, in another issue, show the progress made in European countries in other advanced social and labor legislation. It is indeed regrettable that Canada is rapidly falling to the rear in the forward march of progress.

HON. RODOLPHE LEMIEUX THINKS ELECTION COMING IN SIX MONTHS.

MONTREAL — Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux, addressing the Montreal Women's Club this week alluded to present conditions at Ottawa, and prophesied that there would be a dissolution and election within the next six months.

CALGARY TEACHERS STAND PAT ON STRIKE THREATS.

CALGARY.—The following statement was issued Saturday by the executive of the Calgary Teachers' Alliance: "The alliance resolution will stand and the teachers of the city schools will cease work on the morning of Friday, March 11. If any further negotiations are undertaken the alliance schedule must form the basis of negotiations between the School Board and the teachers. The resolution specially demands that the alliance schedule must be recognized and satisfactorily adjusted and the alliance maintains that the schedule cannot be satisfactorily adjusted without being discussed clause by clause."

LABOR CANDIDATE WINS SCOTTISH ELECTION.

KIRKCALDY, Scotland—The Government suffered a defeat in the by-election made necessary by the resignation of Sir James Henry Dalziel, member of the House of Commons for Kirkcaldy Burghs. The result of the voting, as announced, was: Tom Kennedy, Laborite, 11,674; Sir Robert Lockhart, Coalition, 10,193.

TO SUSPEND IMMIGRATION TILL NORMALCY RETURNS.

OTTAWA.—Complete suspension of immigration until the return of normal conditions is urged in a resolution to come before the House, of which notice has been given by A. L. Decaulniers, Champlain, Que. The unemployment situation is given as the main ground for suspension of immigration.

OTTAWA BUILDING TRADES COUNCIL SEEK CONFERENCE

Employers Have Not Yet Officially Replied to Wage Agreement Submitted By Council.

OTTAWA.—The Ottawa Building Trades' Council is becoming impatient at the apparent reluctance on the part of the Ottawa Branch of Association of Canadian Building and Construction Industries to state what it intends to do about the agreement sent to it on January 2 by the Building Trades Council. Delegates to the meeting of the Trades Council on Monday night stated that it was about time that something was done by the Employers' Association.

At the last meeting of the Building Trades Council the secretary was instructed to write the employers and ask that something be done about the wage agreement submitted on January 2. No reply was received to this communication. Last year the contractors requested the council to submit all agreements four months before previous agreements expired.

The members of the Ottawa Building Trades Council are willing to meet the contractors at any time and have on several occasions suggested such a meeting. At Monday night's meeting several members stated that the public would show a greater inclination to start building if it knew how labor conditions would be on May 1.

WAITERS AND COOKS WANT DAY OFF WEEKLY

Threaten to Lobby With 1,000 Members For Legislation.

TORONTO. — Business Agent Richard Russell, of the Waiters' and Cooks' Union, threatened this week to lobby the Parliament Buildings with 1,000 waiters, waitresses and cooks, to impress members of the Legislature with the necessity of legislation giving them one day off in seven. Mr. Russell said his organization was dissatisfied with the promises made to it, and, fearing hotel proprietors might be successful in opposing the legislation, it was determined to show the Government the strength of the demand for the day off each week.

"We intend to learn when the legislation comes up. Don't worry, we will be strongly represented," said he. "If necessary all waiters, waitresses, cooks, and employes from hotels and restaurants will lobby the Legislature on that day. We are getting tired of promises. Many of our members are still working 84 hours a week."

12 Hour Day Still Unsolved in U. S. Steel Industry

NEW YORK, New York. — The 12-hour day problem remains unsolved in the steel industry, and the reception accorded to the Interchurch World Movement's steel report, by the steel companies and by United States Congress, seems to prove that those who dictate the labor policies in the industry do not intend to be swayed by the moral force of such investigations and reports, according to Heber Blankenhorn, secretary to the commission which made the investigation.

"Conditions of labor in the United States Steel Corporation," says Mr. Blankenhorn, "are the same now as when the interchurch report was made, that is, one-half of the workers are still on the 12-hour day schedule. The 12-hour day was one of the compelling causes of the great strike, and as long as it continues in force there can be no peace in the steel industry.

MINISTER OF LABOR URGED TO CALL ANOTHER INDUSTRIAL CONFERENCE

National Joint Conference Board For the Building Industry Unanimous For Second Meeting—Apprenticeship Question Discussed.

OTTAWA.—The Minister of Labor will shortly be asked to call a National Industrial Conference similar to that held in Ottawa in September, 1919. This was decided at a meeting of the National Joint Conference Board for the building industry in Ottawa last week, at which delegates from the Association of Building and Construction Industries and the Trades and Labor Congress were present.

The success of the first conference of employers and employes called by the Dominion Government was so marked that both sides consider that it would be to its advantage to have another similar meeting. A committee was appointed to interview the Minister of Labor and request his department to call the conference. The second week in May is suggested as a suitable time for holding the meeting.

The question of a standard system of apprenticeship for the building and construction industries was also considered and a tentative agreement form to be used in all cases was drawn up. At the recent Winnipeg conference of the Association of Building and Construction Industries it was decided that something must be done to right the apprentice difficulty that at present exists. Local trade unions, trades and labor councils and branches of the association will be asked to take up the agreement and report on it.

The new agreement takes up the question of wages and training and of the amount of schooling that a boy is to receive while he is an apprentice.