

TO REDUCE HIGH COST OF LIVING

First Step Taken by General Committee in Control of Steel Production.

GARY ADVOCATES LOWER PRICES

No Reduction in Wages at Present as Men Must be Treated Well.

STEEL DESCRIBED AS BAROMETER OF TRADE

And When it Comes Down Other Commodities Are Bound to Follow the Same Course Before Very Long.

New York, Dec. 9.—A moderate reduction in the scale of maximum prices for steel, beginning on January 1, is favored by the general committee on steel products of the American Iron and Steel Institute, which meets with the war industries board on Wednesday.

This was announced by Robert H. Gary, chairman of the committee at a meeting here of steel manufacturers today with the recommendation that the question be referred to the committee with power, which was done.

Mr. Gary opposed any effort to reduce wages at present, declaring that while labor is receiving high compensation that over before, the rates are no higher than are "proper and just" in view of the cost of living.

Perhaps the most satisfactory way of reducing "the present basis of general prices that are abnormal," Mr. Gary said, would be the making of simultaneous reductions "in every direction," but this, he declared, would be impracticable. He urged, therefore, that the steel industry, as the "barometer of trade," begin reductions in prices, even to the cost of production, such a course, he declared, would result in price reductions by persons buying steel, and "so on down the line" until a stable business basis was reached.

"If the workers are treated fairly and equitably," he declared, "they will stand and content for fair treatment and no more."

"We have a chance to do something which will stabilize the business basis of the country. While some might suffer losses at present, perhaps it will prevent greater losses in the future. We would be leading in a movement to reduce methodically to readjust conditions in an orderly way."

"We might have some influence on existing business generally, and remember, the workers are more interested in this question than any other, for labor constitutes the greater part of the cost of production, from the raw material down to the finished product and its use by the consumer."

"Our employees must continue to be treated liberally, with respect to their compensation and general welfare. We will continue to show them that as in our industrial process, their merits, and to treat them as associates and valuable assistants in our work."

"There is no ground for believing, as sometimes hinted, that the workers of this country are desirous of controlling the methods of production or distribution. They know they could not be successful in this experiment."

Mr. Gary predicted that, if business as fair to its employees, its customers and its competitors, the next five years "will be the most progressive, prosperous and successful in our history."

"The iron and steel men have been broad-minded, liberal and big in every way, and I appeal to you at this time with confidence, to consider their responsibility in the matter of prices soon will rest on the individual manufacturers again, Judge Gary said. He asserted that in a short time "perhaps sooner than we suppose," the war industries board will be relieved and price-fixing discontinued.

Judge Gary paid a warm tribute to the work of the war industries board, asserting that its members have shown from the start of their activities "great ability, careful study and deliberation, unusual patience, and above all a disposition to be fair and considerate."

FIRST C. N. R. BOAT REACHES VICTORIA

Went from Lewis via Panama Canal—Will be Used as a Car Ferry.

Toronto, Dec. 9.—According to advice received at the heads of the Canadian Northern Railway here today, the Canadian Northern ship "Cantara" has arrived at Victoria, B. C., completing the long journey from the yards of the builders at Lewis by way of the Panama Canal. She will be the object of celebration on the part of the people of Victoria, and will then proceed to Vancouver, going into the car ferry service between the British Columbia mainland and Vancouver Island.

The Cantara is 308 feet long, has a moulded breadth of 52 feet and a capacity of 30 cars.

Want Airship Service To Australia

London, Dec. 9.—Australian commercial and financial interests are making plans to connect Australia with London and other parts of the British Empire by commercial airships. A company already has been formed to finance the survey of an aerial route to London by way of Sydney and Port Said.

The possibility of flying from the commercial point of view are dealt with in a report issued by the civil aerial transport committee. The report foresees the time when the airplane will compete with the telegraph, the post office and the railways. It is declared that nearly five hours could be saved between London and Paris, one day between London and Turin, twelve days between London and Calcutta and thirteen days between London and Johannesburg, South Africa.

AVIATION IN OUR COLLEGES

Canadian Universities Will Add This Science to Their Course of Study—Airplanes from Royal Air Forces for Instructional Purposes.

Toronto, Dec. 9.—The University of Toronto, along with other Canadian universities, has decided to add a faculty of aviation to its other branches of study, and has arranged to secure three aeroplanes from the Royal Air Force. Two of the machines will be for instructional purposes only, but the third will be for flying.

"Every university in Canada will receive one or more planes, probably more than one," said an officer at R. A. F. headquarters.

Except for a few Curtiss machines, however, they will not be susceptible for actual flying, but will be used for teaching aviation with the mechanical teaching staff of the universities, which will probably teach most of the course.

Mr. Gomers' attendance at the banquet held by the academy of political science at the Hotel Astor, has seriously complicated negotiations looking to affiliation with the federation of labor of the hotel and restaurant workers' organization, according to Otto Wagner, secretary of the latter, who declared that 2,000 members have been on strike in this city for the past seven weeks.

Although Mr. Gomers did not participate in the banquet, arriving at the hotel after 10 p. m., his presence at the meeting, according to the strikers will be looked upon as an indication of "lack of unity in labor's ranks."

INSANE SOLDIER IS STILL MISSING

Believed Now That Invalid Who Escaped from Hospital Train Has Perished.

Special to The Standard. Moncton, N.B., Dec. 9.—No trace of Pte. Nevills, the insane soldier, who escaped from the hospital train between Moncton and Newcastle on Sunday morning can be found, and it is now regarded as almost certain that the returned man perished with the intense cold that prevailed yesterday. It was impossible to pick up his tracks where he jumped from the train, search for him has consequently been practically abandoned.

TO EXTEND PERIOD OF ARMISTICE

Berlin via Amsterdam, Dec. 9.—Major Erichsbarger, head of the German armistice delegation, announced today that the French government had requested the German army command to designate plenipotentiaries to confer regarding the prolongation of the armistice. The delegates will meet at Treves, in Rhenish Prussia, December 12 and 13.

Quebec, Dec. 9.—Write for by-election to the legislature of Quebec were issued today. The elections for members of the legislature will be held on December 27 in Atlantic, Montreal, St. Lawrence and Naperville, with nominations on December 20.

SAY MILITIA NOT TO BLAME FOR BUNGLING

Government Issues Statement Concerning Congestion at Halifax When Soldiers Landed.

THERE ARE ONLY TWO ATLANTIC PORTS

But Although Halifax is All Blocked up There is No Suggestion of Using St. John.

HALIFAX UNABLE TO HANDLE TROOPS

Because of Inadequate Facilities—Another Reason Why Ships Should Come Here.

Ottawa, Dec. 9.—The attention of the Department of Militia having been drawn to press statements concerning the disembarking of troops from the hospital ship, Araguay, on Saturday, the 7th instant, the following statement was issued today:

"The Department of Militia and Defense states that no delays which were connected with the transfer of troops to the trains were in any way attributable to the militia arrangements. Every precaution was taken, and all persons concerned with the matter were notified in ample time. It is true that, in view of the expected arrival of the S. S. Olympic, the rail yards had, with commendable foresight, assembled a large number of cars at Halifax and no doubt there is congestion in the Halifax yards. The facilities at Halifax are limited, especially since the disastrous explosion, and when large numbers of troops arrive difficulties are experienced in rapidly placing the trains on the dock sidings.

Local conditions were no doubt aggravated by the large number of cars collected at that point, and the difficulties there were attributable to those conditions and not to the militia department.

There are only two Canadian Atlantic winter ports, Halifax and St. John, and it is hoped that the public will realize that no means as easy matter. Every effort will be made to ensure that the disembarking and entrainment will be carried on with the minimum amount of discomfort and delay, but due allowance must be made for the fact that the placing of trains and the despatch from the ship's side, imposes a severe strain upon the facilities as they exist. It is expected that the situation will be much improved in the very near future by the completion of the new railway terminals which have been for some time under construction.

DUKE WENT TO WRONG CHURCH IN HALIFAX

Found Himself at St. Paul's Among a Lot of People Who Were Not Expecting Him.

TOOK THE AFFAIR AS A GOOD JOKE

Influenza in N. S. Capital is Said to be as Bad as it Ever Was.

HERE IS HOME NEWS FROM ABROAD

Chief Forester for N. B. Gives a Long Spiel About How Our Province is Fighting Fires, etc.

Special to The Standard. Halifax, Dec. 9.—The Duke of Devonshire, who was in the city on the morning of Sunday morning, under which he and his party found themselves in the wrong church. It was a little awkward at first, but His Excellency said he had enjoyed it immensely. When he arrived at the church he had expected to be met by some of the clergy, but St. Paul's people did not know he was coming, and of course there was no one on hand to do any honors. The Duke, however, went into the church, and it was not till several minutes had passed that he became aware that he was in the wrong place.

MANY ARE STARVING IN NORTHERN RUSSIA

Washington, Dec. 9.—Food conditions in Finland and Northern Russia are becoming more serious, advice today to the State Department indicated. There has been no distribution of bread from the regular stations at Helsinki in ten days, and several other ports in Finland are reported practically without bread.

WILSON WILL NOT ATTEND CONFERENCE

On Board U. S. S. George Washington, Dec. 9.—President Wilson probably will not sit at the peace table, but will be represented there by delegates, while remaining in close contact with the heads of the other nations and prepared to decide questions referred to him.

INFLUENZA IN TORONTO

Toronto, Dec. 9.—Eleven cases of influenza were admitted to Toronto General Hospital over the week-end. Since Saturday two deaths from the disease occurred at the General Hospital and one at Wellesley. The admissions over the week-end are more than in the past two weeks.

EXTRA MONEY MAY BE GIVEN TO SOLDIERS

Suggestions That Post-Discharge Pay May be Continued for Six Months Instead of Three.

TO TIDE OVER THE HARD WINTER MONTHS

This May Also Apply to Men Who Have Already Been Discharged Says General Mewburn.

EXTRA ALLOWANCE FOR OVERCOATS

Fullest Possible Information Will Hereafter be Given All Communities Touching on Arrival of Returned Men.

Kingston, Ont., Dec. 9.—Before leaving for Ottawa Major General Mewburn, who was here for the dedication of the R. M. C. service flag in St. George's Cathedral Sunday morning, was interviewed regarding the matter of delay in getting information concerning the return of men from overseas to Kingston. The general expressed the opinion that there was no real, concrete reason why information should not be given of the fullest and most reliable character, and he said that the matter will have its immediate posting information as he is extremely anxious that information shall be given to all localities, and accurately given, in time for arriving yesterday.

The minister intimated that the post discharge pay of soldiers may be continued for six months, instead of three, so as to tide the men over the difficult days of winter.

In speaking of clothing allowance he said that it was at all possible the question of making allowance retroactive would be considered, together with that of granting the men an extra allowance for overcoats.

General Mewburn visited the R. M. C. hospital at Kingston, and in the record of that institution in the war, he extended the Christmas holidays of the cadets, the extension being the effect of the war.

RESIGNATION FORCED BY MOB DOES NOT STAND

Bavarian Minister of the Interior Will Hold on to His Job in Spite of Outbreak.

GOVERNMENT COUNCIL IS ANGRY OVER IT

Soldiers, on the Other Hand, Say the People Have Been Deceived by the Press.

PAPERS HAVE LIED FOR OVER FOUR YEARS

Premier Kurt Eisner After Hearing the Soldiers' Story Told Them to go Home and go to Bed.

Munich, Sunday, Dec. 8.—The ministerial council of the people of the State of Bavaria has made known officially its anger over the attack on Herr Auer Friday night when a mob of armed soldiers forced his resignation as Bavarian minister of the interior at the post of a pistol.

The announcement goes on to say that the resignation forced from Herr Auer under duress is naturally void and the minister remains a member of the government, and is signed "Government of All the People of the State of Bavaria: Kurt Eisner, minister-president."

The mob of armed soldiers which Friday night forced the resignation, at the instigation of the Bavarian cabinet, and then occupied various newspaper offices, gave as the reason for the latter action that the newspapers had been deceiving the people throughout the war. Premier Eisner's secretary the withdrawal of the revolutionists from the newspaper plants after a statement, which was signed by the organ of former Chancellor Von Hertling, was printed in that journal, when it managed to get out an edition at midnight, the nocturnal interruption of its working forces.

The statement said that soldiers and workmen occupied the offices of the newspaper "which had lied and deceived the people for three months and bore the fearful responsibility of murder." The papers would henceforth appear under the soldiers' and workmen's direction, added the statement, which was signed by the "revolutionary internationalists of Bavaria."

The Courier explained that it printed the statement, "to indicate what had happened."

After forcing the resignation of Herr Auer the mob went to Premier Eisner's residence to tell him the news. Eisner, however, asked them why they had not informed him of their intention.

"I should probably have advised against the resignation," said the minister, "but I was certainly well-meaning and undertaken out of regard for me, but it was not good. If again you have complaints about something wrong in the government, come to me. Now go quietly to your homes."

FURNACE-WITHY & CO. WILL PAY \$183,354

To Owners of S. S. Heathcote as Result of Collision in Bay of Fundy.

Montreal, Dec. 9.—The Dominion Shipping Company has been awarded \$183,354 damages, including interest, for the loss of the steamer Heathcote as a result of a collision with the ship Kelberg in the Bay of Fundy on July, 1917, the owners of the Kelberg, Furness Withy and Company, being condemned to pay this amount on the finding of W. S. Walker, K. C., deputy registrar of the admiralty court, confirmed by Mr. Justice MacLennan.

The court having found the Kelberg liable for damages, the matter was referred to Deputy Registrar Walker to assess the amount, and his award has been filed in the admiralty court after full inquiry into the merits of the claim, with the assistance of Thomas Robb, secretary to the Shipping Federation, and Thomas Hall, of the Hall Engineering and Ship Repairing Works, who were appointed assessors.

Brooks, Montgomery and Co., representing Hector Molnes, K. C., of Halifax, with Walter R. L. Shanks as counsel for the Dominion Shipping Co., and Mitchell, Casgrain and Co., with Pierre Casgrain, K. C., as counsel, represented the owners of the Kelberg.

"not only as a means of upholding her great number of wood-using industries and the towns and population dependent upon them, but to supply the provincial revenue as well. We have now forty-two permanent rangers and inspectors each with a temporary assistant. The provincial treasury will pay out \$100,000 a year for the forest protection work."

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"There could, of course, be no policy of crown lands management unless the government knew accurately the character and contents of these areas. That brought about a general survey and soil classification of all the crown lands in the province. About a quarter of our territory has been examined and mapped thus far."

OPPOSE COMPULSORY MILITARY SERVICE

London, Dec. 9.—An official statement issued by the government today, says: "The coalition government is going to the peace conference with the intention of proposing the abolition of compulsory military service throughout Europe."

Winston Spencer Churchill, Minister of Munitions, made a similar announcement in a speech at Dundee on December 5, declaring that the British representatives at the peace conference would demand general and absolute abolition of conscription throughout Europe.

BERLIN REVOLT IS COMING ALONG

More Troops Brought in to Maintain Order—Spartacus Group Select Liebknecht.

Paris, Dec. 9.—Additional troops were brought up to Berlin Sunday by the Ebert government to crush the Spartacus movement which is in control of the northern suburbs of the German capital, according to a despatch to L'Information from Zurich. The radicals are said to hold the building in the Prussian chamber of deputies.

The movement has also spread to Munich, where they returned to the street after the radicals had broken up a meeting of the democrat party. Disorders also are reported to have occurred in Pilsen.

Berlin, Dec. 9.—Rumors are current in Berlin, according to a despatch from that city, that the Spartacus group of Socialists would on Monday night name Dr. Liebknecht as president of the republic.

MINISTER SUGGESTS CONCILIATION BOARD

Hon. Gideon Robertson Advises Montreal to Take Action Along This Line in Regard to Police.

Ottawa, Dec. 9.—In an effort to avert the threatened strike of Montreal city employees, Hon. Gideon Robertson, minister of labor today wired E. E. Deary, chairman of the Montreal executive commission suggesting that he occur in the employees application for boards of conciliation. The minister's telegram is as follows:

"I have noticed statements in the press as to possible strike of police, firemen and other civic employees, and desire to remind you of the application received by me from the different classes of employees concerned for boards of conciliation. As you are aware, where the employer is a municipality a conciliation board can only be established by consent of the municipality. I have assured you that boards requested would be established immediately word is received that the municipality concurs. You have felt compelled to withhold consent for the municipality until your budget had been completed. I understand the budget has been completed and would suggest that the reference of the whole matter by joint agreement to boards of conciliation and investment might be a means of averting the threatened calamity."

PROTEST AGAINST GOVT SEIZURE

Commercial Cable Company Causes an Injunction to be Filed on the Ground That International Law is Violated.

New York, Dec. 9.—The Commercial Cable Company, asked for an injunction in the federal court today restraining Postmaster General Burleson from further control of its 10,000 miles of cable between San Francisco to China, Japan and the Philippine Islands. Violation of international law by Burleson is charged in the complaint, which asserts that the United States had not obtained consent to the seizure from the nations upon whose territory the cables lay. It is further alleged such consent would be unconstitutional without a formal treaty approved by the senate.

This contention is upheld, the company declares by information from its London office that department of the British government has instructed the Commercial Cable Company representatives there to make no changes in the direction of the American proclamation without first submitting them to that department for approval.

Commercial Pacific officials stated tonight that they expected Mr. Burleson to make voluntary answer to the case. If he does not, they declared, they will serve him by publication, as in the case of the Commercial Cable Company. No orders had been received from the postmaster general, they stated, and the company was continuing and planning to continue its business as though its lines had not been seized.

George Creel, chairman of the committee on public information who is attending the peace conference in Paris, will receive the same treatment as accorded any newspaper or press association correspondent, the Commercial Company stated.

FRENCH GENERAL IN BERLIN

Washington, Dec. 9.—General Dupont, of the French army, has arrived in Berlin, according to advices received here today, and has established his headquarters in the palace formerly occupied by the French embassy. General Dupont has been entrusted with the transport and repatriation of French prisoners held in Germany.

STILL DOUBT IF BORDEN IS TO HAVE SEAT

Lloyd George is Making Strong Fight for Canadian Representation at Conference.

PREMIER HUGHES IN THE RUNNING

As a Compromise General Smuts May be Chosen to Represent All Dominions.

FOSTER IS PREPARING CANADA'S CLAIM

This Country Will Ask \$1,500,000,000 Indemnity, Including Loss Sustained at Halifax.

Special to The Standard. Ottawa, Dec. 9.—No definite assurance has yet been received here as to whether Sir Robert Borden is to have a place at the peace table. Lloyd-George, it is understood, is making a strong fight to have the Canadian Prime Minister as one of the Empire's delegates, but it is frankly admitted in official circles here that there are a great many difficulties in the way and that the matter is very much in doubt. A great deal, it is thought, will depend upon the outcome of the British elections. If the coalition should be defeated, or be returned with only a small majority, it is admitted that Sir Robert's chances of getting to the conference will be remote. If, on the other hand, however, the coalition is decisively victorious, the probability of Canada being directly heard at the peace conference will be greatly increased. One difficulty in the way of Canadian representation is Premier Hughes of Australia. Mr. Hughes is making a strong fight for Australian representation, and is known to have the backing of powerful British interests. It is generally expected that the British government, unable to decide as between Sir Robert Borden and Mr. Hughes, and unable to cause an unnecessary limitation to the Empire's representation at the conference, to name both of them, will compromise by nominating General Smuts to represent all the Overseas Dominions. Such a compromise, however, would not be acceptable to Canada. Sir George Foster, it was learned here today, has been named on a committee of the war cabinet to prepare Canada's claim for reparation against Germany. His claim, it is reliably stated here, will be for at least a billion and a half dollars, representing the cost of the war to Canada and a portion of indirect and consequential damages, including the Halifax disaster, raids on shipping, and other losses.

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