

The Toronto World

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FRIDAY MORNING, AUGUST 22.

"Prominent Men" Do Not Want Convention.

The Hamilton Spectator still deems it wise to have a convention of the provincial Conservatives. "To prepare a platform and define constructive policies for the important days that are ahead of us." With this we heartily concur, and thousands of Conservatives throughout the province have been waiting for the inspiring call from the government to line them up, and give them an opportunity of declaring their intentions and aspirations, and showing their superiority to rival platforms.

The Spectator goes on to remove a frequent misapprehension. "It has been suggested that those who are ardently advocating a convention are inspired by a desire to embarrass Sir William Hearst and confound his prohibition policies. The Spectator has no sympathy with any such motive." The Spectator recommends that the referendum be taken before the convention, and the whole prohibition question thus be kept out of politics.

The object of a convention is to unite the party and not to divide it; to attract new recruits, and not to drive them away. The government believes in a contrary course. Hon. Mr. McGarry declared on Wednesday at Marmora that the idea of a convention "did not meet with the approval of prominent men in the party"—we quote The Mail and Empire—"and no such convention will be held."

The High Self-Appointed are once more in evidence. It is not the approval of the party, but of the "prominent men" that is sought by Hon. Mr. McGarry. The provincial treasurer proceeded to contend that "there never was a time in the history of constitutional government when a government was in power, where a government had a majority of members behind it on the floor of the house, that it required, or ever will require, a convention."

Mr. McGarry was, of course, making a stump speech, and, perhaps, should not be held too closely to task. By his language one might imagine that the constitutional government he speaks of had been a method of political procedure for the last thousand years at least. Constitutional government is still evolving, and our Canadian method is not yet in its second generation. The present Ontario government was born of a convention and never would have come into existence without it. If there be no precedent for a government in power holding a convention, it is not too late to strengthen party procedure by adopting this plan. We might remind Mr. McGarry that many notable defeats might have been avoided by the holding of an honest convention. The Ross government held a convention, but it was notoriously a packed gathering, the result of a determination to cling to office by those that held office, rather than permit others of the same party to gain power. Such tactics must always defeat themselves.

Mr. McGarry prefers government by "prominent men," to the democratic method of a convention. The people would be glad to know who these "prominent men" are, the High Self-Appointed who nominate premiers and lay down policies, but Mr. McGarry was silent on this point.

The Kingston Whig quotes us as saying that "the Hearst government had better waken up," and remarks, "Here's one Conservative journal that admits that the provincial government has been asleep for years." The World admits no such thing, and The Whig's observation is gratuitous. We have spoken well of the Hearst government during the war, and commended what was commendable, but all the more reason is there that we should honestly endeavor to give the alarm when the government evidently failing to appreciate the entire change of conditions brought about by the close of the war, lapses into a false security, and refuses to see what is certainly ahead. The "prominent men" may think they know the people of Ontario, or that they know better than the people do, but the people of Ontario did not fight a war for democracy to be told at the end of it that their democracy is to be subservient to "prominent men." Had Sir James Whitney been alive he would have given his opinion of the "prominent men" theory without reservation.

General Currie.

General Currie has received a magnificent welcome in Montreal, and Toronto should be no whit behind in her reception. General Currie in the perspective of history will rank among the great generals of the war. It is quite impossible at this stage to say what the relative merits of a dozen different generals may be. We are only beginning, for example, definitely to appraise the merits of the

generals in the civil war in the United States and get away from partisan and sentimental considerations.

General Currie had more men under him than ever the Duke of Wellington had. He had not perhaps the critical decisions to make that rendered Wellington's famous battles historic, but like Wellington he never lost a gun, and the battles he fought were invariably victorious, and victorious in a sense that made them extraordinarily important in the conclusions of the war. Had the United States had such a man as Currie commanding such forces as the Canadians in the great war, we may safely say that he could have followed the example of Grant into civil life.

General Currie seeks no such career. He has accepted the position of Inspector-General of the Canadian Militia, and it is characteristic of his military genius so to adapt himself to the circumstances, and to continue to serve his country as opportunity offers.

Some criticism has been leveled at General Currie over the casualty lists in some of the battles, and the last Mons attack has aroused hostile comment from those willing to ignore the facts. For the work done by the Canadian troops the casualties were unusually light. The last Mons action was carried out under the immediate orders of Marshal Foch, and could not have been otherwise. No one knew whether the Germans would observe their undertakings or not, and had they been treacherous the failure to take advantage of our position would have been criminal. In war no chances can be taken of that sort. It was not only at Mons that the battle was pressed till the last minute.

When General Currie comes here next week his visit will of course come second to that of the Prince of Wales, but there is no other deserves a heartier welcome from Toronto.

A Park Commission.

Mayor Church's idea of a park commission is not a bad, but the recognized best method of dealing with park problems in all great cities. The Queen Victoria Niagara Falls, Ontario, Park Commission has been a singularly successful example of the principle almost at our doors. The Boston park system is a really wonderful example of what can and should be done in a city which Toronto may easily rival.

The present park commissioner has distinctly made good, and the parks under him have constantly improved under his care. But Mr. Chambers is an executive officer, and a park commission should have wider powers than the present arrangement permits. Provision for the future is one of the essentials, especially in a city expanding at the rate Toronto does, and such provision can only be made under such arrangements as a properly constituted commission would devise.

The Civic Abattoir.

Denver bought 300,000 pounds of bacon the other day from the war department and sold it with the result of bringing down prices which had ranged from 55 to 70 cents a pound to 25, 36 and 39½ cents a pound according to quality. This result of temporary competition shows that the food profiteers are continually willing to charge all the traffic will bear.

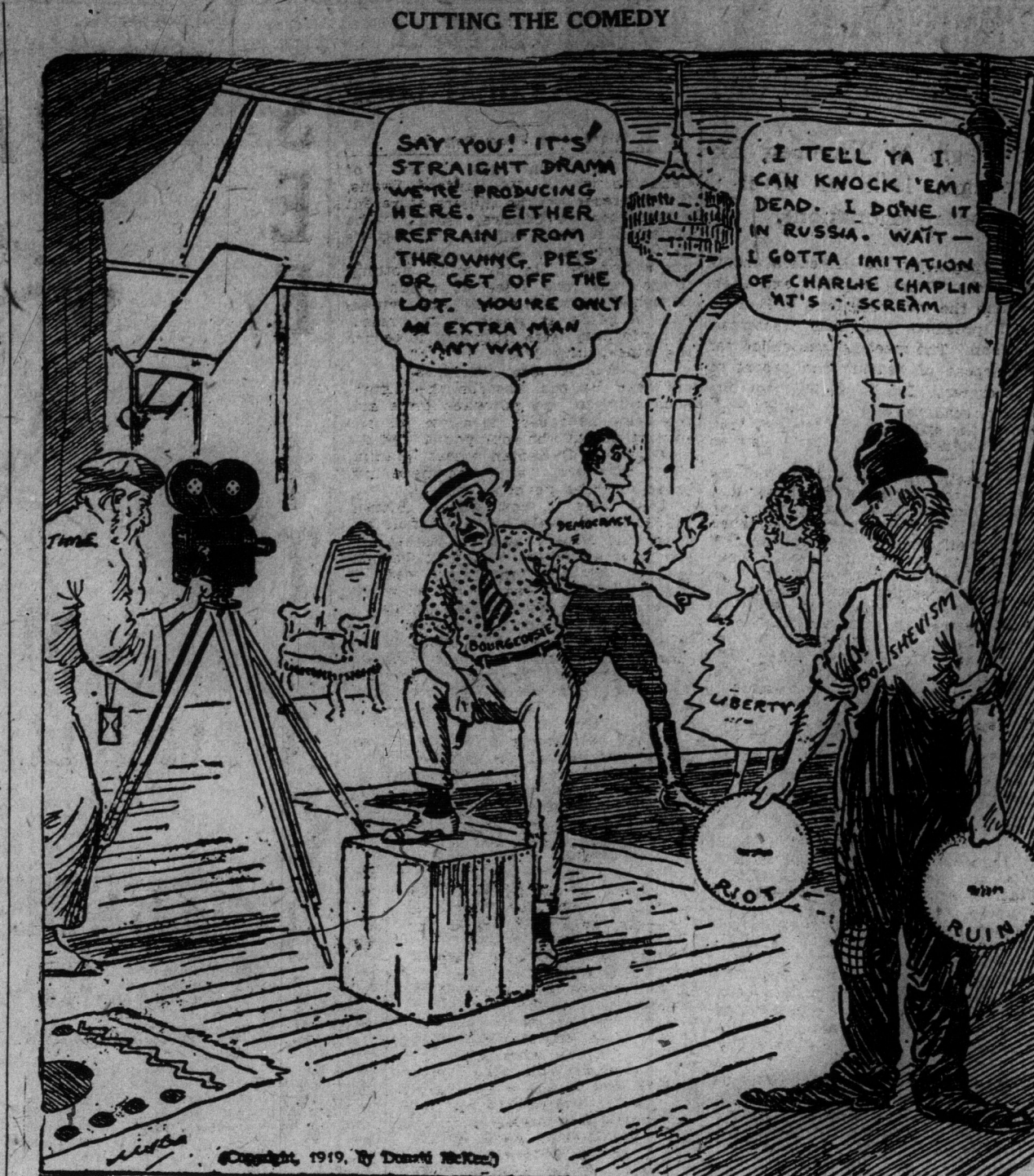
In Toronto the need for a controlling factor in the food market is just as badly needed as in Denver or anywhere else. The only curb we have is the civic abattoir, and its value may be appreciated by the constant efforts made to suppress it. The army rations of London and the open markets of London and the Great are no more effective and perhaps less so, since not so regularly operative, than the civic abattoir with its provision for independent merchandising of animal products. A continual complaint about the expense and the deficits at the abattoir betoken, not its needlessness, but some radical defect in its management. We believe expert advice has never been taken and fully accepted yet in regard to the operation of the abattoir. Certain elements in the city council are hostile to the whole idea, but this is no reason why the people should suffer, either thru their taxes by poor management, or thru their household bills by eliminating the competition by which it restrains local prices. No one should be in charge of it who does not wholeheartedly support the principle of public ownership. Men of this type are obtainable, but men of the corporation type frequently get appointed to positions where public utilities suffer under their profligate management.

The defects of the present system of management should be investigated and corrected at once.

MUCK AND MINOTTO SAIL FOR DENMARK

New York, Aug. 21.—Count James Minotto, son-in-law of Louis F. Swift, the Chicago packer, and Dr. Karl Muck, former leader of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, both of whom were interned during the war, as enemy aliens, sailed from here today for Copenhagen on the Scandinavian American liner Frederick VIII. Asserting that he was an American and not a German, but that he sailed for Denmark, "a man without a flag or country," Dr. Muck arrived at the pier with his wife only a short time before the hour of departure.

Dr. Muck left the United States, he declared, with no regrets.



—By McKee, in Winnipeg Telegram.

WHOLESALE GROCERS MEETING IN OTTAWA

Delegates From All Over Canada to the First Annual Convention.

Ottawa, Aug. 21.—With about sixty delegates in attendance from all the principal cities of Canada, the newly organized Canadian Wholesale Grocers' Association, opened its first annual convention in the Chateau Laurier this morning. H. W. Chamberlain of this city, elected chairman, and the great part of the morning session was occupied in preparing a constitution and by-laws for the association.

W. F. O'Connor, vice-president of the Canadian board of commerce, at the request of the convention, attended and explained the clauses of bills Nos. 166 and 167, giving the members of the association the fullest possible information regarding the working of the new acts.

Retailers Represented. The Retail Grocers' Association of Canada will be represented before the convention by a delegation tomorrow, when questions of mutual interest to retailers will be discussed.

In the afternoon the delegates to the convention were entertained to a motor trip around the city by the wholesale grocery trade of Ottawa, and this evening were the guests of the managers and directors of the E. B. Eddy Company at a dinner at the Ottawa Country Club. The association will continue in convention all day tomorrow.

REPORT TO CHATHAM ON NEW WATER SUPPLY

Special to The Toronto World. Chatham, Aug. 21.—Engineers who have been authorized to investigate the city's water system and recommend a definite policy for improving the city's water supply, have paid a visit to the city. It is understood that the report will be presented to the city council tomorrow.

Officials of Pere Marquette in Session at St. Thomas

Special to The Toronto World. Chatham, Aug. 21.—Pere Marquette officials from all stations between St. Thomas, Walkerville, Chatham and Sarnia were in session today for the purpose of discussing new methods to be employed in the operation of the branch of the railway. Among those who attended the meeting were Superintendent P. P. Little, Assistant Superintendent H. C. Black, and Trainmaster F. J. Boxie.

C. H. Reardon, Merlin Farmer, Accidentally Shot and Killed

Special to The Toronto World. Chatham, Aug. 21.—C. H. Reardon, forty years of age, a well-known farmer of the Talbot road near Merlin, Tilbury East township, was accidentally shot and killed at noon today when a rifle he was cleaning suddenly discharged. The weapon was a new one, recently purchased by the farmer. His wife and one daughter survive.

BRITISH BANK MERGER

London, Aug. 21.—(Montreal Star)—The National Provincial and Yorkshire Bank of England, which has arranged to absorb the Sheffield Banking Company, has about thirty branches in the Sheffield district. The merger, which will be effected by share exchange, will make the N. P. and A. bank's deposits about 240,000,000 pounds.

OSGOODE HALL NEWS

Masters' Chambers.

Before Geo. M. Lee, Registrar. Chartered Trust v. Bell—Mr. F. Lanier, for plaintiff, moved to amend writ and for payment of A. B. B. "de bene esse." Mr. J. E. Walsh for defendant. Order made as asked. Costs in cause to defendant.

Porter v. Field—Gunnecott (Cochrane & Co.), for defendant, obtained order dismissing action without costs. Hamilton v. Olmstead—J. Cowan, for plaintiff, obtained order for issue of subpoena writ and service of notice thereof in Detroit.

Union v. Securities—W. J. Major (J. P. White), obtained final order for closure against all defendants. Guarantee v. Williams—Mr. F. E. Smyth, for judgment creditor, moved to make attaching order absolute. Mr. Raney (Osler & Co.), for judgment debtor. No one for garnishee. Enlarged to 28th inst.

Weekly Court. Before Logie, J. Ping Lee v. Crawford—Mr. G. Wilkie, for plaintiff, on motion to continue injunction. Mr. A. Lanier for defendant. Reserved.

Leslie v. Postesque—Mr. W. N. Irwin, for vendor, moved for order vacating mortgage. Mr. D. Donald for Mr. Durke. Mr. C. Henderson for purchaser. Order to go as asked. No costs.

Carr v. Public School Board, No. 2. Casey—Mr. P. E. P. Smyth, for plaintiff, on motion to continue injunction. Mr. P. Walsh for defendant. Enlarged one week. Injunction continued meanwhile.

Dei v. Chartered Trusts—Mr. J. P. Walsh, for plaintiff, moved to continue injunction. Mr. W. Lanier for defendant. Enlarged to get further from.

Bailey v. Davy—Mr. H. S. Steele, for plaintiff, on motion to continue injunction. Stands one week.

Suzlunz v. Suzlunz—Mr. D. W. Markham, for plaintiff, on motion to continue injunction. Mr. J. Jennings for Bank of Hamilton. Stands one week. Injunction continued meanwhile.

Colonial v. Standard—Mr. G. Wilkie, for plaintiff, on motion to continue injunction. Obtained one week's enlargement.

Re G. A. Coles—Mr. D'Arcy Leonard, for Maria Coles, moved for vesting order. Mr. F. W. Harcourt for infants. Order to go as asked for, on appeal of official. Stands one week.

Wells v. Board of Education of city of Windsor—Motion to enforce award. No counsel appearing. Struck from docket.

Judge's Chambers.

Before Logie, J. Rex v. Black—E. Bayly, K. C., for enjoiner, asked adjournment for one week. Mr. G. R. Monrook for accused. G. A. Archibald for informant. Consented. Granted.

Re Odell v. Relief Association and Whitley—W. Lanier, for association, applied for order of presumption of death and payment. Mr. G. H. Sedgewick for Mrs. Whitley. Enlarged one week.

Butler v. Hamilton Lumber—H. J. McKenna for plaintiff. B. H. L. Symmes for defendant. Motion by plaintiff to amend pleadings granted. Costs in cause.

In re Andrew Howell—H. S. White, for Andrew Howell, Jr., moved for an order declaring incompetency. Mr. B. E. Symmes for Andrew Howell, Sr. Stands one week.

NOW COBALT COUNCILLOR.

Cobalt, Ont. Aug. 21.—James Hylands, secretary of the Citizens' Liberty League, was this morning elected member of the town council here to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of J. A. Lalonde, now of Montreal.

DARDANELLES REPORT STRONGLY CRITICAL

Difficulties of Landing Were Underestimated, and Several Commanders Are Censured.

Reuter Cable. London, Aug. 21.—The Times forecasts that the Dardanelles campaign's final report will find that insufficient consideration was given to ensure proper safety at the time of the original landing in 1914. The difficulties at the time were greatly underestimated and the commission strongly criticizes the attacks made by the Dardanelles committee, particularly at Suvla.

The report, unhesitatingly agrees with the decision to evacuate but states that decision was unduly delayed and expresses the opinion that the evacuation of the Gallipoli peninsula, ought to have been decisive. The commission adversely criticizes the breakdown of the water supply and the arrangements for the evacuation of the wounded.

HOME FROM SIBERIA. Special to The Toronto World. Kingston, Aug. 21.—Today Major Toole, lately returned from Siberia, took over duties of assistant director of pay services for military district No. 3.

GOODY! GOODY! It's O'Keefe's DRY GINGER ALE

YOUTHFUL faces beam with anticipation when "O'Keefe's" makes its appearance, and little mouths drink in the sparkling liquid eagerly.

The delicious flavor and delicate nip of "O'Keefe's" has an appeal which children cannot resist, as it satisfies their craving for a real refreshing thirst-quencher.

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A SAD OUTLOOK AT PRESENT

BY IDA L. WEBSTER.

A letter has just reached us which reads in part: "The working women of Toronto must be given a fair deal by the city council of Toronto. For one thing there must be a registry office in the city hall where all reputable boarding and rooming houses will be listed, and from where the ordinary female wage-earner will be able to find a home within her means."

The letter goes on to tell of the dangers of the girls in this city who are forced to find homes for themselves. There is also a suggestion that we take up the matter of the housing commission, erecting apartment houses which could be used by young women, properly chaperoned or, in the words of the letter, "in charge of a house mother."

The cause is a most worthy one, and by no means a difficult task as regards having a registry office in the city hall where rooming and boarding houses could be listed. There is not a member in the city council today who would not be glad to vote favorably to any such issue, but other than being a directory, of what advantage would it be?

Surely there are none so glib as those who imagine that a registry of such accommodations would tend to bring the prices within the reach of those seeking them?

The city of Toronto, headed by its worship the mayor could be relied upon to install a dozen registry offices if they would be of any benefit to the young women who are residing here, either from choice or circumstances, but at the present time such things would be superfluous, simply because there are more tenants than there are landlords. And as for licensed rooming houses, they are all on the scale of hotels. Private homes, they rent rooms, seldom take the trouble of getting a license, and when the persons in charge are in need of roomers or boarders they resort to the columns of the press. With a registry office they would have to do the same thing, as those who have vacancies are invariably in the outlying portions of the town and are therefore not sought by the general business woman. So that even if they were registered, it would be merely a chance if they were applied for.

As for the prices which are charged by landlords or landladies, that is not a matter for the city of Toronto, but for the government.

With regard to the dangers of the business women run in picking out promiscuous rooming houses, we do not agree with the average glowing story that they practically take their life, or perhaps it is just their virtue, in their hand every time they apply to a strange dwelling. That tale first originated in the city of Chicago, and it has been worked overtime ever since. White slave dives are as rare as truthful politicians.

Any girl or woman finding herself in such a predicament in this city can very easily get redress. The danger to her morals is not found where she lives in most cases, but where she finds her amusement.

As for the housing commission taking the case up at the present moment and erecting apartment houses especially for business women, it is not possible, for the simple reason that the commission is having its hands full trying to make room for the 5,000 families who are without any sort of dwelling. The idea is undoubtedly an excellent one, and with any sort of normal condition existing, it would be fair for such houses to be built immediately, but right now it could not be done, and so there would be not the slightest use in anyone starting such a campaign.

So far as we can see the unfortunate young women who are earning but \$15 a week are going to be forced to struggle along; however, their burden might be lifted to some extent if they would try to remember that there are not many families existing on not more, and there are also hundreds of girls living decently, and in no danger of moral abduction, on much less. The government at Ottawa could perhaps be coaxed into reducing prices, and we shall be happy to boot for a registry office, but other than that, we think that nothing could be done right now.

REGULATES HOURS AND WORKERS' WAGES

Details of Bill Introduced in British Commons to Reform Industrial Life.

48-HOUR WEEK

Bill is Being Circulated Among Employers and Trades Union Organizations.

Reuter Cable.

London, Aug. 21.—The bill regulating the hours and wages for employment of workers and the minimum rate of wages to be paid and the appointment of a commission to regulate the same, which was introduced in the house of commons on August 18, contains an order that the number of working hours shall be exclusive of the intervals provided for meals and that any working week shall not exceed 48 hours.

Power to grant exceptions is given to the home secretary or minister of labor when recommended by the joint industrial council, a conciliation board or the trade board of organizations of employers and workers. Any hours worked in excess of the statutory working week shall be regarded as overtime.

The decision regarding overtime under which it may be worked rests with the home secretary or minister of labor, and the payment for overtime shall in no case be less than 25 per cent. in excess of normal time rate. There is a penalty for a contravention of the order is a maximum fine of ten pounds sterling for each offence.

The measure does not apply to domestic and outdoor servants except those employed in connection with trade for purposes of gain, to persons holding responsible positions of supervision or management, to persons employed in a confidential capacity not usually employed in manual labor, to any master seaman or apprentice of a seagoing ship, to persons employed in the coal mines act, to any persons employed in agriculture, horticulture and forestry.

His majesty in council may in the event of war or imminent national danger suspend the operation of the provisions mentioned.

The bill authorized the appointment of a commission for the purpose of inquiring into and deciding rates of wages, having regard to the cost of living in the various districts and the adoption of such methods for bringing such rates into operation; also for inquiring into and granting extensions of the rates fixed in the case of inferior or incapable workers and other exceptional cases and making regulations with a view of introducing the necessary legislation.

Both bills are the first fruits of the national industrial conference summoned last February. The bills are to be circulated during the parliamentary recess among employers, trades union organizations, together with a scheme for the formation of a national industrial council, which it is hoped will be established in the autumn. The hours bill is regarded as amounting to a revolution in the industrial life of the country. It is the first legislative measure limiting the number of hours and fixing the minimum wages for workmen, except the miners' bill. It agrees in every detail with the recommendations of the joint industrial conference except with regard to agriculture, which the trade unionists wish to have included. The preamble of the wages bill recognizes that all persons are entitled to an adequate living wage, and that the hours bill it carries out the points of the labor charter of the Paris peace conference.

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