

CANADIAN LABOR PRESS

A National, Sane Labor Paper

True Confidence and Understanding Between Employer and Employee Absolutely Necessary to Industrial Peace.

VOL. V. \$1.00 - Per Year. National and Rational OTTAWA, ONTARIO, FRIDAY, MAY 30th, 1924. Live News and Views Single Copies 5c. No. 39

Canadian Immigration Analysed

Regarded from the standpoint of immigration the calendar year 1923 was an interesting and significant one because it seemed to signal the termination of the period of post-war depression in this regard and disclose a tendency towards resumption in volume to a condition more closely approximating pre-war years. In that year Canada received a total of 137,681 new citizens, as compared with 70,153 in the previous year, and the deductions to be drawn from the first months of 1924 are that the same rate of increase is to be maintained throughout the year.

These figures are indicative of a gratifying tendency at the present time, and the movements of 1924 may be generally expected to follow along much the same lines as 1923. In this consideration, therefore, it is interesting to analyze the movement of 1923, to ascertain the origin of the tide which may be expected to continue to benefit the Dominion in the present year, to discover where they are settling, and what phases of the Dominion's life are absorbing them.

The two main groups of Canadian immigration to which any degree of attention is given are those from the United States and the British Isles. In 1923 British immigration totalled 72,486, or roughly 52 per cent. of the total, and United States 20,232, or about 15 per cent. The immigration from England alone was approximately double that from the Republic, whilst from Scotland arrivals amounted to about 15,000, from Ireland 6,000 and Wales 700. In considering the movement within the Empire it is somewhat surprising to find that arrivals from Newfoundland totalled 5,140 in the year.

In the movement from the European continent the greatest number of newcomers were from Roumania, which added 8,665 to Canada's population. Both Finns and Italians were well over the 5,000 mark and Poles over 4,000. Russians accounted for 2,791. The Scandinavian countries added their usual quota, there being 2,818 Swedes, 1,525 Norwegians and 987 Danes. Coming in order well over the 1,000 mark were Czechoslovaks, Belgians, Germans and Swiss. Following them were Chinese 831, Dutch 745, Ukrainian 730, Jungo Slavs 626, Japanese 436, Armenian 404, Greek 293, French 290, Bulgarian 181, Syrian 155 and Hungarian 154.

An analysis of the immigration statements reveals that every section of Canada benefits to some extent by the immigration tide. Ontario leads in the list with a total of over 61,000, Manitoba following with 20,442 new citizens received. Following in order come Quebec with 18,243 and Saskatchewan with 12,147. Alberta received nearly 10,000 new immigrants and British Columbia only slightly less. Nova Scotia led the Maritimes with 5,500, followed by New Brunswick with a total exceeding 1,500 and Prince Edward Island with only 113. The Yukon Territory added only 51 to its population in the course of the year.

The Immigration Department divides immigrants into six classes according to declaration on entry of what activities they intend following in their new home. These are farming, laboring, mechanics, trading, mining and female servants. More than 49,000 persons, including women and children, declared their intention of going on the land. Following these came 21,467 mechanics and 15,946 laborers. A total of 7,818 were of the trading class and 3,571 intended engaging in mining. 12,738 female servants entered Canada in the course of the twelve months. The remainder were unclassified.

The foregoing indicates in a general way the tendency of immigration to Canada at the present time, and the movements evidenced last year may be expected to continue accentuated throughout the present year. The most pronounced departure which is anticipated is a swelling in the volume of immigration from the United States, of which there is every evidence. Since this is consistently of an almost purely agricultural content this will likewise increase the already gratifying percentage of newcomers going on the land.

R. J. Tallon Is Re-elected President

Montreal, Que.—R. J. Tallon, Toronto, was re-elected President of Division 4, Railway Employee Department of the American Federation of Labor, comprising all shop crafts in Canada at the session of the fifth biennial conference of the Division, held here recently.

Frank McKenna and Charles Dickie Montreal, were re-elected vice-president and secretary respectively. All three executives enter upon their fifth term of office, having been re-elected at each biennial convention since the inception of the Division.

Communist Leader Visits Toronto

Has Had Varied Career

Toronto, Ont.—Attending the third national convention of the Workers' Party of Canada, as a delegate from the United States, Charles E. Ruthenburg, is in Toronto.

His experience at least has been varied and unique. Taylor he was the mayor of Cleveland, Ohio, and was defeated, and later he tried unsuccessfully to become Governor of Michigan. Previous to these high points of ambition, he had been longshoreman, sand-papper, official in a publishing house and what not. For some years past he has devoted his energies to the advancement of the Communist cause in America.

"I am in Canada," he said to a reporter, "to assist in the fight against American capital which holds a dominant position in this country and always attempts Government control." At one time Ruthenburg had indictments amounting to 80 years against him and he served short terms in Sing Sing and Atlanta penitentiary. Ruthenburg visited police headquarters, where he was informed that he is a ticket-of-leave man at present,

and not on parole, as he had thought. James B. McLachlan, of Nova Scotia on parole on a charge of sedition from Dorchester Penitentiary, and who also attended the convention, also went to the Detective Department to acquaint the department of his whereabouts, as is required by law.

Rail Union Asks Permanent Work

Division Four of Labor Organization Opposes Suspension

London, Ont.—Temporary suspension of work in the London C.N.R. shops and all other car departments of the Canadian National Railways is directly opposed by Division No. 4 of the American Federation of Labor, which includes all railway shop trades of the Dominion, according to Joseph Corbett, a member of the committee, who returned to London from Montreal.

An assurance of a regular 44-hour week the year round will be asked by the shopmen's representatives and it is expected that this will be granted by Sir Henry Thornton, president of the C.N.R., and other executive members.

At the same time the 700 shopmen employed at the Campbell street works are employed 44 hours a week, but during slack seasons the number of hours has been cut on several occasions.

Members of the local shopmen's union, as well as those of other railway unions in all parts of the country, have asked the union officials to take some steps of having the "short weeks" abolished.

The matter is now in the hands of the executive of Division No. 4 of the American Federation of Labor and it is expected that a conference will be held between the heads of the railroad and the men's representatives, when an agreement will be reached assuring the shopmen of regular employment.

Compensation Act Still Under Fire

Effort to Reduce Scale Falls—Maximum Wage for Computation May Be Cut

Edmonton, Alta.—Except for putting the Lethbridge charter amendments through third reading without an argument, the Legislature spent a half day working in leisurely fashion on amendments to the Workmen's Compensation Act.

W. M. Davidson, Independent, Calgary, succeeded in an effort to strike out the limitation of \$90 per month maximum to be paid a widow with more than four children.

His motion to strike out was carried by the following vote:

To eliminate \$90 per month maximum—Messrs. Hefferman, McLennan, Bowen, General Stewart, White, Christophers, G. N. Johnston, Boyle, Cross, Davidson, Claypool, Cook, Enzenauer, Washburn, Andrews, St. Arnaud, Backley, Shield, Galbraith and Cameron: 20.

To retain \$90 per month maximum—Messrs. Brownlee, Ross, Baker, Love, Forster, Milnes, N. Smith, Moore, Brown, Joly, Fedun, Proudfoot, Sanders, W. C. Smith, Peterson, Stringam, Marshall, Dechene: 18.

Payments to Widows

As the amendments to the Workmen's Compensation bill now stands, widows are to receive \$35 a month, as at present, but for the first child \$12 a month is to be paid, \$10 for the second, \$9 for the third, and \$8 per month for each additional child, with no limit on the total monthly payments.

The House discussed at great length a proposal by J. C. Buckley, Farmer, Gleichen, that where beneficiaries under the act remove to some foreign country, the payments be discontinued. The proposal was voted down on representation of Labor members, that the board already has authority to exercise such discretion if it chooses.

Joseph Dechene, Liberal, Beaver River, however, precipitated the hot-temper of the morning by a motion to strike entirely out the proposed increase in disability payments from 55 per cent. of wages earned, as at present, to 62½ per cent., which would leave the percentage at 55.

R. C. Marshall, Liberal, Calgary, strongly supported the proposal to keep the present maximum at 55 per cent. The chief point he made was that regardless of all the clever arguments that had been advanced, that these increase did not mean much of a monetary burden on industry no one could get away from the cold fact that the increase to 62½ per cent. over the present 55 per cent. was an increase of 13.63 per cent. Fred White, Labor, Calgary, though Mr. Marshall must be wrong.

"I am not wrong, those are the figures," the increase is 13.63 per cent," declared the member from Calgary.

Motion Is Lost

After considerable cross firing however, Mr. Dechene's motion to strike out the increase to 62½ per cent. was lost on an "aye" and "nay" vote. Mr. Marshall also moved to strike out the proposed increase of \$40 in the maximum limit of \$1140 payments to any injured person, retaining the limit at \$1100. The motion was lost.

A Queer Mix-up

Then D. H. Galbraith, Farmer, Nanton, moved to reduce the maximum limit of \$2,000 per year on the average weekly earning computation to \$1,500. When put to an "aye" and "nay" vote, the ayes largely exceeded the nays.

Hon. Mr. Ross held a whispered consultation with Mr. Galbraith, and the latter member said he would withdraw his amendment.

Mr. Ross then adjourned the House.

Plasterers Get Increase of 50c a Day

Vancouver, B.C.—As a result of negotiations which have been in progress for some time between the Plastering Contractors' Association and the local union of plasterers, the former body granted an increase of 50 cents a day on the present wage scale.

This will not become effective, however, until July 1st in order that existing contracts now under way and made under the present scale, can be completed. Union plasterers at present get \$3.00 per day, but the new scale, which comes into effect on July 1st, will call for \$3.50 per day.

Canada's Woollen Industry is Seriously Threatened

Ruinous Competition of Foreign Woollens Under Decreased Customs Tariff and Depreciated Exchange Rates Has Caused Serious Situation

By E. Stanley Bates

(Continued from last issue.)

Woollens made in Canada on the woollen process of manufacture are largely the medium priced, staple lines of tweeds, overcoatings, home-spuns, etc., coarse hosiery and underwear, and medium-grade knitted outerwear. Most of the worsted yarn spun here is used for sweaters, hosiery and hand-knitting. Much of the finer quality worsted yarn used here is imported.

The development of the woollen manufacturing industry in America has not followed British practice in the divisions of the industry. In the Old Country the different operations of wool preparation, spinning, weaving or knitting, dyeing and finishing are carried on in separate and distinct plants, whereas over here all the operations are usually carried on in the one establishment. The British method is the development of the factory system from the handicraft industry, and it has afforded great concentration of production. The spinning and dyeing branches of the industry over here have developed along somewhat similar lines, but in the manufacture of woollens and heavy knitted goods here it is usual to find all operations, from the raw material to the finished product, carried on in the one plant. In Canada, with a comparatively small population and very little opportunity for export, concentration of production has been impossible, that is to the same extent as in England. Development of the industry, however, has been in the manufacture of the more staple woollens in largest demand, mostly pure woollen products of medium quality, leaving the very low-grade and very high-grade demand for import. Of course the industry encroaches into both these fields to some extent, but the encouragement of the industry in the manufacture of the staple medium-grade woollens has been generally accepted as the proper course to follow. It is in this field that the present disastrous competition is creating an impossible situation for our woollen industry.

The wool raising industry in Canada is closely interested. Canada is a comparatively small producer of wool. But the types of sheep developed successfully in Canada produce wools of superior quality. Investigations conducted some years ago by officials of the Live Stock Branch of the Department of Agriculture under the Liberal administration have proven that sheep raising in Canada is capable of immense development. But the wools now being produced are mostly combed wools, or in other words, types best suited for worsted manufacture. About sixty per cent. of the wool produced is of this type. But little or no combing is done in Canada. There are a number of small plants being operated but manufacturers have not found it a profitable enterprise, practically no protection being afforded, tops, the trade name for the product of the worsted-combing mills being on the "free" list. The result is that the major portion of the raw wool used here is manufactured on the woollen process. Wools used for combed purposes generally bring higher prices than "clothing" wools. The result is that Canadian wool prices are generally on the basis of the combed wools.

Not reaching the most advantageous market, Co-operative marketing has improved matters somewhat in recent years for our wool raisers, but until the worsted combing and spinning industry is developed and the woollen manufacturing industry receives more encouragement in the way of a protective tariff, the wool raising industry will remain an unprofitable undertaking. United States realized this many years ago and developed a worsted combing and manufacturing industry by placing duties on importations of wools and tops and compensating duties of manufactured products. In the meantime, Canadian producers of wools are the direct losers. Our woollen mills receive no benefit from their loss. It is a definite loss to the country.

It is strange that this phase of the situation does not receive greater attention from those interested in the development of agriculture. We are importing millions of dollars worth of wool, woollens, mutton and hides into this country annually that should be profitably produced here, yet the close relationship between sheep raising and woollen manufacturing in Canada receives scant attention. The recognition of this relationship and the encouragement of these two branches of industry would assist materially in the economic development of agriculture and industry.

Two Basic Considerations

There are two basic conditions in connection with the manufacture of woollens in Canada that are of the utmost importance in any discussion of the industry. These are the average wages paid by Canadian mills, and the fact that the United Kingdom is our chief competitor.

Wages paid in industry in Canada are from 50 to 100 per cent. higher than in England. European countries fare even worse in comparison. Our wages are only slightly lower than those paid to industrial workers in the United States. The average of wages paid in the woollen mills in this country are from 80 to 100 per cent. higher than in England. Wages make up about 25 per cent. of the mill's selling price of woollens. That is, on a comparison between mill prices of British and Canadian woollens the British manufacturer has an actual advantage over the Canadian manufacturer of 12½ per cent. on the cost of production. When wages generally are considered on materials and supplies used by the two, the advantage is close to 15 per cent. But no one over here considers that Canadian labor is too highly paid, and certainly not too highly paid. Yet from a straight economic viewpoint, the only means of maintaining this higher standard is by protecting Canadian labor against the competition of the lower-paid labor in Great Britain and the Continental countries. The higher average standard of living here must be maintained. It certainly cannot be much longer if the products of these countries are to be allowed to be dumped into this country as has been the case during the past year or more.

The total value of textile materials imported into Canada last year, including woollens, cottons, silks and linens, amounted to \$112,440,724, or \$14.40 worth for every man, woman and child in Canada. Of this quantity the United Kingdom supplied goods to the value of \$65,090,555. The importations of woollens and knitted goods were valued at \$41,497,295, of which the United Kingdom supplied \$37,098,400. Importations of cottons amounted to \$40,023,551, of which Britain supplied \$19,856,913; silk goods to \$19,942,795, of which Britain supplied \$2,816,720; of flax, hemp, etc., to \$10,686,464, of which Britain supplied \$5,987,124, and of other fibres to \$1,194,619, of which Britain supplied \$231,398.

According to figures compiled from the Bradford (Eng.) Chamber of Commerce Journal, a greater yardage of woollen and worsted cloth was exported to Canada from England during the first ten months of 1923 than to any other country. The figures are: Canada, \$24,147,800 sq. yards; Japan, 25,832,500 sq. yards; China, 16,556,200; Australia, 15,259,900 sq. yards; United States, 14,702,200 sq. yards; Argentina, 12,856,800 sq. yards and so on. Canada was Great Britain's most important customer in woollen and worsted cloth last year.

British industry has been tremendously successful. The woollen industry has shared in that success. They have great reserves of capital to carry them along during such world-wide economic crises as the present. Many of their great foreign markets are temporarily closed. The result is that such markets as Canada, which remain open to them, have to be used to the limit. It is well known that during the past year, many great British woollen manufacturing concerns have operated to capacity sometimes at a direct loss by dumping their goods into foreign markets. Canadian tariff legislation during the last two years has assisted them, and the non-enforcement of the dumping clause in our customs tariff has permitted the dumping of millions of dollars' worth of woollens into this country. This, combined with the depreciated value of the pound sterling, has greatly reduced the small measure of protection formerly in favor of domestic manufacturers. Continental goods also find their way into Canada under the British preferential. Goods partially

made in France, Germany, Belgium and elsewhere in Europe, and finished in Great Britain, are permitted entry into Canada as British goods, with little restriction. This has worked havoc with the Canadian market.

Under these conditions, the ruinous competition of British-made goods on the Canadian market has resulted in great losses to Canadian industry. Reductions in tariff on British goods and the depreciation of British and foreign exchange have reduced the protection afforded by our customs tariff to practically a negligible quantity.

(Continued on page 3)

Woman Orator Asks for Fee of \$100 a Day

Radical Speaker's Terms Prove Cold Knockout for Toronto Labor Organizations

Toronto, Ont.—Because she asked for \$100 and her transportation and travelling expenses for the day, Kate O'Hare, a speaker, who has been a figure in the radical movement of the United States, was not heard here during May-Day celebrations of the Socialist and Labor organizations. Her place was taken by William Irvine, M.P.

In search of a prominent speaker for the celebrations, the May-Day committee canvassed the movement in the United States, and asked the lady if she would take part in events as the principal speaker, and was surprised, to say the least, to learn that her fee for "advancing the cause" was \$100.

"The lady is not a member of the Communist Party or a Socialist organization. She is a Liberal," deduced a member of the committee. "We have found the Labor members of the Federal house very considerate and willing to give their services for travelling expenses. To have brought her to Toronto would have cost us a considerable sum."

One young woman who is a member of the May-Day committee said: "Maybe the lady one day would have a working class point of view, and would give her services to the workers."

Sheet Metal Men Want Wage Increase

Toronto sheet metal workers are seeking an increase of their wage scale from 35 cents to \$1.00 per hour. They also want the employers to consent to the closed shop, which means that none but members of the union would be permitted to work in the sheet metal trades. The employers have refused to consider the propositions submitted and have advised the men to moderate their demands.

Under these conditions, the ruinous competition of British-made goods on the Canadian market has resulted in great losses to Canadian industry. Reductions in tariff on British goods and the depreciation of British and foreign exchange have reduced the protection afforded by our customs tariff to practically a negligible quantity.

(Continued on page 3)

YOU ARE NEXT!

50,000 New Subscribers wanted by January 1st, 1925, to read Canada's National Labor Paper. Every man, woman, and child in Canada should read the "Canadian Labor Press" which stands for Canadian progress.

The "Canadian Labor Press" has seven years' experience as Canada's first and only national Labor paper, and we are now able to produce a Labor paper of high educational value.

Our representatives cover Canada from coast to coast and will be in your town very shortly. Watch for him and have your friends join the "Brigade of Boosters" of the "Canadian Labor Press."

SPECIAL SUBSCRIPTION PRICE, \$1.00 PER YEAR

Send in the Coupon Below for Your Renewal Before You Forget

Date

Kindly send me the "Canadian Labor Press" for one year from date (new or renewal) at a total cost of one dollar.

Name

Address

City