

VALUE OF BUREAU OF LABOR TO CANADA

Government Contracts There
Given with Provision That
Fair Wages Are Paid.

SCHEDULES TO SHOW
GENERAL LIVING COST

Labor Statisticians in Second
Days' Session of the 22d
Annual Convention.

The Association of Officials of Bureaus of Labor Statistics of America continued its 22d annual session in the Senate chamber yesterday. The morning session was largely devoted to an exposition by W. L. Mackenzie King, deputy minister of labor of the Dominion of Canada of the fair wages movement and the methods in force for the settlement of labor troubles in the Dominion.

Mr. King said that in Canada all government contracts contained a provision that the wages paid should be fair and reasonable, and that the department of labor has compiled an elaborate schedule of rates which in its opinion are fair. When a contract is given out, it is with the understanding that the wages recommended by the labor bureau shall be the minimum. The contractor is thus enabled to tell what his labor will cost him and he cannot be underbid by another contractor who depends for his profit upon paying his men wages below the generally recognized standard.

A compulsory investigation law is also in force, under which the bureau of labor can collect evidence under oath and then make a report to the government which is later given to the press. Public discussion is thus brought to bear against the party at fault.

Director S. N. D. North of the United States census said that it seemed to him that these two acts in conjunction were equivalent to having the government fix the scale of wages, but Robert C. Blair, chief of the bureau of industrial statistics of Pennsylvania, said that no attempt was made to fix wages but only to make the parties agree upon a fair rate. Charles J. Fox, chief of the bureau of industrial statistics of Maryland, said that the same principle has already been applied in this country, where municipal contracts usually contain a fair wage clause.

Director North spoke briefly of the work which is being done under his direction. He said that from 1900 to 1905 the growth of manufactures had been greater than during any previous 10 years.

In the afternoon President Charles P. Neill recommended that the different bureaus of statistics throughout the country come into closer touch and recommended that common schedules be arranged to show the cost of living and other pertinent matters which would be of great assistance to the national bureau.

Director North declared that the association should be the clearing house for all the bureaus of labor statistics in the country and other commissioners applauded this view.

Reports were read by Commissioners Samuel W. Matthews of Maine, William H. Seville of Connecticut, George H. Stubbs of Indiana and L. H. Carroll of New Hampshire.

During the morning a number of the ladies went on a tour of the shopping district and later went sightseeing. Librarian Horace G. Wadlin entertained a number at the Public Library in the afternoon and others visited the art museum and the natural history rooms. In the afternoon the commissioners and their guests took a carriage drive through Brookline and around Chestnut Hill reservoir.