

DEBATE LIMITED TO SPEED WORK OF CONFERENCE

With Four Days Gone There
Are Still Four Matters
on Agenda Un-
touched

LABOR FAVORS JOINT COUNCILS

Moore Says Condition is That
Labor Unions Are Fully
Recognized — Conference
Unanimous on Need of Uni-
fication of Labor Legisla-
tion in Canada.

Ottawa, Sept. 18.—After four days of debate, during which the opinions of labor and the employers on most subjects have been well aired, the work of the national industrial conference is to be speeded up by reducing the hours of debate on each subject. This was decided upon this evening when it was realized that with four days gone, there were yet four items on the agenda untouched.

Those four questions have been handed to the committees appointed without any preliminary debate, and when the report of the committees are heard there will be an allowance of forty minutes for each side of the house on each subject. The conference today was unanimous in agreeing on the need of the unification of labor laws as between the federal government and the provinces. The first report of the convention was received with hearty applause. Matters which have been debated and on which reports are to be made, probably tomorrow are: hours of labor; minimum wage laws; employees right to organize; recognition of unions and collective bargaining; the establishment of a bureau to promote the establishment of industrial councils and the further recommendations of the royal commission on joint plan and industrial councils.

The subjects handed direct to the committees are:
The putting into effect of the findings of the royal commission in all work controlled by the government; consideration of other features of the royal commission's report; labor features of the peace treaty and consideration of any other proposals which may be introduced bearing on the relations of employers and employees.

The subject of joint councils in plants and industries and the establishment of a bureau to promote and establish these councils, gave rise to an interesting debate this afternoon. For the employers it was pointed out that while certain plans were giving satisfaction they were organized to meet local conditions, and none felt very confident that the Whitley or any other specified plan would prove the panacea for all labor's ills.

They were dubious as to whether a bureau would prove a success except insofar as it might collect data that workings of the various plans and have those facts whipped into shape for either manufacturers or workmen when they expressed a desire to go into the matter. Labor favors joint councils if at the same time there was full and free recognition of labor unions and their principles. If that recognition was not given in that way, there would have to be "so when it had a hundred per cent membership it could make the plan we want." We do not threaten said Tom Moore, but he added, "Rights were costly things," and if labor could secure fair treatment without being forced to fight for it, then it would be so much better for Canadian industry in general.

There is much work ahead of the convention yet, and even with the limited debate there is every prospect that it will be well into Saturday before the business now in sight is concluded.

The first committee report of the conference, presented at 11:15, was unanimous and was unanimously adopted by the convention. The report, that of committee, on the need for unification of the labor laws of the federal and provincial governments was signed by John R. Shaw, Woodstock; A. Munro Grier, Toronto, and R. Thomson, Carleton Place, for the employers; Joe Gorman, James Somerville and James Winning, for labor; John Lowe, Valleyfield, and Fraser S. Keith, were the third group representatives. The report says:

That the advantages of uniformity in the laws relating to the welfare of those engaged in industrial work in the several provinces of the Dominion of Canada, be brought to the attention of the government of Canada and of the several provinces respectively.
And that this national industrial conference suggested the following as a means towards the end desired, namely, the appointment of a board composed as follows:

1. As respects the dominion.
A.—A representative of the government.
B.—A representative of the employers.
C.—A representative of the employees.
2. As respects each of the provinces.
A.—A representative of the government.
B.—A representative of the employers.
C.—A representative of the employees.

And that the dominion government be requested to ask the government of each

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of the provinces to select or have selected representatives in respect of the provisions above set forth.

Sir John Willson, speaking for the third group, said he found it impossible to challenge the labor principles. "Had he been a printer instead of a journalist, he would have belonged to the Typographical Union. It had made and observed contracts splendidly. There were some practices in the printing trade which could well be abolished but he had found in the Typographical unions the proper spirit."

Speaking, not as a member of any group, Sir John said he had found employers ready to do all they could for labor and to relieve any industrial stringency. The average employer has besides those of profits Old employees were carried by the many firms long after they had lost their working efficiency. If the same spirit was carried through the years to come there was bound to be progress. The conference would serve a good purpose in seeing the views of all parties.

Urges Co-operation.
The qualifications for membership in labor organizations were equally as high as those for membership in the community. Criticism of the royal commission and its work was natural for many suggestions in its report did not meet with the established view of some employers. Radical changes are suggested and radical changes are needed, said Mr. Best, but he felt the members of that commission should be given credit for having given the very best that was in them. They had been honest in their attempt to improve conditions.

The rights of the community were many, but those in the employ of the governments and public service corporations should have the same rights as those employed by private employers and corporations. Mr. Best thought the civil service should have some sort of appeal to arbitration with parliament as the final authority. If the employers would make a step toward the employees, they would find labor ready to reciprocate and go forward step by step for the benefit of Canada.

Frank P. Jones, Montreal, thought perhaps a little plainer speaking might bring a better understanding. If so he was in favor of plain speaking. The owners, employees and the public must be regarded and their interests consulted by the manager of any corporation. Before being employed, a laborer every man present in the spirit of Canadianism demands freedom.

"Call a spud a spud," said Mr. Jones. "Does recognition of unions mean a closed shop? If so he thought it was a dangerous blow to Canadian freedom. A man had a right to work regardless of belief or creed or whether or not he was a union man. He wanted a definition from labor on the question."

Tom Moore, for labor, said recognition of the unions did not mean a closed shop unless it was specified in the agreement.

J. S. McKinnon, Toronto, dealt with international federation of workers and said for equality the employers would have to organize in the same manner and the headquarters of the employers would have to be in New York or Chicago.

He spoke of the possibility of Canadian ministers having to go to New York or elsewhere to settle matters of international business.

Mr. McKinnon wanted to discuss the representation at the conference but was held to the matter under discussion by a ringing of the chair.

Tom Moore, accepted the motion that the matter go to the committee. There would be nothing but talk he said, unless the matter reached the committee and a vote was taken on the resolution.

Mr. Shaw said Mr. Moore had only anticipated him by a moment. The question went to the committee at 3:15.

BUILDING HOUSES AT \$3,000 UNDER NEW CITY PLANS

That applications are coming in briskly under the housing scheme was the information given out yesterday afternoon by Commissioner Bullock, chairman of the St. John housing board. One applicant, a returned soldier, called on the commissioner yesterday and was immediately turned over to the architect to see if he could get a desirable house built under the act with the result that plans are now under way for an erection on the bungalow style on one of the proposed sites. The house will cost between \$2,500 and \$3,500 and will be differently constructed probably from any in the city inasmuch as the kitchen is in the front of the house instead of in the rear as in most cases. The pantry is directly in the front of the dwelling and behind this lies the kitchen. On the left of the front piazza is the living room and dining room, with one bedroom leading from the dining room and the other bedroom leading from a hall which runs from the kitchen. For a person who wants to build a house within the amount of \$2,500 to \$3,500 this is a most desirable one.

Commissioner Bullock, asked yesterday how many sites had in mind, stated that there would be accommodations for twelve families on the proposed lots in Carleton. The Alexandra Height proposition had been under consideration and if acquired accommodations for at least thirty families more were available here. The commissioner also added that he was looking over several lots at the lower end of St. James street on which could be built several houses. Altogether the commissioner intimated that, should everything go right, he would be making for about fifty families which would tend to alleviate the present congestion in the matter of housing.

According to the commissioner, had several applications from returned soldiers who are paying rent at from \$80 to \$65 a month. The housing act offers a better proposition than this, Mr. Bullock, for if a house can be erected under the prescribed regulations a month's instalment in payment including rent is less than half that amount.

Charles Archibald, the architect employed by the housing commission, has said that plans and specifications were being mostly prepared for detached houses costing between \$3,000 and \$3,500 and semi-detached houses at from \$6,000 to \$7,000.

Commissioner Bullock, when asked what kind of a house could be built for \$3,000, said it would be a detached house consisting of six rooms with a bath and would be constructed along with modern and convenient lines.

It is understood that the architect will have the plans and specifications completed next week when the call for tenders will be made.

Y. W. P. A. PLANS FOR A BUSY WINTER

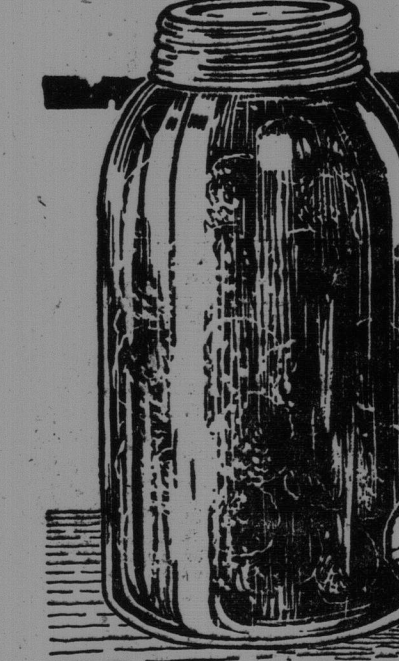
The Young Women's Patriotic Association meeting last evening proved most decidedly that the organization is composed of enthusiastic members. Membership fees were received for the first time since the association was formed and there was an unusually large attendance, everyone being eager to receive a membership card. Miss A. Brock, the president, was in the chair and the business dealt with chiefly referred to the winter and fall activities, which promise to be as ambitious and successful as in the past.

The new membership cards were greatly admired. On the front they have the association motto, "Not for myself, but for the King," and the member's name and number, and on the reverse side they have the association's aims: To stimulate patriotic sentiment among the young women of St. John (N. B.); to assist all soldiers and sailors and to endeavor to have more respect shown our national anthem.

The treasurer, Miss Short, reported \$1,254.60 balance on hand. Three letters of thanks were read as follows: From Major E. B. Hooper acknowledging \$25 sent to his fund for wounded soldiers; from St. John Protestant Orphanage acknowledging a box of biscuits which had been sent from the Soldiers' Day canteen; and from Miss Helen Church, expressing pleasure in the gift of a card case, from her fellow members.

Miss Brock reported that there had been some delay in getting work done on the Kitchenerette for the G. W. V. A. building, but that the delay was unavoidable and the work would soon be started.

Miss MacNeil told of the visiting in the East St. John Hospital each Sunday and said there were at present twenty-four soldiers there. It was voted that



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Added to bread and rolls, it gives that delicate sweetening that good cooks appreciate.

Let the young folks use it for candy—for taffy, fudge and divinity.

a box of apples should be sent to them. The winter's work in the Seamen's Mission was, under discussion. On the motion of Miss Upham seconded by Miss Irvin, it was decided that the Y. W. P. A. would provide a concert for the sailors each Saturday evening. It was also said that the Y. W. P. A. would probably open the canteen about the middle of November.

Plans were completed for the rummage sale which the association will hold early next month. Those appointed to the general committee for sale were Miss Baird, Miss Sandall, Miss MacNeil, Miss McIlhedge and Miss Sherwood.

Miss Boyer told of the grateful letter which had been received from a woman whose son the Y. W. P. A. had assisted. Members were asked to hand in any information regarding rooms for girls in the city, the information to be used in compiling a rooming directory to be kept at the Y. W. C. A.

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A letter was received today by each one of the loom fixers from General Manager Dawson, stating that their demands would be met, which means that they will now receive fifty cents an hour

and a fifty-hour week and it is also possible that all the mills of the Canada Cotton Mills Limited will be put on a profit-sharing basis.

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LOOM FIXERS AT ST. STEPHEN WIN DEMANDS

St. Stephen, N.B., Sept. 18.—The loom fixers' strike is at an end and the St. Croix cotton mill, at Milltown, which has been closed down for a week as a result of the strike, will resume work on Monday next.

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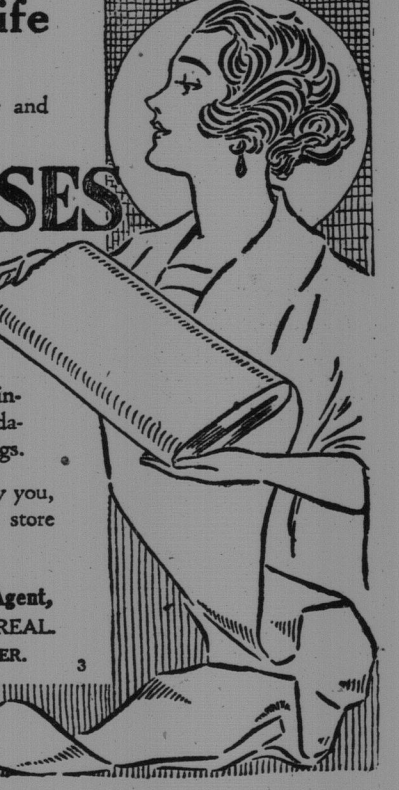
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SEVEN CENT CAR FARE
St. Stephen, Sept. 18.—George Dickson City, Hampton; A. B. Cornell, K.C. Woodstock; Flexi Michaud, Restigouche, and M. P. Robinson, Fredericton, of the New Brunswick Public Utilities Commission, in joint meeting with the Public Utilities Commission of Maine, which was held here today, granted the Street Railway Company of St. Stephen and Calais permission to use the seven-cent fare and the right to issue books of eight tickets for fifty cents. This new fare will take effect on Monday next, Sept. 22.

At a meeting of the members of the Civic Employees' Union, last evening, matters in connection with their demand for increased wages were discussed but no announcement was made for publication.