

May Day Passes Without Serious Trouble in the Dominion

UNEMPLOYMENT DURING THE MONTH OF MARCH

At the beginning of March the percentage of unemployment among the members of trade unions stood at 10.6 as compared with 13.9 at the beginning of February and with 16.1 at the beginning of March, 1921, says the Labour Gazette. Considerable short time was again indicated by many of the unions making returns. According to reports received from over 6,000 employers, employment declined during March as compared with the preceding month, partly on account of seasonal contractions, supplemented by temporary shutdowns. The situation continued to compare unfavorably with that indicated by the employers making returns for the corresponding months of last year.

The average cost of the weekly family budget of 29 staple foods in some 60 cities was down to \$10.54 at the beginning of March as compared with \$10.61 for February; \$13.23 for March last year; \$15.98 for March, 1920; and \$7.68 for March, 1914. In-

cluding the cost of fuel and rent with that of food the figures averaged \$20.86 at the beginning of March as compared with \$21.07 for February; \$23.57 for March last year; \$25.01 for March, 1920; and \$14.39 for March, 1914. In wholesale prices the index number fell to 225.6 for March as compared with 229.5 for February; 263.1 for March last year; 349.0 for March, 1920; and 137.0 for March, 1914.

The time loss due to industrial disputes during March was less than during February but greater than during March, 1921. There were in existence during the month 19 strikes, involving about 2,309 workpeople with an estimated time loss of 58,943 working days. Only one of these strikes was reported as having commenced during March. Two of the strikes commencing prior to March terminated during the month, leaving 17 strikes involving about 2,159 workpeople on record at the end of the month.

D'ARCY SCOTT IS HEAD NEW BOARD

The full board has now been appointed under the Lemieux Act to conduct the investigation into the dispute between the coal companies included in the British Empire Steel Corporation and their employees, and it is expected that a meeting of the board will be held some time during the present week.

The appointment of the chairman, D'Arcy Scott, of this city, is announced by the department of labour. Mr. Scott was formerly deputy chief commissioner of the board of railway commissioners for Canada. The other members of the board are John E. Moore, lumberman, St. John, N.B., representing the companies, and Isaac E. MacDougall, of Inverness, N.S., representing the employees. Mr. Scott was appointed chairman by the minister of labour, owing to the inability of the representatives of the companies and the employees to agree upon a nomination.

The appointment of this board grows out of the demand by a deputation of Nova Scotia municipalities asking for the appointment of a royal commission to hold an investigation. The matter was the subject of discussion in the house of commons, and the government decided to re-constitute the Gillen board which held an inquiry last January. However, it was found that the law did not contemplate the reconstitution of a board for the purpose of re-hearing a dispute, and consequently a new board was appointed by the minister of labour. The coal mines included in the inquiry are those owned by the Dominion Coal Company, the Nova Scotia Steel and Coal Company and the Acadia Coal Company. All three companies are controlled by the British Empire Steel Company.

EAST AND WEST ALIKE REPORT ALL TRADES ARE IN AGREEMENT

SOME SLIGHT DEMONSTRATIONS WITNESSED AT CERTAIN POINTS

Reports received by wire from various points in Canada show as a whole that May Day passed without labour trouble of any consequence. In Ottawa all the trades were at work and although settlements in certain trades are yet to be made, the month has been started without any dislocation.

While the master plumbers and their employees, also the electricians are not in agreement, negotiations are still being carried on and it is stated by officials of the unions, also, the contractors that there is not much danger of a walk-out.

Reports from other points follow—

From Montreal.

Montreal—Apart from the capture of a red flag by the police at the corner of St. Denis and Ontario streets this afternoon, the May Day demonstration here followed conventional Socialist lines and was not attended by any unusual incidents. About 2,000 took part in the procession, which was headed by a band. Placards were carried bearing the usual inscriptions, many of them being in Russian. The parade marched to the Champ de Mars in front of the city hall, where speeches were made in French, English, Russian and Ukrainian. With the exception of a small body of men who were plainly of the unemployed class, the majority of the marchers were well dressed and looked prosperous.

Quiet in Kitchener.

Kitchener, Ont.—Everything was quiet in industrial circles in Kitchener and Waterloo today. No strikes or shutouts of any kind were reported. While there have been reductions in wages in a few factories, the adjustments were made amicably between the employers and employees.

New Building in London.

London, Ont.—Not a sign of labor trouble marked May Day in London. Building for the first three months of the year has broken all previous records and every one in the trades is busy.

Disperse Hamilton Crowd.

Hamilton, Ont.—Shortly after 2.30 on May 1, a number of unemployed, headed by women carrying red flags, paraded at the corner of King and James streets. The sight of the flags was a signal for the police in the center of the city to move and they went into the crowd. Men attempted to fight them but the drawn clubs of the police were used such effect that a number of men were clubbed and four men and a woman were arrested. The red flags had on them Bolshevik devices.

After the crowd had been dispersed from the streets the men went to the market where the police were denounced.

No Strike in Toronto.

Toronto.—May Day was ushered into history in local labor circles without any disturbance. The only real strike is that of the printers, who are today celebrating their May Day feast of one year ago when they went out on strike.

Quiet in the West.

Winnipeg.—With the single exception of the coal mining districts of Alberta and British Columbia, where several thousand men are on strike while a conciliation board investigates differences between them and the operators, this May Day found Western Canada comparatively free from industrial troubles. Parades were held Monday in a few points, but no disorders were reported. Many labor units are engaged in negotiations with their employers at the present time.

Plumbers, carpenters and steamfitters are on strike in Edmonton and in Calgary, the union bakers and bricklayers have quit work. More than a thousand Lethbridge miners are idle as a result of the coal strike. Regina building trades employees are holding out against a new scale which would be about 15 per cent. lower than the wages paid in 1921, but negotiations are proceeding.

One Arrest in Toronto.

Toronto.—The only noteworthy incident of the May Day celebration in Toronto was the arrest of Trevor Maguire, business manager of "The Worker," charged with having used sedition language at a meeting of radicals in Queen's Park, when Maguire, the police say, referred to the British Empire as the British Vampire. Others who addressed the Queen's Park meeting were Mrs. Hector Prenter, J. R. Woodsworth, M.P., for Center Winnipeg, and James Simpson. Only a few hundred people attended and the meeting was orderly.

The radicals at a meeting in the labor temple passed a resolution denouncing the action of the police in arresting Maguire, who is described as a returned soldier.

TYPOS TO MEET IN ATLANTIC CITY

Atlantic City, N.J.—The big guns of publicity are booming in an effort to make the Sixty-Seventh Annual Convention of The International Typographical Union of North America the greatest, in the annals of the I. T. U.

Lewis M. Herrmann, Convention Chairman, has completed his program, and every phase of the convention problem has been threshed out to the minutest detail.

The Ambassador Hotel, unrivalled and recognized as one of the resort's finest, has been selected as Convention Headquarters. Because of its location, jutting into Father Neptune's domain, the Ambassador is bound to be long remembered by the Union printer.

Here one never tires of the ceaseless pleasures that round out the day's activities. Beginning with the morning dip in Old Ocean, and carrying on well into the night with a rolling chair ride along the eight miles of Boardwalk one must needs crowd the social calendar to the full.

The bathing in September is the best of the year. Beginning with July and August, the temperature slowly climbs until in September it attains its season record of 76 degrees, and with the combers at their best, the tonic effect of surf bathing is unequalled.

Because it is Atlantic City, the Convention Committee could safely rest on their oars on the entertainment program, for it is may correctly be said that there is more pleasure corralled and synecopated for use in the Playground of the World than in any other resort on the face of the globe.

CLYNES ANNOUNCES POLICY OF ENGLISH LABOR PARTY

London.—In further enunciation of the Labor party's future programme, J. R. Clynes, Labor leader in the house, declares that the party possesses a definite foreign policy.

"An alliance with all," is labor's motto, he says. Mr. Clynes declares for gradual reduction of armaments. "Our dominions, for the purpose of all affairs of internal government, are established nations and labor, for the more wholesome purposes of Empire progress, would bring them into the closest relation and sustain their contentment by increasing their right to co-operate with Great Britain in matters of mutual interest," adds the statement. "This will be done not by occasional conferences with the government, but by bringing dominion statesmen into closer touch with responsible parties acting for other shades of British opinion."

Mr. Clynes in this connection regrets that the earnest appeals of the late Keir Hardie regarding Indian self-government were not listened to.

Condemns the Lords.

Touching the house of lords, Mr. Clynes condemns the hereditary system but does not favor a one chamber government.

The Daily Telegraph describes Mr. Clynes' recent utterances as a campaign of spoliation and contrasts them with the plea by Arthur Henderson "almost as influential a leader of labor," for a parliament of industry.

These policies declares the Telegraph are mutually destructive and urges Mr. Clynes to note how the loan last week for New Zealand was subscribed thirteen times over and how this proves there is an immense amount of money available to broaden the basis of home industry. Confidence, though, is being steadily undermined, says the Telegraph by the shadow of the Labor party's declarations against personal thrift lying across British industry today.

PAY OF LABORERS IS NOT REDUCED

Ottawa City Council went on record in favor of continuing to pay civic laborers fifty cents an hour. The matter came up in view of the fact that the pay of builders' laborers, following the unanimous report of the board of conciliation, has been reduced from fifty to forty-five cents per hour.

Ald. Brewer and McCaffrey, who made the motion, emphasized the fact that laborers did not get steady work and that they could not make ends meet on less. They also said by paying fifty cents the city would be able to pick the best men.

"I stand for a decent living wage," said Ald. Broadfoot, who said he did not believe the people wanted city laborers to work for less than they could live on decently any more than they wanted the aldermen to work for nothing.

Can. Cameron, Ald. Guertin, Ald. Laroche and Ald. Desjardins spoke in favor of the motion. Ald. Lowe, thought fifty cents should be the minimum, as he favored some men getting more. On his suggestion, Ald. Brewer changed his motion to read that laborers be paid a minimum of fifty cents.

CONSIDERATION OF OLD AGE PENSIONS

Without debate, the house of commons adopted a motion by Dr. D. E. Fontaine, Liberal, Hull, that "in the opinion of this house the federal government should consider the advisability of devising ways and means for the establishment of a system of old age pensions in Canada."

Dr. Fontaine remarked that already in Canada the banks had pensions for their employees and the government for civil servants. He declared that any person who spent thirty or forty years in developing the natural resources of Canada was entitled to protection against poverty in old age. He repudiated the idea that old age pensions would interfere with thrift maintaining that the individual would have sufficient incentive to saving by the desire to better his own position.

RAILWAYS MUST REPORT ACCIDENTS

The Board of Railway Commissioners for Canada issued an order (No. 361) on March 15, 1922, requiring that every railway company subject to the legislative authority of the Parliament of Canada shall give notice to the Board within six days after the head officers of the company have received information of any accident to any person using the railway, or to any employee of the company, or whereby any bridge, culvert, viaduct or tunnel has been made unfit for immediate use. Such notice must refer to accidents resulting from movement of trains, engines or cars, and not to those occurring in railway shops or other places on the railway, unless caused directly or indirectly by train, engine or car movements. The employee of the railway company who is in charge of the train, place or structure in connection with which the accident occurred is required in the event of derailments, collisions, failure of locomotive boiler, highway crossing and other accidents causing injuries to any classes of persons mentioned, to send a telegram to the chief operating officer of the Board at Ottawa, at the expense of the company, and at the same time that he reports to the company.

WOODSWORTH'S RESOLUTION

A special committee of the house of commons will be constituted to consider the bills introduced by J. S. Woodsworth, Labor, Center Winnipeg, to amend the Immigration Act and the criminal code. During the Winnipeg strike of 1919 amendments to the Immigration Act and to that part of the criminal code relating to sedition, were passed and were later the subject of considerable criticism. Last year a bill was introduced for the purpose of repealing the amendments to the Immigration Act, but it was defeated in the senate. This year, Mr. Woodsworth introduced bills for the purpose of repealing the amendments to both the Immigration Act and the criminal code; and these have now been referred to a special committee on the suggestion of the prime minister.

UNABLE TO HELP THE UNEMPLOYED

Winnipeg, Man.—The impossibility of providing anything in the way of immediate relief for unemployed in Winnipeg was impressed upon a delegation which waited upon Sir James Aikens, lieutenant-governor of Manitoba, and Premier E. C. Norris at Government House and parliament buildings recently. A delegation of 250 unemployed marched to the parliament buildings but only three of their representatives were permitted to enter the building.

Following the interview with the premier, H. S. Pearce, one of the leaders, informed the men that Premier Norris had advised single men to go to the farms, where more than 200 men were wanted at present. Pearce advised the workers to go to the polls and exercise their franchise in such a manner that "Premier Norris be sent back to the farm, where he belonged."

And yet we can remember a time when old-fashioned folk complained bitterly because young sports let their horses trot too fast on Main Street.

Friday is so nearly out of fashion that almost everybody knows now that "limb" means a part of a tree.

RAID LONGSHOREMEN'S MEETING AT MONTREAL

Montreal.—Civie police raided a meeting of longshoremen this morning at union headquarters and placed approximately two hundred under arrest. This action was an aftermath of Tuesday night's raid on the docks, during which two policemen were seriously wounded.

Local longshoremen are not working because of a ten per cent reduction in their wages imposed by the shipping federation, who have employed non-union labor.

:: Items of Interest from Overseas ::

LABOR AND FAMINE FUND

London.—The May Day labor procession in London was noisily good humored. Collections were taken by the paraders in aid of the Russian famine fund.

Several thousand unemployed men last night attempted to attend the Sheffield parish church, which could not accommodate them. The demonstrators then filled the neighboring Church of St. James, where they sang "The Red Flag," but otherwise acted in an orderly manner. The vicar asked them to sing "God Save the King," also, but they answered with an emphatic "no."

QUIT MAY DAY ON CONTINENT

London.—All reports received in London indicate that May Day passed off quietly throughout the continent. The only noteworthy incident reported was at Mayence, where a United States army sergeant's chauffeur, in trying to avoid a procession of demonstrators, drove his machine into it. In a struggle the sergeant re-

ACCEPT WAGE CUT.

London.—Beuter's Sydney correspondent cables that the employees of the Queensland meat packing plants have agreed to accept a wage reduction of two shillings per day. In consequence of this step, Premier

MINERS' LEADER DEAD.

Newcastle.—The death occurred at his Newcastle residence early yesterday morning of the Rt. Hon. Thomas Burt, the veteran Northumberland miners' leader.

Born of humble parents in the mining village of Murton Row, in 1837, Burt was himself working in the mines as a trapper boy at the age of 10, the earliest age allowed by the law. He was practically a self-educated man, his actual schooling being very meagre.

A wholehearted worker for the interests of the Northumberland Miners' Mutual Benefit Association, he was its secretary at the of 37, and worked for the workers' cause as president of the National Miners' Union, as British representative at the Berlin Labour Conference, and as president of the Trades Union Congress. He first represented Morpeth in the

HOUSE OF COMMONS IN 1873, and sat for that constituency for 44 consecutive years as a Radical. From 1892 till 1895 he was Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade, and in 1912 he received the Freedom of the Borough of Morpeth, being also Honorary Freeman of Newcastle.

He announced his intention of retiring from public life in 1914, and at the last election was succeeded at Morpeth by John Cairns, financial secretary of the Northumberland Miners' Association.

WIRE LLOYD GEORGE

London.—The general council of the Trades Union Congress and the executive committee of the Labor party, representing six million workers, sent a telegram today to Prime Minister Lloyd George at Genoa urging that full political recognition of the Russian Soviet government was indispensable. The telegram declared the admission of Russia and Germany into the League of Nations would be a better guarantee for peace than any non-aggression pact that might be adopted by Genoa conference.

MEMORIES OF LORD KITCHENER

Intimate Stories of Famous Character. How He Cured An Epidemic of Cholera.

Many intimate recollections of Lord Kitchener are contained in Major-General Nigel Woolyatt's entertaining volume entitled "Under Ten Viceroys." Some of Kitchener's peculiarities are summed up under five headings:—

1. He had very small hands for a man, but extraordinarily well formed.
2. His hair was much thicker than most people, and in India he had not a single grey one.
3. He carried a well-known danger signal, on seeing which it was advisable to change the subject or quietly disappear. This took the form of veins swelling on the cheek bones, and caught the eye at once.
4. His spectacles were rather unusual. The shanks instead of being prolonged behind the ears were so constructed that they maintained the glasses in position by pressure against the temples.
5. Mention has been made of his constant interjection "Hum" when conversing. It was his favorite method of implying doubt, and the greater the doubt the longer drawn out was the interjection.

Kitchener's originality is shown in the story of how he cured his troops of cholera by means of a sun-bath: "He told me that an epidemic of it occurred amongst his British troops, when concentrated for his advance against the Khalifs in 1898. The matter was very serious, as the moment was most inopportune, for a postponement would have upset all his plans. On the second day, at dawn, he had all tents struck, turned inside out and spread on the ground, all clothing scattered over the camp and every man stripped naked. Thus they remained in the sun all day long. There were some very sore skins, but it cured the cholera."

General Birdwood is another of the author's heroes. He tells some stories of the General's reckless fearlessness in the war:—"Birdie" was once telling a friend about a "look peep" he was taking from what seemed a very quiet corner. Though he did not know it, the spot was a favourite mark for the enemy's snipers, and many casualties had lately occurred there. A sentry, close at hand, spotting a sniper's rifle, and being nervous of the lowest degree, called out in his excitement, "Duck your head, Birdie!" "Great Scott," said the friend, "that was a 'let off,' and what did you do? Looking at him, Birdie replied, very quietly, 'I ducked my head!'"

WAR VESSELS FOR PASSENGER TRADE

Portsmouth Turning Out New Ships For Old. A Prosperous Industry.

Ever since the war indications of decreased naval activity, accompanied as they have been with wholesale discharges from the Royal Dockyards, has prompted Portsmouth, hitherto regarded as the premier naval port, to look about for other means of ensuring its future prosperity. It is but natural that shipbuilding should have suggested itself, and representations were early made to the Admiralty for facilities for this work. Jealous of Portsmouth Harbour, however, the Admiralty refused to remove arbitrary restrictions. Enterprising local firms were not to be deterred, however, and foreseeing serious competition with Southampton in the near future, set to work to avail themselves of what limited facilities existed. They began by specializing in the conversion of old ships, and their success in this direction suggests something of a modern Aladdin. Old vessels that did good war service are being rapidly transformed into luxurious passenger boats, and the other day saw the completion of the fourth of a series for service between England and the West Coast of Mexico. The vessels being converted are the old "flower" class, known as "mystery" ships during the war. There are, at the moment, three of these ships at Falmouth Quay in various stages of conversion. The first is a mere shell with all the dismantled parts lying about in confusion; the second has assumed an air of respectability, and is fast approaching the state of luxurious completion that is seen aboard the third, the "Guerrero," at one time known as H.M.S. Dianthus. The transformation is remarkable, and the Mexican Consul-General for Great Britain and Ireland, Senior Don Alberto Mascarenes, who came over especially to break the Mexican ensign aboard the boat, told a "News of the World" representative that he was distinctly proud of the vessel. "You may tell the people of England," he added, "that the breaking of the emblem of my beloved country on this boat will always be one of the greatest recollections of my life, because, notwithstanding the evil propaganda engineered against my country, we have found in England people who have confidence in the future of Mexico."

Following the success of conversion Portsmouth has been successful in contracting for big reconversion jobs, and the latest achievement is the acquisition of the Canadian Pacific liner, Empress of Scotland, which has just been brought into dock. The contract is a big one, and will necessitate the employment of 2,000 men for at least three weeks, working night and day. It is to be followed by an equally big contract—the reconversion of the Empress of France of the same line. We are assured that Portsmouth is looking several big contracts in this direction and that its industrial future is promising.

Other business may be dull but we understand mosquitoes will take advantage of style tendencies to open up new territory this season.

When a woman tries to do her own housework with three yelling brats clinging to her skirts, you can't expect her to call it a "career."