Labor News From Coast to Coast.

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HON. W. R. ROLLO REPLIES TO SHAW'S ATTACK

BOOT AND SHOE WORKERS MEET AT ST. LOUIS

Fifteenth Convention Assembles on May 16—Local Unions Asked to Send Best Representatives.

BOSTON.—The fifteenth convention of the Boot and Shoe Workers' Union will meet at the Planters Hotel, St. Louis, Missouri, Monday morning, May 16, 1921.

There have been numerous expressions of opinion in local union meetings, and by many of our thoughtful members, that owing to the very unusual conditions existing at this time, the holding of a convention this year is an unwise expenditure of time and money, says the Boot and Shoe Workers' Journal.

Members who have expressed these views have pointed to the fact that a convention means to take many of the local leaders from their local field for a period of about two weeks, and this at a time when existing or threatened wage controversies require that all the best minds should be devoted to defence of the home sector.

Another reason given by these members is that the large sum of money spent by the local unions and by the general union in holding a convention could be much better spent in defending the wage interests of the members. This view of the matter is somewhat emphasized by the fact that railroad fares and hotel rates are higher than ever before.

Because of these unusual conditions quite a number of locals have intimated that they may not send delegates. Should many of the local unions adopt this course, the convention might be so small in numbers as not to correctly represent the membership strength of the union.

The general officers appreciate fully the reasoning and the patriotic sentiments of the above views. We are holding a convention this year because the constitution requires that a convention be held. No one was able to foresee conditions such as have existed in our industry during the last 12 months, and so our constitution is not flexible in the matter.

Since we are obliged to hold a convention, we earnestly hope that all local unions will try to be represented by their full quota of delegates, so that the convention may be a full representation of all local unions and that each local union may share in consideration of, and legislation upon, any issues that may come before the convention.

We hope also that in electing delegates each local union will endeavor to select its best members, with the most constructive minds, delegates who will act patriotically upon every matter that may come before the convention, being governed solely by the interests of the members and of the general and local unions. Let us endeavor to make a good showing at the convention and to legislate wisely and well.

NO MALINGERING IN INDUSTRIES, DECLARES ROLLO

Employers Pay $1.25 Per $100 of Wages to Workmen's Compensation Board.

TORONTO. — "Reports I have had from the workmen's compensation board show that there is little or no malingering," said Hon. Mr. Rollo, Minster of Labor, when his attention was called to the statements made recently by J. R. Shaw, the retiring chairman of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association.

"I can't see how the increasing of the employers' liability to 66 2-3rds per cent of the man's wage, in the case of total disability, increases the number of accidents," added Mr. Rollo. "True, the number of cases of injuries increased, but so did the number of fatal accidents. Most of the big companies have doctors of their own, and they see there is no malingering. [illegible] chase a man back to work before he is fit. [illegible] and have a lot of trouble getting an allowance made again by the board.

"I suppose one-tenth of all my mail comes from people who think they are not getting what they are entitled to in the way of workmen's compensation.

"The amount per $100 of wages paid that the act costs the employers is still below the amount paid during the first year, and only 3 cents more than it was last year, the latest rate being $1.25 per hundred dollars of wages."

The members of the workmen's compensation board declined to discuss the statements made by Mr. Shaw.

General Manager R. B. Morley of the Ontario Safety League said he possessed no information bearing directly upon the question touched upon by Mr. Shaw. He said he was leaving his present position to take charge of the Industrial Accident Prevention Society, which was being formed under the act, and one of his first duties would be to settle the matter.

WESTERN GOV'T EMPLOYMENT BUREAUS DISTRIBUTING SURPLUS LABOR.

CALGARY. — Unemployed men from Canadian Pacific Coast cities are rapidly being absorbed by the farmers of the Prairie Provinces. The demand for farm labor so far has been adequately taken care of. A working agreement exists between Calgary and Vancouver whereby when men are required the Provincial Government Bureau notifies the Mayor of the coast city of the number required. The system has worked well so far, in that the men are taken from Vancouver only when positions await them here.

TRANSPORT WORKERS CLOSING UP RANKS

A Second International Conference May Be Held in America.

GENEVA — The international transport workers' conference, representing 3,000,000 transport workers, railwaymen and seamen, now meeting in Switzerland, has decided to call a special conference of dock and waterside workers, either at Vancouver, San Francisco, or Cape Town, to which representatives from Canada, the United States, South America, Australia and New Zealand shall be invited.

Today the chairman of the conference, Edwin Bevan, Member of the British Parliament, said that the reasons for this conference were that dock and waterside workers felt themselves handicapped because their employers immediately sent goods some other way whenever a dispute arose between them and their workers, and constantly allege that they could not compete with neighboring ports, especially now that exchange rates are so abnormal. Dock and waterside workers therefore feel that they must combine still more, and particularly that workers on competing navigation routes must combine.

In the opinion of executives, San Francisco will be chosen as the meeting place of the next transport workers' conference, especially as it is greatly desired to obtain the adhesion of the United States transport workers to the conference.

The delegate from Moscow is an Irishman named Murphy, and a leading Bolshevikt, who contrived to reach Switzerland, because he travelled with a British passport. He had credentials from Lenine in English and German but after a long discussion the conference declined to receive him. Murphy, who was in the public gallery today, stood up and began addressing the conference, but was howled down. An Austrian delegate actually threw an orange at him, but missed.

COST OF LIVING IN MARCH SHOWS SLIGHT DECLINE

According to the Labor Gazette Wholesale and Retail Prices Continue Downward.

OTTAWA.—In prices the movement continued downward, the chief decreases appearing in eggs and butter, in textiles, hides, and leathers, metals, building materials, and in chemicals says the Labor Gazette. In the other groups, grains were slightly higher, except oats, but fodders were down. Cattle and beef were slightly up but hog products were lower. Butter and eggs were down but cheese was firmer. Fish were steady. Potatoes, onions, and canned vegetables were slightly higher. Bread, flour, and tapioca were lower but sugar advanced slightly. In fuel, bituminous coal was down but coke was higher. In the miscellaneous group muskrat skins, malt, and rubber were firmer but newsprint paper, binder twine, and laundry starch were lower. The index number of wholesale prices was down to 263.1 for March as compared with 270.1 for February 349.0 for March, 1920, 277.6 for March, 1919, 269.2 for March, 1918, and 137.1 for March, 1914. In retail prices of foods the chief decreases were in eggs, and in rice, but there were slight decreases in nearly all the items included except cheese. In fuel, coal and wood showed slight decreases. The average cost of a list of twenty-nine staple foods in sixty cities at the beginning of March was $13.23 as compared with $14.08 in February $15.98 in March, 1920, $15.77 in March, 1919, and $7.68 in March, 1914.

TORONTO TEAMSTERS BEING REORGANIZED BY A. F. OF L.

TORONTO. — Fearing wage reductions, Toronto teamsters are responding to the suggestion of Mr. John Flett, General Organizer of the American Federation of Labor, that they form another local union of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Stablemen and Chauffeurs. Mr. Flett held a meeting last week, to which teamsters were invited, and another on Friday, and said both were successful enough to warrant the establishing of a union.

"There has been some talk of wage reductions," said Mr. Flett. "Coal drivers who had a union a year ago and failed to keep it together have already suffered a reduction. Teamsters employed by other companies fear reductions."

GREAT PRODUCING MASSES DO NOT UNDERSTAND GOVERNMENT INACTIVITY

By J. A. P. Haydon.

The British Columbia Legislature is the first of the provinces to ratify the draft conventions adopted at the First International Labor Conference (League of Nations) which was held in Washington in 1919.

It will be remembered that the Dominion Government, by Order-in-Council, on November 6, 1920, ruled that the competent authority for their enactment of most of the draft conventions rested with the Provincial Governments. The British Columbia Legislature accepted this ruling and has enacted the legislation subject to other provinces carrying out similar proposals.

The Trades and Labor Congress of Canada has requested the Dominion Government to carry out the provisions of the draft conventions insofar as they affect Dominion undertakings. Up to the present no official announcement has been made as to the Government's intentions, nor has any action been taken to enact the legislation.

Last week the Manitoba Legislature defeated a proposal for the enactment of the eight-hour work day—one of the draft conventions of the Washington Conference—claiming that until such a time as the various provinces decided on uniform action, it would be folly for the Province of Manitoba to act independently.

The Hon. Walter Rollo, Minister of Labor for Ontario, has written to the Department of Labor at Ottawa, stating that the Ontario Government was quite willing to enter into a joint conference of the various Provincial Governments and the Dominion Government with a view to bringing about uniform action in the adoption of the draft conventions and recommendation of the International Labor conferences.

Progress of a lasting nature is at all times slow, but the apathy shown by the various Provincial Governments and the Dominion Government in the carrying out of the provisions of the Labor Sections of the Peace Treaty can not be understood by the great producing masses of Canada.

It is perfectly true that Germany has been reluctant in carrying out her financial obligation imposed upon her in the Treaty of Versailles and the Treaty of St. Germaine. Workers in Germany have long since enjoyed the eight-hour work day. Some editorial writers in Canada would have one believe that the German miners and others were giving to the Government two hours extra work per day without pay. This is absolutely without foundation in fact. Where German workers are called upon to work more than eight hours per day, they are paid at the uniform rate of time-and-a-half for all overtime.

The International Labor Office, recently, through its Director-General, Albert Thomas, gave to the world a summary of the actions taken by the various Governments in regard to the draft conventions and recommendations of the International Labor Conferences. An analysis of this review shows that Canada is one of the very few nations, members of the League of Nations, which has failed to recognize and carry into full force and effect the draft conventions and recommendations of the International Labor Conferences.

The great producing masses of Canada expect that before long, the Canadian Government will call the various Prime Ministers in Canada together and find some means whereby uniform action may be taken in the carrying into full force and effect Canada's Peace Treaty obligations and especially those contained in the Labor Chapter.

British Columbia has taken the lead, let the rest of the country follow suit.

1,735 WORKERS ON STRIKE AT END OF MARCH, 1921

Estimated Time Lost Through Industrial Disputes in Canada Was 52,928 Days.

OTTAWA.—The loss of time on account of industrial disputes during March was greater than during February, 1921, and also greater than during March, 1920, says the Labor Gazette. There were in existence at some time or other during the month 26 strikes involving about 3,252 employes and resulting in an estimated time loss of 52,928 working days; as compared with 22 strikes, 2,624 workpeople and 23,547 working days in February, 1921; and 22 strikes, 3,789 workpeople and 43,169 working days in March, 1920. On March 1, there were on record 18 strikes affecting 2,289 workpeople. Eight strikes were reported as having commenced during March, as compared with fifteen during February, 1921. Seven of the strikes commencing prior to March and three of the strikes commencing during March were reported terminated, leaving 16 strikes involving 1,735 workpeople on record at the end of month.

MORLEY TAKES OVER NEW OFFICE.

TORONTO.—R. B. Morley, who has been general manager and secretary-treasurer of the Ontario Safety League for seven years, has been appointed secretary-treasurer of the Industrial Accident Prevention Association. This latter is an organization which was formed under the Workmen's Compensation Act, for the purpose of preventing accidents in industry in Ontario and offers a wide field for work.

Mr. Morley's knowledge of public safety work will not, however, be lost to the Safety League, as he will be retained in an advisory capacity and so be in a position to develop close co-operation between industrial and public safety in Ontario.

BRITISH EX-SERVICE MEN AND UNEMPLOYMENT.

LONDON, Eng. — As a result of the passing of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921, says the Labor Gazette, ex-service men will no longer be eligible for the special donation which they have had hitherto, but they will now be brought within the scope of the general unemployment insurance. They are, however, granted certain statutory privileges with regard to conditions of eligibility for benefit, and moreover, the rights of those ex-service men whose original out-of-work donation policies have not yet expired remain unaffected.

Brandon Trades And Labor Council Reorganized

The Brandon Trades and Labor Council is being reorganized. During the One Big Union bubble of 1919, the Brandon Trades and Labor Council decided to chase the rainbow and threw in its lot with the One Big Union. Last week, however, the workers in that city decided to identify themselves with the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada and a new Trades and Labor Council was organized with the following officers: President, F. Cox, Musicians Union; Vice-president, J. Williams, Carpenters; Secretary-treasurer, B. E. Hickling, Carpenters.

DID RAILROADS URGE BIG OUTLAW STRIKE?

Facts Seem to Indicate That Employers Laid Plans.

INDIANAPOLIS.—Was last year's outlaw railroad strike backed by rail managers, who knew that the railway labor board would reject wage requests if forced on them by this illegal walkout?

This point is raised by W. S. Carter, president of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen And Enginemen, in the official magazine of that organization.

"Has it never occurred to the members of the railroad brotherhoods that the surest way to prevent a huge increase in wages, the result of a decision of the labor board, would be to get the men to go on an unauthorized strike?" asks Carter.

"It is now known to everyone that had this illegal strike become general and involved all railroad employes, decision No. 2 would never have been reached by the labor board and thus the railroads would have saved probably $500,000,000 or $600,000,000 per year in labor costs.

"It is a fact that at certain points the most active promoters of the illegal strike were secret service men.

"Enormous funds were disbursed by somebody. Agents were sent, sometimes in groups of three, to most of the important railroad terminals in the United States, at which terminals the same attacks were made upon these old brotherhoods and their officers, and with apparently the same degree of success, and many members of these railroad organizations 'lost their heads' and followed these 'leaders.'

"Employers do not hesitate to say that if railroad employes now strike against wage reductions the thousands who lost their positions in the illegal strike of 1920 will 'get even.'"

BATTLEFIELDS NON-EXISTENT IN FRANCE NOW

France Will Achieve Industrial and Agricultural Rehabilitation Within Three Years.

PARIS.—Owen Johnson, who has just completed his official investigation of reconstruction in the old war areas for the ministry of devastated regions, says a special cable to the Montreal Star, summed up his impressions recently in an interview, saying:

"In view of the extraordinary progress of reclamation made even in some of the supposedly irremediable districts, I am convinced that if provided with reparations money, France will achieve industrial and agricultural rehabilitation within three years. If the Germans do not pay, it will be 10 or 20 years of stagnation and delay."

Mr. Johnson made a complete tour of all regions, taking notes and comparing the situation with conditions he had seen in 1915, and on a similar trip two weeks after the armistice.

Nature's Healing.

"The Somme battlefield is non-existent now," he said. "The soldiers who fought there would think Nature had passed on and forgotten them, such are the agricultural aspects of the landscape. At Arras, where battles raged back and forth during the war until there were only wastes of mud, there is nothing to indicate the war but piles of barbed wire and junk. At Bordois there are cultivated fields.

"Industrial reconstruction has been marvellous at the mines near Lens. The French are busy pumping out the water, and beginning to work the mines. The Germans have sent the French the plans of their systematic destruction to aid in rebuilding. At Chaumy, the great Gobain chemical works is financing the community, and in all places where large firms exist their credits and advances have stimulated and encouraged private initiative. At Folembrey there is a big glass plant working night and day.

"At Lille I found the cotton industry preparing for increased production. I recalled a district at Aisne which had 1,440 acres of lands so blasted and gutted by war that it had seemed impossible to reclaim. The peasants have demonstrated how they can work by getting all but 40 acres under cultivation. The slopes of Notre Dame de Lorette, which were a picture of horror before, now are all green with farms, though no towns have been re-built. The Chemin des Dames has been restored and all work of the administration such as railroads, telegraphs and canals re-established long ago in all districts.

"The country about Soissons is largely reclaimed and much work has been done by the American Committee for Devastated France.

"I found the St. Quentin district the least re-built. One of the most striking impressions is the work the women are doing. In the fields, shops and construction work they are laboring just like men, laying brick and using wheelbarrows.

"France does not need German labor. It needs German money. The people are forced to borrow when they build, and must pay double the amount until reparations payments stabilize the shaky financial situation. France has labor and material and already the people have made amazing progress getting housed and planting fields, but they need money to build permanent homes and towns."

TRAGEDY OF THE MISSING GIRLS

65,000 Lost in United States Big Cities Last Year.

WASHINGTON.—Sixty-five thousand girls disappeared in the United States last year without leaving a trace. The great majority were lured to the big cities from the small towns and farms. They have dropped from sight and their fate is an unsolved mystery.

This story was brought to the National Congress of Mothers, Parents and Teachers' Associations convention at Washington last week with a plea for the creation of a central bureau to help find missing girls.

Lieutenant Catherine Van Winkle of the District of Columbia Police Department, told the convention that one of the biggest needs of the country was to save the souls of girls annually lost in the maelstroms of the big cities. Police departments and agencies devoted to the task are unable to cope with the situation successfully, she said.

She asked the convention to take immediate steps to create a central bureau and branches in all parts of the country for the purpose of coordinating and enlarging the facilities for tracing lost girls.

LABOR REPRESENTATION ON ONTARIO SAFETY LEAGUE.

The Ontario Safety League in choosing its officers for the ensuing year gave labor fair representation on its executive. Among those may be found Mr. Tom Moore, president of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada; Hon. W. R. Rollo, Minister of Labor; A. W. Mance, Toronto District Labor Council, and Mr. T. A. Stevenson, Department of Labor, Ottawa.

LABOR EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION MEETS AT PRESTON, ONTARIO, ON VICTORIA DAY

Nineteenth Annual Convention Call Has Been Issued—Association Makes Steady Progress—News Letter Service to be Inaugurated.

The convention call for the 19th Annual Convention of the Labor Educational Association of Ontario has been issued. The convention will be held in the Labor Hall, Preston, on Tuesday, May 24, 1921. The association is the recognized body of the International Trades Union Movement for the Province of Ontario. The summary of the work accomplished since its incention accompanies the convention call.

Mr. J. T. Marks was permanently employed during the past year and has accomplished much for the International Trades Union Movement throughout the Province of Ontario during his term of office.

The association contemplates the inauguration of an up-to-date news letter service, giving reliable information in regard to the activities of labor, both industrially and politically.

The convention call is signed by Mr. J. F. Marsh, President, and Mr. Joseph T. Marks, Secretary-Treasurer.

It follows:

To all Trades and Labor Councils, Central Labor Bodies, and Local Trades Unions Throughout the Province. Greeting:

You are hereby notified that the 19th annual convention of the Labor Educational Association of Ontario will convene in the Labor Hall, King [illegible] May 24th, at 10 o'clock sharp, [illegible] questions of vital import to the International Trades Union Movement in the province will be dealt with.

The official year drawing to its close has been a momentous one for Labor on the industrial and political field alike, in this premier province of Ontario, where both wings of the movement have been ruthlessly assailed by unscrupulous opponents, who have failed to temper their criticisms with either fairness or moderation, and it is cause for sincere regret that in some instances these attacks have emanated from individuals on the inside of the movement itself, where they are far more injurious in effect than the open and unconcealed attacks and hostility of its opponents on the outside.

It is pleasing in this respect to note that at no time has the attitude of the Labor Educational Association been open to doubt, as it has unqualifiedly stood for the solidarity of International Trades Unionism and a united Labor movement on the American continent, undivided by narrow national, religious or sectional lines.

The financial report to be submitted to the convention will be an eminently pleasing one, attesting, as it does, to the steady and continued growth of the membership and the interest taken in the work of the organization.

It will be pleasing to note that on the same date as our convention is held, and in the same building, the United Women's Educational Federation of Ontario, whose avowed aim is the industrial and political organization of the women of the province, will hold their first annual convention. It is here worthy of note that it was the Labor Educational Association which took the first initiative towards the organization of both the Independent Labor Party of Ontario and the United Women's Educational Federation, and it goes without saying that the ladies will be given a hearty welcome when they gather in Busy Preston on May 24.

The report of the executive and the convention agenda, as well as full information in regard to trains, hotels, etc., will be printed and forwarded promptly by mail to all delegates whose duplicate credentials are sent on to the general secretary. Secretaries are urged to forward these certificates as soon as delegates are selected, and to see that the blank space for their street address is properly filled in. This will ensure that every delegate will receive the documents in ample time to study and thoroughly understand the work of the convention and allowing business to be completed with the utmost despatch.

Trades and Labor Councils, Central Labor bodies and local Trades Unions with 100 members or less are entitled to elect three delegates to the annual convention and one additional delegate for each additional 500 members or majority fraction thereof.

During the convention there will be a union label prize contest, at which 100 prizes will be awarded to the delegates in accordance with the number of union labels on their person. Three of these will be liberal cash prizes, and others will consist of wearing apparel, cigars, tobacco, cigarettes, books, games, emblems, etc. Members of the executive and international organizers in attendance will not be entitled to participate in the contest, which is being staged to popularize the sale of union-made goods.

Let there be a big and "enthusiastic rally" in Preston on May 24, 1921.

FARM WORKER'S FIGTH IS EVERY WORKER'S FIGHT

By H. B. Pointing, in the Daily Herald, London, Eng.

The wages of the farm worker being fixed, as far as minima are concerned, by a Wages Board, reductions in rates cannot be obtained as easily and rapidly as is possible in some other industries. Moreover, the farm worker was so scandalously underpaid before the war that no employer dares too obviously to suggest a return to anything like pre-war conditions. Hence there is not much room for large reductions. Farmers have been obliged to think of something more subtle than direct attacks on "the forty-six and six."

Consequently, we find that the outcry for reductions in money has for the time being largely ceased. We are now being told that the reductions must come later. This is to prevent the workers asking persistently for the 50s. that we believe the industry can well afford to pay, and which is the minimum for which men can be expected to resist "the lure of the towns" and stay on the land. In the meantime, the employers, however, are not idle. They are cutting down their total labor bill, and the land is suffering in consequence. Thus unemployment becomes ever a greater menace. Further, they are calling out on every hand for permission to employ men over 55 at less than the minimum rates; and this in spite of the fact that some of the best men are among the oldest workers.

Boys and Women.

Nor is this all. In many districts they are seeking to get boys from workhouses and other institutions, and ask that for the first year they may employ them at reduced rates. Farmers are prepared to encourage the employment of men out of work on rough work connected with reclaiming land and so forth; but they are not prepared to give them what they are obliged to give, as a minimum, to ordinary farm workers.

In these ways, the farmers are seeking to "undercut" organized labor, and get the practical effect of wage-reductions without being too open about it. To give work to women, to children, to "institution boys," and to the unemployed, means to take it from able-bodied men to whom they must pay the statutory rates. And let it not be forgotten that there are already in existence many thousands of "permits" which, for a variety of reasons, such as alleged physical inferiority, enable farmers to employ the men to whom they refer at rates which are less than the minimum necessary according to the Act of 1917, "to maintain the workers and their families in accordance with such standard of comfort as may be reasonable."

But the most serious attack on farm workers' conditions is the attempt to extend the number of hours to be "put in" for the minimum wage. The motive is obvious. By hook or by crook the employers are determined to secure the exclusion of farm workers from any "48-hours" legislation. In this country the passing of the "48-Hours" Bill is delayed because the workers have rightly insisted that it shall cover agriculture as well as other industries.

The "Hours" Fight.

When the third session of the International Labor Conference opens in October next, what will be the chief objection to the adaptation of the Washington Conventions to agriculture? The hours question, without doubt. Already the Swiss Federal Council and the Peasants' Union, in their anxiety to prevent agricultural legislation on these lines, have been driven to questioning, very absurdly, the right of the conference to deal with agriculture at all! And in the forefront of all their pleas and arguments is the [illegible] hours. "Under existing conditions," they write, "the eight-hour day in agriculture will bring famine to humanity." It is [illegible] they should make an effective statement than that they should make a true one!

Perhaps, with many employers, adding to the number of hours is simply a means of getting more work for the same money, but doubtless very many see further, and are deliberately aiming at curtailing the worker's leisure time which can be used for studying and thinking. And it must not be forgotten that if urban workers get the 48 hours, but not the rural workers, something more will be done towards making a division between the two sections.

The farm worker's fight against a depression in his social conditions is therefore every worker's fight. He looks to the older trade unionists not to desert him, in the hope that no measure for the limitation of working hours, from which agriculture is excluded, would be accepted by the urban workers under any circumstances.

LABOR'S PLAN FOR HIGHEST EFFICIENCY IN RAILROAD ADMINISTRATION

W. Jett Lauck, American Federation of Labor Economist, Makes Statement Before the United States Railroad Labor Board.

CHICAGO.—Details of how organized labor believes railroads of the United States can save one billion dollars in expenditures annually were described by W. Lett Lauck, American Federation of Labor economist, in a statement to the United States Railroad Labor Board.

Lauck appeared as a witness for railroad unions in their fight to prevent reduction of wages asked by the railroads.

"Highest efficiency in railroad administration will be obtained through a national unified control of a regional control, which will utilize all existing facilities regardless of competing claims," Lauck said.

Lauck suggested pooling of repair shops, elimination of circuitous rail routes, unification of terminals, consolidation of ticket offices, universal mileage tickets, standardization of equipment, maintenance of uniform freight classification, maintenance of common time tables between important points, high demurrage rates and utilization of water routes for relief of crowded rail lines.

Pooling of locomotives and cars were recommended to meet traffic congestion. He said this would be [illegible] under present conditions.

Lauck charged failure to adopt economic devices to standardize locomotives, over development of [illegible] cities, inefficient freight handling at terminals, labor turnover waste, preventable loss and damage, poor accounting and other alleged extravagances cost the railroads $962,500,000 annually.

Engine terminals and shops are from ten to thirty years behind the times, rendering them about fifty per cent. efficient," the witness charged.

"The 'permanent way' of railroads — classification yards, road-beds, passing sidings, coaling and water facilities, bridges, signal equipment, and communication—has been so neglected as to be another source of waste and inefficiency."

Bridges, it was declared are in many instances too light to permit hauling of maximum load trains. Installation of permanent bridges, calling for a big outlay in cash, would net millions in savings to railroads each year, Lauck said.

Lack of proper signal systems means slow handling of trains, according to Lauck. He characterized the system of loading and transferring of freight and baggage as "primitive."

"Freight cars moved an average of 26.1 miles per day in 1917, in comparison to 24.4 miles in 1920," Lauck said. "An increase of two tons per car in the load carried was noted in the same period. There was also an increase of 5.6 per cent. in 1917 to 7 per cent. in 1920 of the number of unserviceable freight cars."

Freight cars travelling loaded moved two-thirds of the time and loaded to two-thirds of their capacity, Lauck said. Scientific train control, standardizing car loading and economic schedulings were recommended as remedies.

Sadly inadequate and out-of-date car and locomotive repair shops are at the bottom of low efficiency in maintenance of equipment, the witness testified.

"Hand to mouth procedure," in railroad administration resulted in millions of wasted dollars, according to Lauck. He mentioned as inefficient "wasted labor effort due to lack of proper supervision and looseness of organization." "Difficulties of distribution of material and supplies, unscientific policy of laying out years' work, lack of planning, absence of accurate records and careless control of water supply.

"Efficient administration would mean reduction of one-third in office expense," Lauck said. To secure [illegible] sum was to be expended for publicity, according to Lauck. He thought $100,000 annual salaries for executives was too much.

According to Lauck's information $5,032,500,000 is the estimated capital outlay of railroads necessary for improvements in 1921, 1922 and 1923. He estimated a saving of $1,200,450,000 would result from the economic expenditure of this capital under unified control.

NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL CONFERENCE NOW IN SESSION.

The National Industrial Conference of the Building and Construction Industry is in session at Ottawa at the time of writing. A summary of its work will appear in the next issue of the Labor Press, with some observations by the editor.