

Says Human Labor No Longer Is Merely A Market Commodity

DR. RIDDELL TELLS OF WORK OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

OTTAWA VISITOR RELATES WHAT HAS BEEN SO FAR ACCOMPLISHED

Dr. Walter A. Riddell, chief of the agricultural section of the International Labor Office, League of Nations, Geneva, Switzerland, arrived in Ottawa to attend the meeting of the general committee of the League of Nations Society of Canada.

Has Definite Results. Dr. Walter A. Riddell was formerly deputy minister of labor in the Ontario government but is now permanently located at Geneva in connection with the League of Nations, to which city he will return at the end of July after visiting Toronto, New York and Washington. He has been at Geneva for the past two years.

Asked with regard to the achievements of the labor organization of the League of Nations, Dr. Riddell was emphatic in his opinion that it had certain definite accomplishments to its credit already. He pointed out that the principal gain of labor in connection with the league covenant was the establishment of the principle that human labor had ceased to be a mere commodity and that fair and humane conditions of labor constituted the right of every man, woman and child. Towards that end he declared that undoubtedly very considerable progress had been made by the international labor office. Up to March 1, said Dr. Riddell, 38 ratifications had been registered out of 84 conventions passed by different countries in the world and since the Washington conference of 1919 ten countries had ratified the Berne white-phosphorous convention which prohibited the use of white lead that had previously wrought such havoc to the health of employees.

The conventions also included such matters as hours of labor, night work for women and young persons and minimum age for labor. As regards unemployment, too, Dr. Riddell maintained that the international office had been most successful in establishing the need of labor exchanges in the different countries. The age of child labor had been increased in China and Japan, he said, and some very objectionable and inhumane conditions of labor existing among children in Persia had been removed on representations to the government of that country by the international labor office.

He claimed that office, too, was a great clearing house for labor information and was a most important feature of the work, as 39 different nationalities worked in that office gathering information from all parts of the world.

He declared that the international labor office had, in his opinion, been one of the greatest bulwarks against communism and Bolshevism. It was hated by the last-named because it relied mostly on the constitutional element in the labor movement, which in the opinion of Dr. Riddell represented the greater portion of labor.

HAMILTON LABOR TEMPLE ENDORSED

The Hamilton Herald comments as follows on the proposed new Labor Temple in Hamilton:

Organized Labor in Hamilton is to be congratulated upon the prospect of getting completed this summer an enterprise which has been kept steadily in view for several years. The need of convenient and commodious headquarters for the local trades organizations has long been felt, and it is more than a decade since the proposal for the erection of a Labor temple was first made. Contributions to a building fund were made by several of the unions. Stock was issued and some of it was disposed of in small lots. But the project was not pushed during the war years, because so many wage-earners were then contributing to patriotic and other funds that it was thought inexpedient to appeal for contributions towards the temple. Now, however, it is felt that the time has come to put the plan into execution. The contracts have been let, work will begin at once, and it is expected that the building will be ready for occupation in August.

The site, on the east side of Catharine street near Gore, is central and suitable. The plans show a brick building, with an auditorium capable of seating six or seven hundred persons, eight rooms large enough for meetings of local unions, and plenty of room in the basement for recreation purposes. It is proposed to have several pool and billiard tables in the basement.

It is necessary for the trustees in order to complete the enterprise, to borrow about \$20,000, which is rather more than half the total cost, including that of the site.

The Labor Temple will not only be a great convenience to the local labor organizations, it will also be a public asset, for the auditorium will be available for use by labor conventions which otherwise would not be held here because of lack of proper accommodation. It can also be used for social functions.

On the whole, the Labor Temple is likely to prove a very good investment for organized labor in this city.

FEDERAL FAIR WAGE CLAUSE COMMENDED BY ALLIED TRADES

Commendation of the new regulations regarding the fair wage clause and criticism of what was termed a "letting down of the bars" with respect to the government's immigration policy, resulting in a flooding of the labor market and consequent increase in unemployment, featured Friday night's meeting of the Allied Trades and Labor Council.

The new phases of the fair wage clause were commended by a resolution brought in by the executive, and in speaking to the question, Mr. Tom Moore, president of the Trades and Labor Congress, stated that the new definitions would remove any possibility of discrimination against workers who stood up for their rights.

The discussion on immigration and unemployment tended to relate these problems, and arose out of a report from the unemployment conference of British Columbia. Tom Moore and Delegate W. T. McDowell were the chief critics of the new government immigration policy and condemned it as an avenue that would let in a flood of cheap labor and thereby aggravate the already acute problem of unemployment. The feeling of the meeting was that the government, before the adjournment of parliament, should endeavor to introduce some definite proposal to avert another unemployment crisis this winter.

A communication from the International Association of Fire Fighters was read, and in it the extent of international fire losses was set forth. Tom Moore spoke of the significance of the fire menace to the workers and indicated how the worker was the worst sufferer in the fire problem. He impressed upon the meeting the necessity to take cognizance of all preventive measures.

Civic Election Date. The executive drew attention to the recent legislation of the Ontario legislature concerning the date of municipal elections. Secretary W. Lodge stressed the object of the executive as being whether an earlier holding of the municipal elections would result in a greater use of the franchise. This matter was left to the municipal committee to decide and report thereon.

The executive introduced a resolution commending the new definition and administration of the fair wage clause as per the recent order-in-council. Notice of the matter was given through the Hon. James Murdock, minister of labor, and the executive considered that it would incorporate several of the protective causes persistently sought by organized labor and that it would remove some of the difficulties encountered in the past.

Immigration Policy. The discussion on the immigration policy of the government came under fire when Delegate Tom Moore spoke on the main factors contributing to unemployment. Among other causes, he emphasized "that of the exploitation of our natural resources for the owners and not for the people as a whole." Linking this problem with that of immigration, the speaker declared that "so long as natural resources are held out of use by railroads and other industries it is suicide to let down the bars of immigration."

Continuing, Delegate Moore urged that industries be assessed "so that the cost of unemployment would be borne by the industries," on a somewhat similar basis as the Workmen's Compensation Act provided for a workers' incapacitation through injury. In short, the speaker advocated some form of unemployment insurance. He then went on to condemn the possibilities of unrestricted immigration and the flooding of the market with cheap labor, thus creating additional unemployment, and the government was also attacked for not making provision for the undertaking of more public works.

J. A. P. Hayden, president of the local Allied Trades and Labor Council, presided.

BIG FALLING OFF IN UNEMPLOYMENT

Estimates on unemployment covering eight of the nine provinces of the Dominion to Saturday, June 10th, show what labor officials consider a remarkable decrease in the number of men out of work at the present time.

In some parts of the Dominion, in fact, there is stated to be a demand for men for seasonal work, such as small fruit picking, which it is impossible to fill at present.

Ontario had the greatest number of unemployed, according to information available on Saturday's estimate, with 10,811. At the same time some parts of the province offered work for more men than were available in these districts. The figures for the other seven provinces, Prince Edward Island being not available, were: Nova Scotia, 7,800; Quebec, 9,500; Manitoba, 1,845; Alberta, 4,225; British Columbia, 7,368; and Saskatchewan, 1,772.

This brings the total estimated unemployment in the eight provinces to 42,141, which is considered by the department to be a most satisfactory showing at the present time.

In regard to Nova Scotia, Alberta and British Columbia it was pointed out also that some of the unemployment was due to strikes and labor difficulties in the coal mining sections where it was hoped conditions would shortly improve.

THE CIVIL SERVICE BONUS NEXT WEEK

Hon. H. H. Stevens, Conservative Vancouver Center, asked the prime minister in the house, if he could indicate when the civil service would receive its bonus.

The prime minister replied that the bonus proposals would come before the house when the supplementary estimates were brought down. It was hoped to make sufficient progress to bring down the supplementary estimates next week.

ANOTHER HUGE SLASH IN WAGES OF U. S. RAILWAYS

Chicago.—Pruning nearly \$27,000,000 from the annual payroll of 235,000 railway employees by cutting clerks, signal men and stationery firemen from two to six cents an hour, the United States Railroad Labor Board today announced another wage slash, bringing total reductions under the board's orders up to \$135,000,000 beginning July 1.

Clerks were cut three and four cents an hour, according to classification, signal men five cents and firemen two cents.

Approximately 1,200,000 railway employees will share the total reduction which has brought vigorous protest from every union organization involved and it is expected to result in a strike vote of ten railway labor bodies. The voting already is under way in seven unions.

A dissenting opinion, protesting against any reduction, was included in the decision. It was signed by Arthur O. Wharton and Albert Phillips, both labor members.

M. L. McMenimen, the third labor member, is in the east on an investigation trip for the board.

Definite recognition of a "living wage" and "saving wage" was made for the first time by the board in today's decision. Although abnormal post-war conditions were pointed out as obstructions to fixing any scientific living or saving wage at present, the board declared that as soon as this condition cleared away it would "give increased consideration to all the intricate details incident to the scientific adjustment" of such a wage.

The bulk of those hit by the new cut will be 200,000 clerks and 100,000 station employees.

Telephone girls who the board declared have suffered from disproportionate increases and decreases, are given a minimum wage of \$85 a month. A further proviso says that any "hello girls" who receive more than that amount at present shall not suffer any reduction.

Some Who Escaped. Signalmen helpers suffer a six cent slash. Signal foremen, assistant foremen and inspectors, however, escaped with no reduction. The 5,000 train dispatchers also escaped a cut.

Stationary engineers, firemen and oilers, numbering 10,000, were reduced two cents an hour.

A decision covering 75,000 telegraphers will be issued by the board later.

Dining car employees will continue to get their present pay.

Marine workers' wages were untouched.

Figures in the decision showed that clerks will receive, under the new scale, an average of 58.5 cents an hour compared with 34.5 cents in December, 1917, when the government took over the railroads.

The firemen and oilers have received an increase from 21.8 cents an hour in 1917, to 49.6 cents July 1.

EMPLOYERS' FAULT WAS INEXCUSABLE

Montreal.—Mr. Justice Poullet, sitting in the Superior Court at Arthurs, has given judgment in a workmen's compensation case in which the contested issue was on a question of inexcusable fault.

Lahonte et al sued the Federal Asbestos Company, claiming \$9,000 damages under the Workmen's Compensation Act for the death of Liberte Delisle, the fatality resulting from a fall of stone in the company defendant's mine where Delisle was working.

The plaintiff alleged "inexcusable fault" against defendant, but the company denied this, and contested liability for any damages over and above the Workmen's Act, namely \$3,050, which sum was tendered with the defendant's pleadings.

Mr. Justice Poullet adjudged that under the circumstances proved the company must be condemned for inexcusable fault. In consequence he awarded plaintiffs \$3,000 in addition to defendant's tender, making \$6,050 damages altogether. His lordship said he found the elements of inexcusable fault in the following facts:

Overhanging the summit of the open mine where Delisle was working was a considerable mass of rock in which there was a fissure. Here was the first element of imminent and serious danger against which the employer was obliged to protect his employees. Orders were given to blast the overhanging rock but evidently the work was not completely done as an irregular projection of stone was left. This

POSTAL EMPLOYEES HERE ABOUT BONUS

Representatives of the Dominion Postal Clerks' Association, and the Canadian Federation of Postal Employees are meeting in the city for the purpose of approaching the Government on the bonus, and also in preparation for the Postal Clerks' convention opening in Hamilton next Monday. They are urging the Government for a thorough salary revision, and that the bonus should not be taken away or decreased, particularly that to employees at \$1,500 or less per annum, until revision is effected.

The men are represented by W. E. B. Mann, of Ottawa, secretary-treasurer, Dominion Postal Clerks' Association; R. S. Bartlett, Toronto; J. E. Archer, Hamilton, secretary of the Canadian Federation; E. V. Browning, Toronto, president of the Dominion Letter Carriers' Federation; W. F. Falvey, Toronto; and Walter MacPherson, Winnipeg.

Undoubtedly a leading question at the Postal Clerks' convention will be the bonus and salary revision. Ottawa delegates will be: Mr. Mann, Mr. W. J. Cantwell, ex-president; R. E. Hall, and M. St. Germain. Mr. L. N. Santerre, of Quebec, is president of the association.

It is likely that the association will ratify the action of the executive in joining the Canadian Federation of Postal Employees. The strength of the Postal Clerks' organization is now 2,500 men, who, largely, as a result of their union, have advanced well above the minimum salary of a few years ago, which was \$400 and a maximum of \$800.

NO INTERFERENCE TO STOP A STRIKE

Cincinnati.—Officers of the rail unions will not interfere to stop a strike of the 1,225,000 shop craft and maintenance of way workers, B. M. Jewell declared in addressing the American Federation of Labor convention here.

Mr. Jewell is president of the railway employees' department of the Federation.

"The railway workers are ready for the test," said Mr. Jewell, "and if they decide to strike their decision will be complied with by their leaders."

UNEMPLOYMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA

London.—General Hertzog, Nationalist leader in South Africa, a Reuter despatch from Capetown says, in moving a resolution in the house of assembly for the reduction of the premier's salary, accused Premier Smuts of doing nothing to relieve unemployment by the development of industries.

On the contrary, he said, the South African government was aggravating the evil by encouraging immigration.

Premier Smuts replied that government relief works were coping with the unemployment effectively. The industrial developments which had recently foreshadowed, he said, required time. The present difficulty was the financial stringency. In consequence of this all the government was going to encourage immigration was advertising in Europe, the premier said, he regretted this because he considered that one of the factors in keeping down the white man in South Africa was the smallness of the white population and the gradual replacing of whites by blacks at cheaper wages.

The South African high commissioner would be immigrants with capital of only a few hundred pounds, but was sending out a fair number of a richer type of settler. Everyone bringing technical skill, education and capital should be welcomed with open arms, Premier Smuts said.

HIS LAST APPEAL

"Fight on, boys! Fight on in your lock-out!" were almost the last words of a Poplar blacksmith, W. Guy, as he lay dying in Bromley Infirmary of appendicitis. He was nearly 60, had been out of work for about two years, and was a member of the Poplar branch of the organized unemployed. His funeral took place yesterday, when 200 men from the Poplar branch and band, marched to the East London Cemetery, where the remains were laid to rest.

HELPING AN HOSPITAL

London.—Executors of the late Mr. John I'Anson Cartwright, J.P., the first workman Mayor of Wigton, have handed over to the Wigton Infirmary £2,700, proceeds of a fund which Mr. Cartwright (who was a postal servant at Wigton) inaugurated during his mayoralty for an operating theatre at the hospital.

Mr. Cartwright was chairman of the Post Office Insurance Society and an ex-president of the Postal Clerks' Association.

TO PENSION BIG FAMILIES

Sydney, N.E.W.—The New South Wales government has decided on a scheme of pensioning large families where the income of the wage earner is insufficient to maintain a reasonable standard. The bill will be introduced at the next session of the legislature.

MEMBERSHIP IN BRITAIN DROPPING

London.—C. W. Boverman (Labor) M.P., addressing the conference of the National Union of Theatrical Employees, said that when the Trade Union congress met in September last he found that the membership of many unions had dropped considerably. The decrease in one instance exceeded 100,000.

SOCIALIZATION OF INDUSTRY REJECTED

London.—The state labor conference, says a Reuter's Sydney despatch, has rejected the programme of the interstate labor conference, calling for the socialization of industry, production and distribution.

LORD NORTHLIFFE IS SUED FOR LIBEL

London.—The recent secession of Lord Northcliffe's newspapers from the Newspaper Proprietors' Association is recalled by the announcement that Walter Fish and Sir Andrew Caird, director and vice-chairman, respectively, of the Associated Newspapers, have issued writs of alleged libel against Lord Northcliffe. The complainants in the action continue to exercise their functions on the Associated Newspapers, which comprise three of the Northcliffe papers, the Daily Mail, Evening News and Weekly Dispatch.

Lord Northcliffe, who resigned from the Newspaper Proprietors' Association early in May, gave as his chief reason for doing so, according to newspaper reports, that "capitalists have come into Fleet street who have made fortunes in other industries, with no experience of newspapers at all; it is unreasonable that they should take the part of dictating conditions and wages of printers to those who have been associated with newspapers and printers all their lives."

ENGINEERS ACCEPT EMPLOYERS' TERM

London.—By 76,478 votes against 39,422, the Amalgamated Engineering Union has voted for acceptance of the employers' proposals for the settlement of the lockout in the engineering industry.

This acceptance needs only the ratification of the Employers' Federation, which is expected speedily, to end the impasse which has existed for fourteen weeks in the engineering trades and enable the men to return to work. The lockout originally affected some three-quarters of a million workers.

An official announcement says arrangements have been made for resumption of work immediately, and employment will be given to members of the union as quickly as factory arrangements allow.

SACK FOR RAILMEN

Berlin.—In the Berlin district 64 railway officials of various grades are now up before a disciplinary court to answer for their participation in the railway strike of last February.

All of them are to be dismissed from the service, although the Government gave as one of the conditions of the settlement at the end of the strike, that there should be no mass victimization.

In other districts the position is much the same, and there is every reason to believe that a regular vendetta is now being instituted by the Ministry of Communications against all railmen suspected of fighting for the right of coalition and strike.

WAGES STILL FALL

London.—The Laundry Trade Board (Great Britain) has resolved to reduce the minimum rates for female workers, as proposed in its notices of March 15. In notifying the Minister of Labour of the reductions, the Board recommended that the variations should become effective from July 3, 1922.

The Stamped or Pressed Metal Wares Trade Board (Great Britain) has resolved to issue, subject to the consent of the Minister of Labour, a notice of proposal to vary wages by means of a sliding scale based on the cost of living.

The Linen and Cotton Handkerchief and Household Goods and Linen Piece Goods Trade Board (Great Britain) has resolved to issue, subject to the Minister's consent, a notice of proposal to reduce minimum rates and to cancel the guaranteed time rates for female workers on piecework.