

# Labor News From Coast to Coast

## "OUR OVERSEAS COLUMN"

### News From the Various Countries

#### AUSTRIA

**Higher Bread and Milk Prices**—The price of bread recently advanced 100 crowns per loaf, and there was an increase of 400 crowns per liter in the milk price. Bread now costs 7,100 crowns per loaf and milk 5,360 crowns per liter.

**Living Costs vs. Wages**—Living costs, which have risen rapidly during the early months of 1924, are said to be the primary cause for demands for wage increases in numerous industries.

**Unemployment**—Since June, 1923, at which time there were 92,789 unemployed persons in the Austrian industrial districts, the number has steadily risen, and, at the beginning of February, 1924, was reported as 119,309.

#### BELGIUM

**Summary of Strike Results**—During the year 1923, 132,518 workmen were implicated in 164 strikes and 4 lockouts in Belgium. Of this total, 104,980 workmen went on strike voluntarily; 6,240 were idle because of strike measures over which they had no control; and 21,298 were affected by the lockouts. The 164 strikes affected 4,026 enterprises, while the 4 lockouts had a direct bearing upon 55 enterprises.

#### BRAZIL

**Colonization Society**—It is reported that a large industrial and agricultural colonization society, owning 500,000 hectares of land in the State of Mato Grosso, may try to dispose of the same to Italian and Japanese immigrants.

#### CEYLON

**Labor Commission**—A resolution was recently passed by the Ceylon Congress, under which the Government was requested "to appoint a commission to inquire into the conditions of labor in Ceylon and recommend measures for their improvement."

#### CUBA

**Shortage of Sugar-Workers**—There has been a shortage of labor in the sugar producing districts, particularly in the eastern portion of the island, and laborers have been imported from Haiti to relieve the shortage. In all other classes of work on the island, it is said that the supply of labor is greater than the demand.

#### CZECHO-SLOVAKIA

**Unemployment**—During January, 1924, 57,960 unemployed persons and their 59,000 dependants, were supported by subsidies from the National Government. To this number should be added 24,000 unemployed, who receive support through private concerns.

#### GERMANY

**Supplementary Unemployment Regulations**—Regulations for unemployment relief have been further amended in Germany by provisions that doles shall be granted only when the unemployed person has been without work for one week or more, and only to persons who have been insured against sickness for at least three of the last preceding twelve months.

**Modification of Unemployment Regulations**—In view of the large number of unemployed persons in Germany, the regulation which requires the unemployed to render work in return for the doles received, has been modified so as to restrict such employment to work required in the interest of common welfare, and to the assignment of the unemployed to only such work as their physical condition will permit them to perform.

**Emigration from Hamburg**—During the year ended December 31st, 1923, 1,621 vessels carried 136,118 emigrants and other travelers overseas from the port of Hamburg, as compared with 3,356 vessels carrying 89,958 persons during the year 1922. Of the number first stated, 97,218 were Germans; while in 1922, the number of Germans who departed from Hamburg for foreign countries was 29,584. Approximately 60 per cent. of each year's total came to the United States.

**Reduction of Municipal Employees**—Steps have been taken by the municipal authorities of the City of Frankfurt to reduce its 4,500 officials and employees by fifteen per cent. Those who are over sixty-five years of age will be pensioned.

**Strikes in the Shipyards**—Strikes of dockworkers, longshoremen and lightermen have recently taken place in the shipyards at Bremerhaven, Geestemünde, Lehe, Hamburg, Bremen, Kiel, Lübeck, Emden, and other important shipbuilding centres, because of the workmen's refusal to accept the decision of the Government's arbitrator decreeing a nine-hour day instead of an eight-hour day, as heretofore.

#### CHINA

**Silk Filature Close**—A number of Chinese-owned silk filatures in Shanghai have been closed recently, owing to the slackness of the silk market. At least 5,000 women have thus been thrown out of employment.

### Discuss Protecting of Bank Messengers

Trades and Labor Council to Consider Subject

Montreal, Que.—The Trades and Labor Council at its regular meeting will discuss the question of the better protection of bank messengers engaged in transferring bank funds. The matter is being taken up in view of the recent hold-up of bank messengers of the Bank of Hochelaga in which one of the employees of the bank lost his life.

It is understood that on the recommendation of the executive of the Council, a strong resolution calling for better protection of bank messengers on duty will be passed.

The Council will also have before it the question of the entertainment of the executive of the American Federation of Labor, which meets in Canada on May 10th for the first time in twenty years. Sam Gompers, president and his executive, will be the guests of organized labor in Montreal at a banquet at the Mount Royal Hotel, at which Tom Moore, president of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, P. M. Draper, secretary and other prominent labor men are expected to be present.

### Probe Wanted By Labor Men

An inquiry into the conduct of the juvenile court and the work of Judge Ethel McLachlan was asked for at the meeting of the Regina Trades and Labor Council recently. The discussion on the question was brief and the council decided to "write a letter to the attorney-general requesting that a public inquiry be made regarding the conducting of the juvenile court."

A city police court of some months ago was cited in which a young girl was trying to recover \$23 from her employer in lieu of notice following her discharge as a domestic servant. On the stand during the case the girl said that she had been in juvenile court some years earlier and that she had sought employment under an assumed name to escape the stigma that appeared to be attached to her name. In her evidence at that time, the girl declared that Judge McLachlan told her that she had given information that led to her discharge. The delegates went on record as being favorable to the principle of juvenile courts but expressed their desire to have the conducting of the court fully aired.

Tracing capitalism from a Communist viewpoint, he foresaw its downfall within ten years, with a more gigantic struggle than the world war, while capitalists sought to hold their power.

#### A Sordid Picture

"When the system fails there will be nothing to do but sweep the rubbish out of existence and build a new social order," he said, while his audience applauded. "But the question is: Shall we go down with capitalism? It has nearly destroyed a European civilization. It is now on the same road to war—the murder of millions—and produces the danger of a return to barbarism. If we do not mobilize our power it will drag us down, and the question is: Shall we say to capitalism, 'You have had your opportunity; now we will take power to establish a Soviet Government?'"

He declared that the Ramsay MacDonald Government built air fleets and cruisers and strengthened the capitalist order. It ruled for the capitalist. A Communist Government he held, would establish a dictatorship to root out the capitalist class.

### Urges a Revolt in This Country

Communist Waxen Warm

One thousand persons heard the May-Day address urging revolt in Canada, delivered at the Labor Temple by C. E. Ruthenberg, secretary of the Workers' Party of America. He was speaking "in the name of those who are seeking to organize the workers of the world into the Communist International."

The speaker is at present on bail pending decision from the U.S. Supreme Court on points involved in the charge against him of criminal syndicalism.



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### Communists in Canada

Replaces Workers' Party

A Communist Party in affiliation with the Third International will be set up in Canada. Such was the decision reached at the convention of the Workers' Party of Canada which was recently held in Toronto. Two hours of discussion was held in camera before the step was taken. No one could enter unless he presented the red card of the party.

John Macdonald explained that the time had come to change the name of the Workers' Party. It had been identified with the Communist Party long enough to become a member.

Communication from Kollarow, secretary of the Communist International, Moscow, showed further evidence of the efforts of Soviet Russia to extend its influence to the American continent. The letter showed a decided understanding of the Labor policy in America. Having criticized the tactics of Communists in Canada Kollarow asks officials of the party to "communicate" with us more regularly so that we can follow the activities of the party more closely. "Assistance, if needed, is promised."

**Warning Re Miners**  
Kollarow advises action against secessionist movement amongst the miners of District 18 and District 26, because of their defeat at the recent convention.

Adoption of a slogan is advised in the letter: "Workers' and Farmers' Government. Canada is an agrarian country."

"Your press does not popularize the slogan," he states. "It does not explain the difference between the Workers' and Farmers' Government and the well-to-do Farmer Government which lost its grip in Ontario, but still holds it in Alberta. It is of prime importance that you may out a policy whereby a cleavage should be created between the well-to-do farmers and the poor tenant, and that the latter should be allied with organized labor. Particular attention should be paid to the Farmers' Union of Canada."

The principal figure in the convention was C. E. Ruthenberg, secretary of the Workers' Party of America, it is said. There were delegates from every province, whose expenses to the convention are paid by a levy of 75 cents upon the members of the party. The party is in a healthy condition financially, according to the reports. Receipts during the year approximated \$14,000. There is a surplus of 2,500.

### Labor Wins in Two Elections

Melbourne, Aus.—The ministries of Sir H. N. Barwell in South Australia and Sir James Mitchell in Western Australia have resigned.

The retirement of these ministries is the result of recent state elections which gave the Labor Party a majority of the seats in both legislatures. In Western Australia, Labor captured 26 of the 50 seats, the other 24 being split among three other parties, the government party getting only 102. Labor will probably be asked to form a government with the aid of one or more of the other groups.

In South Australia Labor secured 26 to 46 seats, the government or liberal party getting 18.

### Elect Officers of Typo Union

Montreal, Que.—Thomas Black was re-elected president of Montreal Typographical Union, No. 176 by acclamation at a meeting held recently at Union Hall, St. James Street. J. T. Edward was re-elected vice-president, James Phillip, secretary-treasurer, and T. F. Keenan, recorder, also by acclamation.

Other elections were: Auditors, E. J. Teague, J. T. Edward, T. J. Carter; Secretary, J. T. Carter; Treasurer, J. T. Carter; and W. M. White, sergeant-at-arms, T. Hinchelliff.

The following were nominated for the executive committee, five to be elected: C. Cooney, J. A. Griffiths, P. Hammond, T. J. Carter, B. R. Goodyear, T. Robertson, P. Vergeylen, E. J. Teague, J. Devine, W. Hopper.

Delegates nominated for the International Typographical Convention at Toronto, one to be elected, were, Jas. Phillip, B. R. Goodyear, W. Hopper, J. T. Edward and T. A. Wilson; delegate to the Ontario and Quebec Conference at London, Ont., J. A. Griffiths; to the Trades and Labor Council: C. Cooney, J. Moore, J. A. Griffiths, T. R. Drepeau, P. Vergeylen, A. King; journal correspondent, T. J. Carter; allied printing trades delegates: T. Black, J. T. Edward and J. Phillip.

### Labor Men Instal Officers for 1924

Executive Members Take Oath of Office

Saskatoon, Sask.—Officers for the current year for the Saskatoon Trades and Labor Council were installed at a meeting of the members of the organization held in the Labor Temple recently.

They were: President A. M. Eddy; Vice-president, F. Reynolds; Secretary, Gerald Dealtry; Statistician, Ernest Morrell. All took the oath of allegiance to the council and made short addresses pledging themselves to devote their best energies in the interests of their fellow members.

F. Collier, newly elected treasurer, was absent from the ceremony. The members of the executive committee of the council, which includes the officers already mentioned, were elected as follows: A. L. Warmington, William Fyfe, W. E. Etheridge and John Tobin.

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### More Jobs Filled Than Last Winter

Increase in Men Placed This Season Is Fifty Per Cent. Over 1923

Vancouver, B.C.—Fifty per cent. more men were placed in positions during the first quarter of this year than in 1923, said Mr. A. S. Mavrus, assistant to the superintendent of Dominion employment bureaus.

The final figures for March are not yet available, but places were found for 11,000 throughout British Columbia in January and February as compared with 8,000 for the same months last year.

Seeding operations on the prairie call for 100 men from here for Saskatchewan and 100 for Alberta. Wages will average \$49 a month and board. Railways are offering a rate of 2.7 cents per mile from this province.

While logging is giving employment to many men, construction work proposed in connection with the logging industry will not be started for some time. This is expected to attract much larger numbers than straight logging work calls for.

Mr. Mavrus says there has been quite an influx of labor from the South, and this total has been augmented by immigrants from Europe, chiefly Scandinavians, who have come across Canada.

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