

## Labour Department Report on Trades Unions for the Year 1921

### WAGE MATTERS ARE BEFORE MEETING OF THE ALLIED TRADES

A condemnation of the board of trade deputation to the board of control asking the latter to re-consider its decision regarding the payment of 50 cents per hour to city laborers, and strong disapproval of the action of the Ottawa Electric Railway in announcing part payment plan for its employees, before the award of the board of conciliation was made known were two of the important features of the regular meeting of the Allied Trades and Labor Association.

Other matters that came in for discussion was the work on the civic hospital, the slight on civil servants by F. N. McCrea, member for Sherbrooke, the early closing of the stores on Saturday afternoons, assistance for the family of the late Alex. Chapman, for thirty-five years an employee of the city, and an objection to re-classification measures.

When Secretary William Lodge read the clause of the executive committee's report disapproving of the board of trade's action on the civic wage question, several delegates wanted to talk on the matter all at once. Tom Moore said that some business men must have spare time on their hands when they would think of such mean things as this.

He wished some of the board members would submit a schedule on how a laborer, with a family, could live on less than fifty cents an hour, more especially when they did not get full weeks.

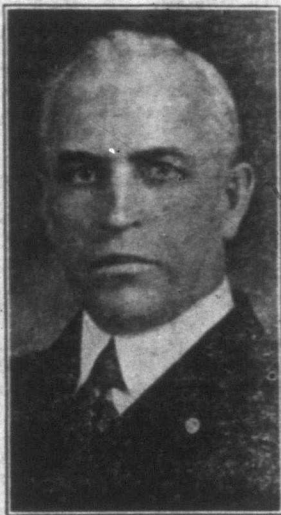
Delegate P. M. Draper said that he considered fifty cents an hour as low as could be offered any man. It was a mistaken idea that the cost of living was declining perceptibly, especially in Ottawa. Rents took a third of a man's wages, coal cost money, and the necessities of life had to be bought.

Delegate Brown wanted to know how the board of trade had sunk as low as to want to force starvation wages on men, while it was suggested that the president of the board of trade be made live on 50 cents an hour, and see how he would like it.

The executive's clause dealing with reduction in the street railway employees' wage, stated that the reduction...

### OTTAWA TYPOS IN ANNUAL ELECTIONS

Mr. J. W. Jefferson was elected president of Ottawa Typographical board, was, to say the least, unexpected. Comrade Draper thought it better to get at the very bottom of things before criticizing, but Delegate Jennings on behalf of the railwaymen, explained matters, and stated that he thought something deeper than appeared on the surface was the motive. Tom Moore said that there used to be a time when men appealed to conciliation board for increases, but now things were seemingly reversed. He stated that the manner in which the reduction was carried out could not help but prejudice people against the company, and gain their sympathy for the men. He considered it regrettable that the company should follow such a policy. It in his opinion, would cause strained feelings between the men and the company, and the men would lose confidence. Though the company might be able to say it had not evaded the law, it could not truthfully say that it had not broken the spirit of the law.



**Sherbrooke M.P. Criticized.**  
F. N. McCrea was not spared the slightest in the report. He was characterized as unworthy of being a member of parliament for the careless manner in which he recently abused the service. The clause stated that his statements had no foundation, they were delusions and that in making them he failed to live up to the measures required of an M.P. People know, stated the report, that the civil service was of a higher calibre, that it was rendering full service, and that only in a few instances was the re-employment adequate.

Assistance for the family of the late Alex. Chapman, for thirty-five years a corporation employee, whose death occurred recently, was recommended, a delegation to wait on the board of control.

Delegate Paquette, representing the retail clerks, asked the delegates to ask the members of their unions not to purchase goods on Saturday afternoons, as part of their agitation to have the stores closed on that afternoon, during the summer.

### BIG INCREASE IN EXPENDITURE FOR BENEFITS IN LABOR BODIES

#### INTERESTING FIGURES ON THE UNION MOVEMENT IN CANADA

The information contained in the Eleventh Annual Report on Labour Organization in Canada, covering the year 1921, which has just been issued by the Department of Labour, shows that trade union membership has suffered a heavy loss during the year. The total membership of all classes of trade unions in Canada at the close of 1921 stood at 313,320, comprised of 2,668 local branches, and indicates losses during the year 1921 of 60,622 in members and of 250 in branches. Although a heavy decrease occurred in the following of international organizations, over 71 per cent of trade unionists in Canada belong to this class. There are in all 98 international organizations having one or more local branches in the Dominion, the aggregate for Canada being 2,223, with a combined reported membership of 222,896. These figures show three less international organizations operating in Canada and losses of 232 in branches and 44,351 in members. There are 264 local branches, with a membership of 24,980, of what are termed non-international bodies, a gain of five in branches, but a decrease in members of 926. The number of independent units is 27, three less than in 1920, and the reported membership 15,644, a decrease of 15,545. The national Catholic unions number 120, four less than reported in the previous year, and the total membership was given at 45,000. The local units of the One Big Union number 34, a decrease of 17, and the membership was understood to be approximately 5,300. The membership of all classes of organized labour in Canada, as reported to the Department for the past eleven years, has been as follows:

1911, 133,132; 1912, 160,120; 1913, 175,799; 1914, 166,163; 1915, 143,343; 1916, 160,407; 1917, 204,630; 1918, 248,887; 1919, 378,047; 1920, 373,842; 1921, 313,320.
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**Trade Union Membership by Provinces.**

The 2,668 local branch unions of all classes in the Dominion are divided by provinces as follows: Ontario, 1,105; Quebec, 497; British Columbia, 240; Alberta, 216; Saskatchewan, 163; Manitoba, 159; Nova Scotia, 151; New Brunswick, 127; and Prince Edward Island, 10.

**Trade Union Membership in Chief Cities.**

There are in Canada 31 cities, a decrease of four, having not less than 20 local branch unions of international and non-international organizations and independent units. The 1,412 branches located in these cities represents 56 per cent of the local branches of the unions above mentioned, and contain approximately 40 per cent of the trade union membership in the Dominion, as reported from the head offices of the central organizations. As in the past, Montreal stands in first place among the cities as to local branches, having 191 of all classes of unions, 101 of which reported 34,637 members; Toronto ranks second with 155 branches, 92 of which reported 32,292 members; Winnipeg stands third with 94 branches, 55 of which reported 7,928 members. Other cities in order of number of branches of all classes are: Vancouver, 77 branches, 47 reporting 7,875 members; Ottawa, 76 branches, 54 reporting 6,377 members; Quebec, 74 branches, 35 reporting 6,128 members; Hamilton, 66 branches, 51 reporting 4,538 members; London, 61 branches, 39 reporting 3,954 members; Edmonton, 60 branches, 35 reporting 3,323 members; Calgary, 60 branches, 43 reporting 3,941 members; St. John, 44 branches, 29 reporting 3,031 members; Victoria, 44 branches, 34 reporting 2,047 members; Saskatoon, 37 branches, 23 reporting 1,215 members; Regina, 33 branches, 26 reporting 963 members; Halifax, 32 branches, 18 reporting 2,125 members; Moose Jaw, 31 branches, 21 reporting 1,633 members; St. Thomas, 30 branches, 23 reporting 1,954 members; Windsor, 30 branches, 21 reporting 1,325 members; Fort William, 28 branches, 18 reporting 918 members; Sault Ste. Marie, 26 branches, 12 reporting 953 members; Brantford, 26 branches, 15 reporting 690 members; Moncton, 23 branches, 13 reporting 2,425 members; Kingston, 23 branches, 15 reporting 756 members; Peterborough, 23 branches, 15 reporting 470 members; Niagara Falls, 22 branches, 15 reporting 1,137 members; St. Catharines, 22

(Continued on Page 2.)

### CONVENTION STOOD FOR FREE SPEECH

Guelph.—At the 12th annual of the Labor Educational Association of Ontario here, condemnation was expressed for municipal officials for preventing free speech, the cities of Guelph, Kitchener, Welland and Toronto being particularly mentioned. The meeting adopted a resolution putting the convention on record as standing for free speech so long as speakers kept within the law.

There was criticism of the provincial government's policy respecting the construction of highways, particularly with reference to wages, and a resolution was passed demanding that the same rate of wages be paid to these highway workers which prevailed in the sections where the work is being done.

A resolution of condemnation of the stand taken by two labor members of the legislature, Messrs. Honnath and Swayne, and also of the farmer members who voted for the two bills in the house respecting the London street railway and the London gas question, was passed, and those labor members and farmers who opposed these bills were given high commendation.

The question of the establishment of a great provincial labor paper was referred to the incoming executive, with power to take action in the proposition.

**Officers Elected.**  
The following officers were re-elected: President, James Marsh, Toronto; vice-president, Dr. J. E. Hett, Kitchener; secretary-treasurer, Jos. T. Marks, Toronto; executive committee, J. A. P. Hayden, Ottawa; W. Baxter, Kingston; C. Liebers, Peterboro; J. A. Lafreniere, Brantford; H. Kerwin, Toronto; W. Allan, Niagara Falls; W. A. J. St. Catharines; J. McCall, Welland; J. T. Stoss, Brantford; W. Guy, Guelph; W. Smith, South Waterloo; S. L. Ireland, Stratford; W. H. Stewart, London; W. Stokes, St. Thomas; A. Carroll, Windsor; C. Coshore, Owen Sound; J. Nichol, Thorold; A. Jackson, Orillia; D. Kennedy, Midland; W. Everett, Cobalt.

### LEVERHULME SAYS SUCCESS ATTENDS CO-PARTNERSHIP

Toronto.—Lord Leverhulme, the noted English labor reformer and head of the world's greatest soap and fish industries, who is here on a business mission for a few days, gave an interview last week.

His lordship voiced a grievance against the British trade unionists who have prevented him from inaugurating his 6-hour day plan at Port Sunlight. "The unions say any work done after certain hours of the day is overtime and they are not willing to consider the plan I proposed for four shifts a day of six hours each," his lordship explained. The government, he added, had expressed its willingness to amend the factories act in order to permit the employment of females, but owing to objections of the union officials, the 8-hour day is still in effect. "My motto is, sweat the machine, not the man," declared his lordship.

"Employers generally are now more favorable towards the co-partnership plan of employment than ever before," his lordship observed, "but it will take twenty years to build up the spirit of co-partnership. The plan is not practicable with all classes of industry, as for example, in farming. At the same time employers who think there will be an immediate lowering in the cost of production as soon as they offer a share of their profits to their employees are doomed to disappointment. Some employers expect co-partnership to work as simply as dropping a cent in a slot machine and pulling out the result from a ready drawer. It is not so, but there will come under any well organized co-partnership scheme, such loyalty and better service from the staff as will tend to bring production costs to the lowest basis.

**Scheme is Successful.**  
"I am a firm believer in co-partnership. I have had the plan in operation for ten years, and I can say it is achieving my most sanguine expectations. Co-partnership solidarity is not proved in years of prosperity, but in years of adversity, such as we had in the past years, has the strength or co-operation proved itself most clearly."

Turning to a political subject his lordship disclosed vigorous opinions on the Russian situation. "I say leave Russia alone to work out the truth or error of her own ideas on gov-

### NINE HOUR DAY AND WAGE DECREASE FOR OTTAWA ELECTRIC RY MEN

A very substantial reduction in the rates paid by the Ottawa Electric Railway to its employees, together with the rejection of the eight-hour day demanded by the men, is contained in the majority report of the board of arbitration, which is signed by the chairman, Mr. Alex. Smith, and Mr. George D. Kelley for the street railway company, and which was deposited with the minister of labor.

While there has been no official statement either by the company or officials of the Street Railwaymen's Union regarding the award, it is learned that the rate agreed upon by the two signing it is forty-eight cents per hour as a maximum rate as against fifty-five cents which the men have been receiving for the last two years. This constitutes a reduction of twelve and a half per cent, and the motor men and conductors who have been advised unofficially of the reduction are extremely dissatisfied.

An official of the union stated that it was probable a mass meeting of the members of the union would be held to consider the award, in St. Anne's hall at midnight on Saturday.

The majority award, in addition to striking a rate of 48 cents an hour, stipulates that employees, where the company finds it practicable shall not be required to work more than a nine-hour day and finds that owing to the circumstances covering the operation of a street railway, the eight-hour day asked for by the men as a main contention in the dispute would not be feasible.

Mr. C. J. Tulley, who represented the employees on the board, is preparing a minority report which will likely be submitted to the labor department. In it, while conceding a reduction of wages, he maintains that the men should have been accorded the eight-hour day, a principle which has been adopted by the nations signatory to the League of Nations.

### TO BE MAJORITY AND MINORITY REPORTS

Halifax.—A majority report by Chairman D'Arcy Scott and John E. Moore, company representative, and a minority report by Isaac MacDougall, representing the miners, engaged the attention of the members of the Scott conciliation board here, it is understood. The board has finished its sittings as such, following an investigation of the wage dispute between the British Empire Steel Corporation and its coal mine employees, during which the board visited the coal fields of the province of Cape Breton Island and also in Pictou and Cumberland counties.

London.—The Daily Herald, organ of the Labor party in London is to live. In its announcement the paper says:— "After some weeks of doubt and hesitation, weeks of great stress and worry, we are able to announce that the Herald is to continue as the mouthpiece of organized labour in these islands. The Joint Committee, representing the General Council of the Trades Union Congress and the Executive Committee of the National Labour Party, yesterday decided that the paper must continue, and that, for the period which will elapse between now and the meeting of the Labour Party in June at Edinburgh, and the Trades Union Congress in September at Southampton, the Joint Committee would meet the estimated loss incurred in carrying on the paper at the price of 2d. This position was arrived at after a long discussion—a discussion which from the start to finish proved that those who represent the official Labour movement in this country are determined, by one means or another, a publicity and Press department, shall be established which will enable them to carry on, day by day and week by week, propaganda through the organs of daily, weekly and monthly newspapers and journals. Our staff has played its part in helping to solve the difficulties for the next six months, and has, on its own responsibility and without any sort of direct or indirect persuasion, voluntarily agreed that it will, if necessary, put up the sum of £8,000 during the six months' period."

### ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM OVERSEAS

#### MINIMUM WAGE OF TEXTILE WORKERS

Notice has been received by textile manufacturers in the Ottawa district that a meeting of the provincial minimum wage board will be held in Toronto, June 1, to deal with the question of wages paid to textile workers. The board has made an order regarding the minimum wage to be paid employees in textile factories, but it will not become effective until the manufacturers and employees have an opportunity to make any representations they may desire. "We are sure," the board states in calling the meeting, "as a result of our numerous conferences with those engaged in this trade that if this proposed order should provoke any suspicion or resentment in the mind of any textile employer or employee, the reason is that it has not been sufficiently explained and the board would welcome the opportunity of justifying its action to such a person."

The order provides that in cities of over 30,000 population, the minimum wage of experienced adults, over 18 years of age, is to be \$11.50 graded down to 85 for girls under 18 as beginners.

In cities and towns between 5,000 and 30,000 population the minimum wage of experienced adults is placed at \$11, with \$7 as the lowest for young beginners. For the rest of the province the minimum wage of experienced adults is to be \$10 with \$6 the lowest paid beginners. It is provided that at least half the workers in any factory must be experienced adults.

"The order cuts off unculturally low wages," the board states, "and affords every woman engaged in knitting or spinning and weaving sufficient income to provide for the expense of her livelihood."

The total amount of hate in the world that isn't occasioned by envy is something less than one-half of one per cent.

If it's hard for a rich man to get to heaven the tax collectors are pretty good evangelists.

"An intensely human sex-play." Oh, well, Man was made of dirt.

#### SHEARERS REFUSE CUT

London.—A Renter despatch from Sydney, New South Wales, states that shearers and other pastoral workers in all states except Queensland, will refuse the federal arbitration court's award fixing the wages of shearers at thirty-five shillings per hundred. They will insist on payment of wages as fixed by the Queensland arbitration court, which recently refused an application by employers to reduce wages, on the ground of the continued high cost of living. Graziers declare that the decision of the men will be a death blow to arbitration proceedings.

#### THE ENGINEERS FAIL TO AGREE

London.—Another breakdown of the negotiations in connection with the engineering dispute in this country has occurred. Representatives of the Amalgamated Engineers' Union and the employers met today but failed to reach an agreement. They separated after the employers had rejected counter-proposals submitted, and no further meeting was arranged.

The employers submitted the proposals which the other forty-seven engineering unions already have under consideration but the Amalgamated Engineers' Union declined to make any statement in this regard. The union is now considering the offer.

#### LARKIN TO BE CANDIDATE

Dublin.—The Labor party will nominate seventeen candidates for the coming Irish elections. The candidates include James Larkin, the former head of the transport workers' union, who recently was released from prison in the United States on a writ of habeas corpus.

Larkin was found guilty in 1920 of criminal anarchy and sentenced to a term of five to ten years in New York state prison.

#### STRIKE DECLARED OFF

London.—The strike of electricians against the seven per cent wage reduction has been declared off, according to a Reuters despatch from Melbourne. This action was taken owing to the fears that an extension of the strike would disorganize industry generally.

#### MINERS' EXPENSES FOUND TO BE HEAVY

Springhill, N.S.—After deductions for rent, coal, doctor, union and society dues, an taxes, one Springhill miner with a family of seven had left for other expenses an average of \$4.97 per week from January 15 to May 5, 1922, according to a statement filed by Arthur Bonnyman, local miners' spokesman, before the Scott Conciliation Board, which is investigating the dispute between the Nova Scotia coal operators and the miners.

The miners said their main difficulty was that on many days there was no work for them.

When a budget of Springhill prices was filed with the board, Chairman Scott remarked that the miners were charged more some necessities than people in Upper Canada.

#### UNEMPLOYMENT PEAK IS PASSED

The Dominion is now in debt to the province to approximately \$1,200,000 for unemployment relief. This sum includes unemployment accounts generally but is chiefly on account of the higher cost of carrying on public works in winter. A supplementary estimate will be presented for this amount.

Ron James Murdock, minister of labor, gave these figures in the house of commons. He added that already \$500,000 had been voted for relief during the past fiscal year.

The statement was made in connection with a vote of \$100,000 for unemployment relief during the current year, and William Irvine, Labor Calgary East, asked how the minister expected to get along with that small amount in view of the large expenditure this last winter.

"If next winter is anything like last," responded Mr. Murdock, "of course, we cannot get through on it. But it is reasonable to be optimistic and to hope that conditions will be improved materially."

The house cheered and the item carried.

### FURTHER HEARING OF COAL MINERS

Springhill, N.S.—D. H. MacDougall, vice-president of the British Empire Steel Corporation, speaking before the Scott Conciliation Board which is investigating the wage dispute between Nova Scotia coal miners and operators here, Saturday said:

"The Nova Scotia coal production for 1922 promises to be the smallest in twenty years." He described the invasion of unusual markets by foreign competitors, adding that the invasion could be resisted only by production of coal at a lower cost. He said the company had lost opportunities to make contracts because of the lack of a wage agreement which would allow them to guarantee delivery at the required rates.

"Notwithstanding that during 1921 the aggregate disbursements of the corporation in wages, materials, taxation, etc., amounted to \$46,759,000, the common shareholders did not receive anything," Mr. MacDougall said.

Isaac MacDougall, miner representative on the board, "How about the preferred shareholders?"

D. H. MacDougall: "The preferred shareholders are in the nature of mortgage holders and must be paid."

Mr. Wilson, mayor of Springhill, and a merchant of the town, addressed the board for a few minutes. "I earned more money mining coal in Springhill thirty years ago, than this," said Mr. Wilson, as he produced a recent pay sheet which showed an average daily earning of \$2.87 for the miner to whom it belonged. "We could live seventy-five per cent cheaper than," he continued, "and while the miners thirty years ago could build their own homes, today they cannot pay their taxes."

The chief fault of philosophy is that when you are climbing you don't need it, and when you're going downhill it won't work.

We can understand—almost everything except the argument that world conditions should make a \$15 apartment rent for \$60 the month.