

Industrial Review From Many Sources

OVERSEAS

(Continued from Page One)

...ive features which it has presented to his travelling public, but the ever-tightening grip of control is changing all this.

The association contends that much of the blame for the present unhappy condition of trade and commerce must be apportioned to the restrictions and limitations imposed upon business and individuals by authorities.

The writers assert that these restrictions result in the establishment of an arbitrary and bureaucratic authority, and the limitation of the right of the citizen to conduct himself with that freedom which is an essential part of the character of a free citizen.

REQUEST INCREASE

A conference of unemployed women, which was arranged by the Trades Union Congress general council, passed a resolution calling on the government to allocate a further sum to be expended in providing work for women and on training schemes, with maintenance.

The speakers dwell upon the possibility of single girls living on the unemployed allowance of 12 shillings a week. A member of the Actresses' Association, said that out of 6,000 members 4,000 were workless and without any prospect of obtaining work.

Another resolution adopted by the women at the conference expressed the conviction of the gathering that domestic service should be classed as a skilled trade, and protested against the attempt to make use of the industrial depression to force women to enter domestic service, regardless of their suitability or the conditions of the work.

The mover of this resolution declared that the domestic servants were still to be treated as slaves.

LONDON ELECTIONS

Laborite and Socialist candidates were badly worsted in the London municipality elections. The results, as far as have been announced, give the Municipal Reformers 67 seats, the Progressives 17, and the Laborites 10.

In three constituencies Laborites met defeat by narrow margins, but elsewhere they were swamped by majorities varying from 1,000 to 8,000.

The composition of the last county council was Reformers 68, Progressives 28, Laborites 17, and Independents one.

Interest in the County Council election outside of London was not very great. Except where Labor already possessed material representation, many seats were uncontented. Durham perhaps was the liveliest centre during the election contests. Labor gained a majority there three years ago but the subsequent rise in rates resulted in the formation of a special association to combat Labor activities.

J. H. Thomas, the railwaymen's leader, who is generally considered the most statesmanlike of the Labor leaders in England, and who, insistently preaches moderation, has declared that the result of the London County Council elections is the most serious setback the democratic movement has yet received. While not interpreting the result as a refusal of the electors to trust Labor, Mr. Thomas says it certainly is a sign of the alarm of the electors concerning the popular methods of administration. He declares that Labor must show that it is not out to govern merely for one section of the metropolis.

WOMAN LORD

The petition of Lady Rhondda to sit in the House of Lords was granted by the committee on privileges of the House of Lords. If she takes the seat awarded her by this ruling she will be the first woman to sit in the upper house of the British Parliament, as Lady Astor was in the lower chamber.

Lady Rhondda is the daughter of Viscount Rhondda, Great Britain's war-time food controller, who died in 1918 from an illness brought on by overwork. He left no male heir, his only child being the daughter, wife of Sir Humphrey Mackworth.

Entitled to Seat.

Lord Donoughmore presided over the committee, composed of Lords Deans, Haldane, Chalmers, Hylton, Wrenbury, Phillimore and Asquith. After Lady Rhondda's right to the present title was established her counsel argued that the sex disqualification removal act had clearly applied to a case like the present, and that the disability existing in the past now

NATIONAL PROSPERITY AND INDUSTRIAL PEACE

From the September Number of THE ROUND TABLE

(Continued from Last Week.)

We have repeated instances lately of a strike or lockout in one trade holding up the work of countless other workers and industries not directly interested in the dispute. It is not so obvious to everybody that our national prosperity is equally dependent upon the prosperity of other nations and vice versa. If France or Russia or Germany or the United States are prosperous, it means that they can buy more from us, even as we also buy more from them. If everybody worked not only here but all over the world, it could not be long before mankind produced enough to give everybody a very high standard of life. And there can be no other way in which the world can become prosperous except that everybody should so work. Mankind lives upon what it produces every year. Its accumulated wealth other than the plant and material with which it works, is not very great. Its reserves of food and clothing and raw material, for instance, are quite small, and it cannot live for many weeks on redistributed houses, and furniture and land. It is certain that the present distribution of accumulated wealth, by increasing indignation at its inequality or injustice, hinders work and gives rise to false economic doctrines which hide the elemental truth that probably nine-tenths of mankind's annual needs in food, clothing and amusement are produced by work in the year in which they are consumed, and that only one-tenth is accumulated in the form of property, property which except in the case of land is itself perishable and rendered useless by a later invention.

Therefore, work by all nations and all classes, and work intelligently applied, is the foundation of prosperity. We come now to efficiency. Stress has already been laid upon the importance of work being properly applied. People cannot get a living by working, however hard, at just digging holes in the ground or carting mountains to the plain. It has to be work applied according to science and experience in such a way as will result in growing crops, or mined materials, or manufactured commodities, of such a quality and so distributed as to meet other people's needs. Unless the intelligent direction in the all the work in the world will not avert starvation, and the more intelligent the direction, the less the effort required to meet the needs of mankind. The price of foodstuffs, for instance, is infinitely lower and their variety and availability greater, as the result of the use by farmers of machinery and the results of scientific research, than it was a century ago. Efficiency, therefore, is vital to prosperity—efficiency in the individual worker, efficiency in management, efficiency in distribution, efficiency in organization. Without efficiency the effort will be wasted and the return in prosperity low.

SHIPMENT HELD

Canada is in danger of being with out the revised prayer book within the time specified, was the statement made in the course of an application to Mr. Justice Russell by the Cambridge University Press by an order against Hazel, Watson and Vinny, Limited.

Counsel said that many thousands of copies had been ordered from the Cambridge Press by the church. The defendant firm printed and bound the books for the university and the books were already packed in cases in their warehouses at Aylesbury, but owing to the strike of the papermakers and packers' union, they could not be moved. The plaintiffs were under contract to send the books to Canada and the consignment should be at the shipping point in Liverpool by March 7 at the latest in order to reach Canada in time to be distributed for Easter Day, which was the date fixed by the ecclesiastical authorities in Canada.

CLOSED SHOP

The application of trade unions operating in the coal industry of South Wales was one of the themes referred to at the monthly meeting of the Rhondda District of the South Wales Miners' Federation, and also that of the Pontypool district, recently, says the London Daily Herald. The question arose over the attitude of the engineers.

At a meeting of the Rhondda district a resolution was accepted that every man working in and about the mines must be a member of the Miners' Federation, and that only those who were members would receive the protection and support of the federation in the case of claims under the Minimum Wage Compensation.

POSTAL AGREEMENT.

Agreements were signed by the postmaster of the provisional government and the president of the Irish Postal Union providing for the immediate establishment of an independent commission to inquire into post office wages and conditions. The commission is to present its findings on the wage question before May 15 and is empowered to recommend that its findings apply retroactively from March 1.

The threatened strike over a ten shilling cut in wages has thus been averted. It would have affected 15,000 employees in Ireland, with the exception of Ulster.

OTTAWA TRADES COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Delegate Freeman Rowe stirred up a hornet's nest at the meeting of the Allied Trades and Labor meeting when he came out in open championship of the Emmett street sewer construction being given to contractor Tom McLaughlin.

He was speaking in a resolution by the executive committee, recommending that in view of the present unemployment situation, this work should be done by day labor.

Delegate Rowe said that as McLaughlin had offered to do the job \$5,000 cheaper than the estimates prepared by the city, in the interests of the taxpayers who would have to foot the bill, the work should be given to the contractor. He said that if there had not been so much difference in the estimates of the city and the contractor, he would have favored day labor.

He furthermore said that when a man was working for the city he did not work so hard as when employed by a contractor, and was subject to patronage.

Delegate McEneaney had received the shock of his life to hear a delegate to the Trades Council ad-

vocate such work being done by contract instead of day labor. He felt that the only solution to the existing unemployment situation was for all civic works to be done by day labor. If the city was faced with the problem of feeding so many hundreds of needy, it was surely in the interests of the corporation to provide as many of them as possible with employment.

President Hayden and Delegates Lewis and Leskie also strongly deprecated the sentiments expressed by Delegate Rowe, as being foreign to the stand which had always been taken by organized labor, on this question. The resolution of the executive was finally adopted unanimously.

Delegate Rowe then went after the engineering department, suggesting that the executive of the council should try and find out why estimates could not be prepared by the department for civic works, so that they could be carried out as cheaply as by contract—but he was alone.

At the request of the Canadian Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis, President Hayden named delegates R. Plant, F. W. McRae and W. Lodge as a committee to attend the meeting of the association to be held at the Chateau Laurier on March 17.

NOVA SCOTIA HOUSE INTERESTING SESSION

The meeting of the provincial legislature was featured by demonstrations of the unemployed. Premier Murray, D. D. McKensie, leader of the opposition, and Mr. Foreman Way, the three provincial speakers, were repeatedly interrupted. When Mr. Way referred to the heads of the British Empire Steel Corporation as "financial pirates," there was a outburst of applause. There was a demonstration when Mr. Way declared that in Cape Breton men just as honest as any in the house had been forced to break into a store owned by the Dominion Coal Co. in order to live.

QUEBEC HAS A RETURN TO HOME

Sixty families of mill operatives have left Moncton, N.H., for the province of Quebec since the start of the strike, which has kept some 20,000 employees of the Amoskeag and Stark cotton mills idle for three weeks. Most of these French-Canadians have said their departure was merely for the purpose of visiting relatives, and that they will return later.

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