

# CANADIAN LABOR PRESS

Weekly News Letter

Vol. IV. \$2.00 Per Year. National and Rational. OTTAWA, ONT., SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28th, 1922. Live News and Views. Single Copies 5 Cents. No. 30.

# Industrial Peace a Necessity for All Workers

## SUCCESS OF C.N.R. IS OBJECT OF LABOR

Sir Henry Thornton, new president of the united Canadian National Railway system, will have little difficulty in securing the co-operation of labor in making the country's largest public enterprise a real success was the feeling expressed yesterday by Hon. George F. Graham, acting minister of railways and canals, by four prominent union officials, representing the International Association of Machinists; Division No. 4 of the Railway Employees Department of the American Federation of Labor; International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers; and the Brotherhood of Railway Firemen of America. They told him that they had heard from their associates nothing but praise for the new head of the system.

A protest was registered with the acting minister against the letting of contracts to outside firms for rolling stock for the Canadian National Railway when the shops of the latter are not now fully employed. It was urged that it should be the policy of the government, as far as possible, to keep the Canadian National Railway shops running full time, and not on part time with contracts going to outside companies. It was pointed out by them that as a result of this the shops at Winnipeg, Moncton, Leaside, and

## ALL WHITE CANADA URGED BY CREHAN

Veterans' President Speaks on Orientals and Drug Traffic.

Major M. J. Crehan, of Vancouver, B.C., Dominion President of the Army and Navy Veterans of Canada, who is in the city attending the Dominion Veterans' Alliance meetings said that one of the greatest evils, that of the drug habit, had been brought to this country by the Orientals in British Columbia. These Asiatic immigrants were responsible for the terrible increase of this habit into the home and family life of Canadians. As an illustration of how powerful an influence the "drug ring" was on the Pacific coast, he said that the drug syndicate there pays double time to a man who is handling drugs when he is caught and goes to jail.

Major Crehan wished to sound the warning and to urge that Canada like Australia, should be kept a white man's country.

The seriousness of the Japanese invasion of industry in British Columbia was dwelt upon by Major Crehan and the fact that they were entrenched in the farming, the fishing and the fruit industry now, and were making competition almost impossible, because they could live cheaper than white people and worked from eighteen to twenty hours a day.

"In future, when any legislation comes up at Ottawa covering the Oriental question, give it your serious consideration and support," said the speaker. He referred to the international treaty which was said to stand in the way of total exclusion of Orientals from Canada as damnable, and declared that no such treaties should be allowed to prevent Canada from protecting her heritage of splendid resources from the invasion of Asia.

## FAVOURABLE COMMENT ON CANADIAN LAW

Canada's Industrial Disputes Act known as the Lemieux Act, is attracting attention just now across the border. Very favorable and flattering comparisons are being drawn by some United States newspapers between its operation and that of the mediatorial machinery provided by the East-Cummins railroad law. It is pointed out that the Canadian boards of conciliation, up to the end of March, 1921, numbered 370, and that strikes were averted or ended in no less than 337 instances; in only 33 cases was mediation ineffectual in enabling a settlement to be reached. To achieve 90 per cent of successes is a sufficient reason for giving more attention and study to the Canadian system, it is admitted, stress being laid on the fact that it is designed for investigation only. Its findings do not take the form of compulsory awards, but of recommendations, and even the boards themselves are not imposed on the contending parties, except in the case of essential industries. But that the beneficial effect of these friendly inquiries into both sides of an industrial controversy is thoroughly realized is shown by the fact that boards have been called for in cases that do not properly fall within the compass of the act.

Nothing like the same measure of success has been attained by the United States railroad labor board, although it is limited to transportation disputes only. One important difference is that it is permanent in its character, whereas under the Canadian practice, a new board is named for each dispute, and for that particular dispute only. Each side has the privilege of naming one member, and these two appoint a chairman, if they can agree on one; if not, the minister of labor names him. A temporary board of this kind brings fresh minds, unbiassed by previous inquiries, to bear on the questions at issue, and is undoubtedly better calculated to command initial confidence, on the part of the workers particularly. Permanent boards are apt to be accused of prejudice, and that sentiment, once established, creates an unsympathetic atmosphere that makes itself increasingly apparent and tends to reduce the chance of mediatorial success. Evidently, a growing opinion exists south of the border that the Canadian system has justified itself and is worthy of more study than it has yet received.

The recent strikes in the United States and Canada have emphasized very strongly the folly of industrial strife. Peace in industry is a condition requisite to all prosperity. Industrial strife means a loss to all, no matter how small the number of persons directly affected, and no matter how unimportant the enterprise involved. Not only the welfare of the wage earner, but the welfare of the whole people is touched, when men quit work in a controversy with those who employ them. The workers lose in wages, the employers on profits, and the whole nation in the service to which it is entitled from the industry.

In both Canada and the United States progress has been made towards the peaceful settlement of industrial disputes, but it is admitted that the existing methods fall short especially in dealing with strikes that concern public utilities. In Canada the Lemieux Industrial Disputes Act compels an investigation, if demanded by one of the parties to the dispute, before a strike can take place. The intention is that publicity will remedy any injustice through the force of public opinion when the facts are disclosed. This measure has resulted in the settlement of the majority of industrial disputes in Canada, but it is by no means broad enough in its scope to satisfy the needs of industrial peace in all cases.

## IMMIGRATION ON SERIOUS DECLINE

Fiscal Year of 1922 Shows a Decrease of 39 Per Cent.

Immigrants to Canada during the fiscal year ended March 31, 1922, numbered just one short of 90,000 persons, a decrease of 39 per cent as compared with the previous twelve months, when 148,477 persons entered Canada as immigrants. This information is given in the annual report of the Department of Immigration and Colonization, issued yesterday.

Immigrant arrivals from the United Kingdom during the year numbered 39,000 as compared with 74,322 the previous year, a decrease of 47 per cent. Persons coming from the United States totaled 29,945, a decrease of 39 per cent from the previous year's total of 48,059. Immigrants from other countries during the year totaled 21,634 as against 26,156 in 1920-21, a decrease of 17 per cent.

Evidence of a closer check on would-be immigrants at United States border points is shown by the reports for American immigration. During the last fiscal year 47,898 persons sought admission at United States border points, and of these 18,533 were turned back, a rejection of 39 per cent. In the fiscal year 1920-21, immigration officials refused admission to 20,131, or 30 per cent of 68,190 persons seeking admission.

Chinese immigration decreased from 2,435 in 1920-21 to 1,746 last year; Japanese immigration decreased from 532 to 471 in the same time, and only 13 Hindus were admitted during the year.

## HISTORICAL SURVEY

Continued from Last Week.

In the imperfect stage which has been reached in industrial organization, there is unfortunately in all cases a fringe of unemployment, and it would be a misfortune to Canada if these restrictions worked in such a way as to exclude industrial workers altogether, or to make the operation of the law uncertain. But as regards the introduction of British artisans it is impossible to overcome this by liaison with the home authorities. When British artisans are really wanted it is desirable to reduce the handicap of time and distance to a minimum; and to this end arrangements have been made whereby the Employment Service at Ottawa notifies the Ministry of Labour in London of vacancies for skilled workers which cannot be filled in Canada.

It is important that the artisan should not begin this life in the New World with a spell of unemployment. The American Law, prohibiting contract labor would appear, if strictly interpreted, to make such a spell highly probable. The Canadian Law, in conjunction with the machinery outlined above, avoids this dilemma. The British Overseas Settlement Committee (1921 report) makes a point of this:

"It seems desirable," they say, "to establish a system of advancing passage, railway fares and incidental expenses to men and women with their dependents who can be engaged in this country through the machinery of the Ministry of Labour for definite work in the Dominion. It is suggested that H.M.'s Government would assume this responsibility, and that the Dominion authorities should be left to assist in recovering these advances. Under such an arrangement, workers proceeding to take up employment overseas, would arrive bound by no obligation or contract to serve any particular employer, thus obviating the objection of the trade unions to anything which is in the nature of contract labor. The principle of advancing fares has already been adopted internally in this country and in the Dominion in the case of persons proceeding from one district to another for the purpose of obtaining employment. It should, therefore, be an easy matter to extend the principle as suggested."

III—Agricultural Settlement.

I come now to the policy of agricultural settlement which I shall consider mainly from the Canadian standpoint, but first of all I will indicate briefly what is being done or proposed at home.

(1) The Overseas Settlement Committee formed in 1919 has been given the task of formulating a permanent policy and supervising the measures adopted meanwhile. It has prepared a bill, based on the recommendation of the Dominion's Royal Commission, for the constitution of a central British authority whose task should be:

(a) To give information and advice to intending overseas settlers.

(b) To exercise control over licensed passage brokers and their agents, and over immigration societies.

(c) To control propaganda in connection with foreign countries and settlement within the Empire.

The work of such a body would be immensely strengthened if some part of the cost of the scheme for the creation of an Imperial Statistical Bureau, as recommended by the Statistical Conference of 1920, were adopted. This seems, most unfortunately, to have been held up partly through Treasury exigencies, partly also, I understand, from inter-departmental difficulties in London. But clearly such statistics are essential if we intend to exercise and reasoned direction over the movement of population, industrial or agricultural, within the Empire.

(2) The financial assistance already given has mainly been in the form of free passages to ex-servicemen and ex-servicewomen, with further grants from the National Relief Fund for the purchase of outfits, etc. In some cases grants of capital have been made to ex-servicemen to enable them to settle in the self-governing Dominions or other parts of the Empire under the auspices of an approved land settlement scheme. These, however, are only temporary measures.

(3) The most desirable form of long period assistance was discussed at the recent Conference of Prime Ministers in London. The proposals submitted

## PUBLIC HEALTH ACT IS UNDER FIRE

Pollution of Streams May Be Prohibited.

An amendment to the provincial Public Health Act, which will prohibit pollution of streams, is understood to be contemplated by the Ontario government if certain industries of Milton, Ontario, do not voluntarily agree to remedy conditions which they are said to have brought about in Sixteen Mile Creek. The situation was brought to a head yesterday when the farmers of the Milton district waited upon Premier Drury and complained that they were suffering heavily as a result of their cattle being poisoned by drinking the water of the river.

A crayfish, a dye factory, and a steel firm were held by the members of the deputaion to be responsible for the stream's condition and, in proof of their contention that the effect of the water was actually poisonous to their cattle, they submitted a specimen of the flesh of one of the animals which had become a vivid green in color. It was stated that the loss of cattle in the district had been heavy. The premier promised to investigate the situation. It is understood that the manufacturers will be called into conference in an effort to secure a voluntary abatement of the situation.

## FOR POLICY OF MODERATION ONLY

Lloyd George Says He Will Not Assist in Letting Great Britain Down. There Must Be Fair Play.

"I will support any party and any government that pursues a policy of peace, economy, and steady progress, neither revolutionary nor reactionary, and does it efficiently," Lloyd George told the coalition Liberal members of parliament at a meeting this week. During his speech he made the declaration: "Great Britain must pay America all her debts."

On the question of German reparations he said: "We should not attempt to impose upon Germany any payment which is beyond her capacity. What is within her capacity she ought to pay."

The former premier expressed himself with some definiteness as regards the question of Russia.

"I am strongly in favor of the renewal of a pact with Russia," he declared.

Dealing with Great Britain's foreign relations in general, Mr. Lloyd George said: "It is said that Great Britain is not going to extend her responsibilities. But you must not be afraid of your responsibilities. The policy of Great Britain must be peace-loving, but unafraid. If I stand alone I will resist any departure from it."

"I will never let Great Britain down. I will not stand by or for any man who does. Whatever government is in power we must not offer it any factious opposition. There must be no nagging criticisms, there must be fair play."

## CANADA'S IMPORTS SHOW DECREASE

Imports From United Kingdom Show Decrease and Exports a Growing Trade.

Canada's imports for home consumption, during the twelve months ended September, 1922, totaled \$732,904,818, as against \$905,981,941 in the previous twelve months and \$1,325,779,89 in the twelve months ended September, 1920. The decrease from the total of the year ended September, 1921, was over \$173,000,000, according to trade figures issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. In the same period of 1921-22, Canada's home produce exports decreased \$183,263,815 to the \$976,000,660 in the year ended September 1921 to \$792,796,845 in the year ended September, 1922. In the twelve months ended September 1920, total exports of Canadian produce were valued at \$1,208,919,173. Exports of foreign goods from Canada during the three years were: 1920, \$36,807,793; 1921, \$16,396,622; 1922, \$13,692,824.

Imports from the United Kingdom during the year ended September, 1922, totaled \$127,437,704, against \$137,624,915 in the previous twelve months, and \$217,270,658 in the year ended September, 1920. Exports of the United Kingdom in the same year showed a growing trade in the twelve months ended September, 1922, as compared with the previous year. In the last twelve months under review, Canadian products to the value of \$211,294,751, were exported to Great Britain, as against \$255,917,609 in the year ended September, 1920.

Trade with the United States showed a decrease during the twelve months just ended. Imports from United States during that year were valued at \$492,965,907, as against \$643,466,536 in the previous year and \$519,068,657 in the preceding year. During the year just ended the United States purchased \$332,624,068 in Canadian products as against \$427,275,374 the previous year and \$512,866,537 in the twelve months ending September, 1920.

## A FRIENDLY WORD FOR LABOR BANKS

The greatest of American banks, at any rate, is not jealous of one of the latest developments in American banking. Since the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers opened its National Co-operative Bank in Cleveland, we read in a recent bulletin of the National City Bank of New York, "eight other banks sponsored by labor organizations have gone into operation in different parts of the country, and fourteen or fifteen more are known to be in process of organization."

These labor banks will introduce any significant innovations into banking practice. The idea of co-operation, in the sense of a division of profits with customers, is not new in any line.

One of the most distinct services these banks will render will be in demonstrating how little there is in the idea entertained in some quarters that banking is a business of privilege and that banks do nothing that is beneficial to the common man. The labor banks have all the privileges that any other banks ever have had, and if they can demonstrate their ability and willingness to render better service than other banks do they will walk away with the business. If they encourage the practice of thrift, teach the value of private wealth to the community, and help to inculcate respect for property rights, as may be expected, bankers generally will rejoice in the progress of the movement.

## SKILLED WORKERS STILL IN DEMAND

Union Official Says Building Trades Are Very Busy.

TORONTO.—The process of building trades mechanics which has been experienced for some months locally and throughout the Province will continue for some time, according to Business Agent Walter Thorne of the Bricklayers and Tinsmiths' Union.

Mr. Thorne said that the industry throughout the Province was remarkably active for this time of the year and that it was likely to remain so for several weeks. "There is a large amount of big work developing. Our men are all at work and will be for some time yet," he said. "Today we were asked to supply 75 bricklayers for St. Catharine's. In many other cities and towns it is just as difficult to secure men."

Kid McCoy is shortly to marry Mrs. Jacqueline MacDowell of Baltimore, who will be his sixth wife. There was a time, of course, when his favourite hobby was boxing.

## No Reduction in Wages C.P.R. Conciliation Board Reports

No reduction in wages for clerks, freight handlers, baggage men and checkers employed on Canadian Pacific Railway Line is the purport of the majority report received this week of the conciliation board which sat in connection with the wage dispute between the Canadian Pacific Railway and grades covered by the International Brotherhood of Railway and

Steamship Clerks. About 8,000 men are affected by the award. The majority award, which constitutes the award of the board, is made by the chairman of the board, Daniel Urgan, K.C., and by J. G. O'Donoghue, of Toronto, representing the men. A minority report is being submitted by J. T. Arundel, of Toronto, representing the company.

"You have one friend that rarely changes. He is ever constant—the shirt."—Adv. in Palestine Weekly. He loses his cheeriness though after the first few weeks.

## BOYCOTT OF C.N.R. IS NOW PLANNED

Trades and Labor Council in Vancouver Island Will Take Step.

A boycott of all Canadian National Railway lines in Canada as a protest against the abolition of the eight-hour day and the lowering of wages to \$3 a ten-hour day on a Vancouver Island branch of the C. N. R. will be called by organized Canadian labor under plans shaped by officials of the Victoria Trades and Labor Council today.

The Trades and Labor Council is calling the attention of the Federal Government and the Liberal party to the "violation of the wage scale as laid down by the Dominion Fair Wage Officer, which is \$4 for an eight-hour day, and will ask the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada to organize the proposed labor boycott of the Canadian National lines.

Announcement of the action planned by the Victoria Labor organization was made Saturday in a written statement given out and signed by Alderman E. S. Woodward, secretary of the Trades and Labor Council of Vancouver city.

## PRAIRIE CROPS WILL BE GREAT

380,000,000 Bushels is Estimate.

According to the final estimate by the Bank of Montreal, the prairie provinces' wheat yield this year will be close to 380,000,000 bushels.

Owing to the early harvest 7,900,000 bushels of new wheat were marketed in August and 95,000,000 in September, an abnormally large movement, with which the railway companies coped in an excellent manner. Quebec's chief crop, hay, proved an unusually heavy and of excellent quality. Cereal crops were harvested in good condition, yields being highly satisfactory. In Ontario the yields of grain show an estimated average increase of 43 per cent more than last year.

Fall wheat is estimated at 18,250,000 bushels and spring wheat, 2,200,000; barley and rye, 16,875,000 bushels; hay and clover, 5,670,000 tons. Corn averaged 10 tons per acre. In the maritime provinces hay is exceptionally good, but in British Columbia most crops are below the average owing to the drought. The Okanagan valley apple output is estimated at 1,900,000 boxes, 1,000,000 fewer than last year's figures.

"But it was explained that in view of the Governments existing commitments to ex-servicemen and women the amount available for land settlement for the financial years 1921-22 and 1922-23 would probably not exceed £750,000. We are all aware of the extraordinary burden of taxation in Great Britain at the present time; and it is, therefore, of vital importance that there should be no waste, and that any effort by the Old Country should fit in and be guided by the policy which the Overseas Dominions are framing from themselves. To this I now turn.

In the Report of the Department of Immigration for 1921, the Superintendent of Emigration for Canada in London writes: "With the exception last above mentioned (i.e. the supply on request of skilled labor) there has been consistent and continuous regard for the policy laid down by the department from year to year, that Canada's demand is only for workers on the land and female domestic servants," and further on in the report, "The recognized societies dealing with the emigration of children to Canada are gradually getting into their pre-war activities, and several large parties of splendid children have left these shores for the Dominion."

The man in the streets of London would be apt to summarize the situation thus, "Canada wants Barnado boys, servant girls and farm laborers only." It seems to me a pity that in this way three very dissimilar wants are grouped together.

The emigration of children who in one way or another have come to be under the guardianship of the State or a charitable institution is of old standing; and with the care now exercised in the selection of the children and of the home to which they go, it has in itself no undesirable features. For the children it is a boon. As the Royal Commission on the Dominions, says,

"While all young emigrants have great chances of success, those whose surroundings in early life have not been normal and whose environment has not been healthy are likely to benefit to an especial degree by the free life in the Dominion." (Final Report, section 508.) The applications have since far exceeded the supply; and it is highly desirable that they should. A scarcity of juvenile labor is a sign that the country is keeping its own normal children by education out of the labor market, so that they may enter it at a later age with a more stable wage earning capacity. The Immigration Report of 1921 commends a writer who remarks,

"In Canada, if a boy should lose his situation the process of regaining a footing is easy compared to the condition prevailing in the Motherland." This case, however, is a danger, as has been shown by the investigation of the University Department of Psychology into the undeniably big job turn over among children who have just left school. Ease of change is often the slippery path which leads into the Blind Alley job of menial work. The case of domestic servants is also a special one. From the standpoint of the Old Country it behooves to redress the disproportion between the sexes which is due to the greater emigration of males. In the point of fact the increase in the excess of the male over the female population, between 1870 and 1910 in England and Wales is practically equivalent to the excess of male over female emigration. But here again the problem must be considered primarily from the Canadian standpoint. Why is there a permanently unsatisfied demand for domestic service? Is it because such service is uncommensal to the native born? If so, will not the new arrivals soon follow the example of Canadians and pass into other employment? It is a matter deserving careful study by Canadian women. No one advocates a large immigration of shop girls. It is, therefore, desirable that the effect of the immigration policy should not be to encourage unintentionally this form of immigration at one remove.

To be continued.