

# Labor News From Coast to Coast

## Labor Men on Rolls

**Essex, Ont.**—Reports from the employment service of Canada indicate that at the beginning of October the percentage of unemployment among members of trade unions was 5.9 as compared with 5 per cent. at the beginning of September, and with 2.9 per cent. at the beginning of October last year. Returns from employers of labor show that the trend of employment was upward at the beginning of October when 771,922 persons were on the pay-rolls as compared with 775,422 in August. Retail food prices in Canada were slightly higher in October than in September, season declines in the prices of potatoes and beef being more than offset by advances in dairy products and eggs. The cost per week of a list of 29 staple foods for an average family of five, in terms of the average retail prices in some sixty cities was \$10.31 at the beginning of October as compared with \$10.25 for September; \$10.65 for October, 1923, and \$16.92 for October, 1924, which was the peak of high prices.

## Fixed Hours Hurt Lumber Industry

**Cranbrook, B. C.**—Before the board of adjustment under the Hours of Work Act here recently, the Mountain Lumber Manufacturers' Association submitted a memorandum asking for "such provision as will permit the logging and lumbering industry in the interior to continue unhampered by the restrictions of fixed hours of work."  
The petition was based on the grounds that climatic conditions for the interior mills make year-round operation impracticable, and that right conditions for hauling and river driving have to be utilized when they occur; that 85 per cent of the output is low grade, and markets are distant; that interior mills are left out on a one-hilt basis; and that application of an eight-hour rule to the few branches of the industry in which it does not now apply will involve such increased cost of operation as to both curtail production and increase its cost.  
The memorandum was submitted by T. R. Poole of Nelson, secretary treasurer of the association, many lumber operators and woods workers being present, and debating the contention made.

## Miners Welcome New Organization

**Alice Arm, B. C.**—Miners' organizations of British Columbia are welcoming the latest association of prospectors and miners, who have formed the Graham Island Miners' Association. The president is Mr. C. T. Babera, vice-president, Mr. C. W. Baker, J. P.; and secretary-treasurer, Dr. J. S. C. Dunn. The association will publish a quarterly report of the progress of mining on the island.  
There is now in progress experimental operations in the discovery of gold from the sand and gravel deposits, and it is reported these have proven successful.

## The I.W.W. Would Disrupt B.C. Labor

**Box Makers Contend That Their Hours Set By Fruit Packers**  
**Nelson.**—A claim for exemption from the eight hour law, made by 16 box manufacturers of the Kootenay and Okanagan districts, on the ground of being part and parcel of the fruit industry, which enjoys exemption, featured the first session to be held for the taking of evidence within the province, of the board of adjustment in connection with the new Hours of Work Act, which comes into effect in January.  
A feature of the hearing was the wide latitude allowed woods workers present in force, who admitted to the chairman that they were I. W. W.'s, and who valiantly testified that the industry concerned could, without doubt, operate successfully on an eight-hour day basis.  
M. S. Peacock, of Penticton, was the spokesman for the box manufacturers, and argued that industry could not possibly operate if restricted to an eight-hour day in the various parts of its highly seasonal operations.  
Mr. Peacock held that operation would be out of the question unless the operators could work full hours in those periods that they were operating on these various seasonal processes. Last winter, for instance, the mills had to get their logs out of the bush in 24 days, and this was about an average case. Similarly, in the short sawing season, it was necessary to operate the mills at the limit of their capacity, in order to get out the needed stock. He also argued that it was in the public interest that shortages should be avoided, and that the growers should not be held up at

any stage of the picking and shipping season, for want of containers. It was necessary for the box industry to be immediately responsive to the requirements as they arose.  
The box manufacturers asked to be construed as being an integral part of the horticultural industry, which is specified in the interpretive section of the act, as one of the exempted industries. In the event of relief being refused, and the eight-hour law being applied, Mr. Peacock, in his memorandum, predicted a curtailed output of boxes, higher prices to the grower, and eventual loss of most of the markets, to the Alberta and Washington manufacturers, neither of which territories imposes this handicap on the box industry.

**Use of Label to Safeguard 8-Hour Day**  
**Montreal.**—Outline of a plan suggested by the International Federation of Trade Unions to safeguard and extend the 8-hour work day in every civilized nation, is interesting labor executives here. The plan is based on the successful use of the union label by trade unions of the United States.  
Briefly, the plan provides for the labeling with an "Eight-Hour Mark" of all goods exported from countries which have not ratified the Washington Eight-Hour Convention. In a statement from its headquarters in Amsterdam, Holland, the Federation says:  
"Any new suggestion which promises to be of use in safeguarding the 8-hour day deserves very careful attention in these days, when employers are so eagerly trying to abolish this very convenient limitation to their powers of exploiting the workers. It was recognized at the Washington Conference in 1919 that the 8-hour day would have to be secured internationally, for if it were not, the door would be open to unfair competition by countries which refused to adopt it."  
International Action Needed  
"Trade unionists know how even better than they did in 1919 that if one country defaults, all the others must suffer as a result, and that no country is really safe so long as the workers of another country work more than eight hours. Here and there the plans have been considered which aim at stronger action by the international trade union movement to compel countries which do not adhere to the 8-hour day to observe the provision of the Washington Convention."  
"The Union-label system of America is well known, and, generally speaking, the results do not seem to be unsatisfactory. Why should not a similar system be used to safeguard the 8-hour day? All goods exported from a country which has not ratified the Washington Eight-Hour Convention would then have to bear a label with the words 'Eight Hours Mark.' It would, of course, be the business of the trade unions to control the labeling of the goods. Goods without this mark would be refused transit by the transport workers of the country of destination, or even of any transit country which they would have to pass through; and in certain cases (semi-manufactured goods), the workers of the country of destination would refuse to use them for finishing processes."

## Gov't. Asks Employers to Assist Jobless

**Letters Sent to Municipal Secretaries and Farmer Organizations of Province**  
**Winnipeg, Man.**—Following the government's announcement of its attitude toward the unemployment problem, Premier Bracken said recently that an effort was being made through the government employment offices to find work for as many unemployed as possible.  
About 2,000 letters are being sent to employers of labor throughout the province and also being directed to the secretary of each municipality, officers of agricultural societies, branches of the United Farmers and similar organizations.  
The premier made the following statement recently:  
"This year because of lack of building operations during the summer the lumber companies have large supplies of building material on hand. Consequently they are sending few men to the bush camps. Some companies are not opening up their camps at all.  
"It is our belief that the cure for unemployment is employment rather than relief in the form of doles. The Manitoba government employment offices have been doing what they could and a very special appeal is being made to our employers of labor so what they can to help out the situation. We are confident that many will respond to this call and will place our orders with one of the employment service offices that are located at Winnipeg, Brandon, and Dauphin."

## British Bankers Give Soviet Loan

**Moscow.**—At the moment when English-Russian relations on the political field are strained the London banks, including some London branches of large American banks, have come to agreement with the State Bank of Russia for loans totaling tens of millions of rubles.  
These are short term credits to finance Russian imports. The amounts are sufficient to play a significant role in the state budget for the year. These credits are not the long term loans which have been under discussion in the Anglo-Russian treaty for rebuilding Russian industry and agriculture. They are purely short term credits for financing trade.  
A bachelor never realizes how important a man can feel when the wife says, "Be quiet, children; your father is talking."

## See Free Text Books as Aid

**Many Labor Men Would Not Have First Year High School Pupils Pay**  
**Saskatoon, Sask.**—Should the use of free text books in the public schools be extended or should an effort be made to have free text books in the first year of high school, was the question put by A. M. Eddy, chairman of the provincial executive of the Dominion Trades Congress, at a meeting of the Saskatoon Trades and Labor Council. The consensus of opinion expressed at the meeting was that free text books in the first year of high school would be of more value to the working classes than would the extension of the use of free text books in the public school.  
Would Help Poor  
These were requests made by the provincial executive of the Dominion Trades Congress, which met the provincial government at Regina this week Mr. Eddy stated.  
Asked to express his views, Rev. J. A. Donnell stated that his impression was that greater benefit would come from free text books in the first year of high school. The poor man's son who had ability was then handicapped because the cost of books for high school was more than the parent could afford. Boys and girls of ability from poor homes should have an even chance with those from more favored surroundings for the development of their talents.  
T. C. Atkinson and several other delegates supported the stand expressed by Mr. Donnell. The question with others will be further debated at the next meeting of the Trades Council.

## Musicians' Officers Opposed to Cut in Officers' Salaries

**Hamilton, Ont.**—Officers of the Hamilton Musicians Protective Association for the coming year have been elected as follows: E. J. Potter, president; J. L. Gladney, first vice-president; J. Adamson, second vice-president; J. Pryke, past president; A. J. Neilligan, recording secretary; W. J. Smyth, financial secretary; J. H. Addison, treasurer; H. Hughes, marshal; W. J. Allan, sergeant-at-arms; J. E. Johnson, R. Yates and D. Major, ex-officers; A. W. Nix and R. Bertram, auditors; William Addis and W. J. Allen, trustees; J. Pryke, W. J. Allan, J. E. Johnson, R. Bertram and D. Major, delegates to Trades and Labor Council; H. A. Stares, D. Anderson and I. W. Lordas, examiners; J. E. Johnson, W. J. Allan, William Addis and M. Stanton, dance hall committee.  
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## Want Higher Tariff Put on Shoes

**Montreal.**—Claiming that five hundred boot and shoe workers are out of employment in Montreal and a large number of factories running on reduced hours, local leather workers are preparing a petition to send to the federal government asking for higher tariffs on imported shoes and the raising of the preferential tariff to Great Britain.  
**Transcona Has Labor Party Branch**  
**Winnipeg, Man.**—A branch of the Independent Labor Party of Manitoba was established in Transcona Monday night when the following officers were appointed:  
Chairman, D. Thompson; secretary, G. E. Olive; executive, H. Aird, W. W. Jackson, G. Kennie, F. Young, A. Caperton, D. Evans and W. K. d. The officials will meet next Tuesday and a public meeting will be held on Sunday evening at which J. S. Woodworth, M.P. is expected to be the speaker.

## Labor Opposes New Police Plan

**Vancouver, B. C.**—Organization of a metropolitan police department was scored by members of Vancouver and New Westminster Trades and Labor Council at the regular meeting recently, and a resolution was passed instructing the executive to make representations to the Provincial Government against the proposal.  
Secretary Percy Beagough said there was nothing wrong with the members of the Vancouver Police Force. The fault lay in the political appointments at the head of the department. Other delegates expressed the opinion that the object behind the proposal was to have a department that could be used during elections by the government.  
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