

STURDY FRIEND OF "OPEN SHOP" GIVES REASONS

Employers' Secretary Has
Pronounced Views

Says Wages Must Drop—
Choice is Longer Hours,
Less Money, or Increased
Production.

(Toronto Globe.)
There must be a reduction in wages and an increase in the hours of labor or a material increase in production during the present working day before the wheels of industry can hum again.
Thus, after giving what he believed to be the cause of the present trade depression, James G. Merrick, secretary of the Employers' Association of Canada, concretely summed up his reply to the demands of President Tom Moore of the Trades and Labor Congress, and other international trade union leaders, that there should be no wage reductions.
Mr. Merrick charged trade union leaders with only "skimming" the problem.
Industry During War.
"The basis of our present depression is not a reflex of Canadian trade conditions at all. It has its origin in war production, and has been caused mainly through the advantageous position of the United States and Canada to the theatre of war," said Mr. Merrick. "The almost total inclusion in the European armies of the man power of these countries, and the absorption of all others, including women, into work, centered on the production of munitions of war, placed Canada, and particularly the United States, in the position of not only supplying the world's trade, which was deprived of its productive centres of Great Britain, France, Belgium, Germany and Austria, while being forced at the same time to produce to the highest degree to supply foodstuffs and munitions for the conflicting armies."
Mr. Merrick pointed out that the re-

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result of these conditions had been the speeding up of industries, and their enlargement to many times more than normal.
"This urgency of demand and the inference to the cost of production," he proceeded, "culminated in rapidly rising wage scales, demands for shorter hours by organized labor and the enrollment into industry of labor not nominally productive. This caused a maximum of productive cost without a corresponding efficiency in production."

Big Credit Balances.
The termination of the war, Mr. Merrick said, found the United States and Canada with big credit balances, and debtor countries unable to discharge their obligations, with consequent reduction of their currencies as compared with the United States and Canadian dollar. European countries were faced, in trading with America, with enhanced prices, due to increased wages caused by war necessity, and percentage advance through the depreciation of their currency.
This, said Mr. Merrick, was the real reason for the depression. Neither the United States nor Canada could compete with European countries, which were gradually producing goods necessary for their own use, or waiting until American costs and exchange became more favorable to them.
"There must be a reduction in wages and an increase in the hours of work or there must be an increase in production in order to sell goods at prices tempting to foreign purchasers," he declared. "Our position is not as unfavorable, however, as that of the United States, which is a great industrial country."

The Open Shop.
Mr. Merrick was not greatly concerned over the open shop campaign, which the American Federation of Labor is now preparing to fight. He said Canadian employers had contended for and maintained the open shop for twenty years.
"The open shop is no new system of industrial arrangement," said he. "It is the natural basis of employment. Any one is privileged to work without the necessity of belonging to an organization, creed or race. No one is compelled to pay tribute for the security of his employment. The open shop is the natural and fundamental basis of employment for the individual or collection of individuals."
Mr. Merrick noted that in the open shops of the metal trades industry employers no longer paying ninety cents an hour. This rate of wages had gone long since. In other plants men were laid off and others told to put their backs to their work. The result, according to Mr. Merrick, was an increase in production.

The Fair Wage Clause.
Mr. Merrick criticized the fair wage clause of government work, which is the centre of the dispute between the Collingwood Shipbuilding Company and metal trades unions, on the ground that fair wages were generally fixed by political expediency. Governments were not as responsible for their actions as private corporations were to their investors. He claimed mechanics were fortunate to receive seventy-five cents an hour under existing conditions.
The McAdoo award to United States railroad workers, which was adopted on Canadian railroads, is responsible for present difficulties more than any other influence, according to Mr. Merrick. He did not know of an organization at present strong enough to fight the award, although the government was powerful enough, but politically very weak.
Mr. Merrick attacked building trades unions, whose members, he said, had legislated themselves out of work by raising wages and restricting production, and criticized employers of the industry for their short-sighted policies. The building contractor, he pointed out, was not forced to compete with employers of other countries. The contractor found now that he could not pass wage increases and restrict production to the consumer.

HAS STUDENTS FROM FORTY-TWO COUNTRIES

The present year marks the largest enrollment of foreign-born students in the history of the University of Chicago. There are 493 such students, representing forty-two countries.
Russia leads with 100, while China comes second with 75. Canada and the Philippines follow next in order with 44 and 89 respectively. Other countries represented are: Japan, 34; England, 27; Germany, 18; Hawaii, 11; Poland, 11; Sweden, 10; Italy, 7; Scotland, 7; Bohemia, 7; Austria, 7; India, 6; Greece, 6; Norway, 5; Mexico, 5; Roumania, 5; Finland, 4; Hungary, 4; Armenia, 3; Syria, 2; France, 2; Palestine, 2; Porto Rico, 2; British West Indies, 2; Turkey, 2; Denmark, 2; Ireland, 2; and Guatemala, Alaska, Lithuania, Slovakia, Panama, Costa Rica, Egypt, Korea, New Zealand, Belgium, Spain and Caucasus with one each.

Wallace Heckman, business manager of the University of Chicago, reports that recently the University has received additions to its funds from donors who have made the University trustee of large amounts, the income of which, or a portion of it, is to be expended for the benefit of specific persons during their lifetime, and which, at their death, become part of the University endowment. The latest instance of this sort, just reported, placed in the University's treasury, a \$100,000 trust fund. The steady growth of the University from an institution with a few hundred students to one which gave instruction last year to 10,880 men and women is evidence of the good use to which the University's funds have been put, but it even more emphatically indicates the steadily increasing and insistent needs of the Midway institution—needs for additional endowment, for buildings, for scholarships. It is significant of the confidence which the University has won that from Chicago where it is best known have come its more recent gifts of large amounts, such as those of Robert W. Williams and La Verne Noyes, not to mention those who contributed more than \$50,000 for development of the University's medical work.

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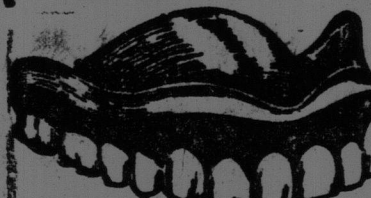
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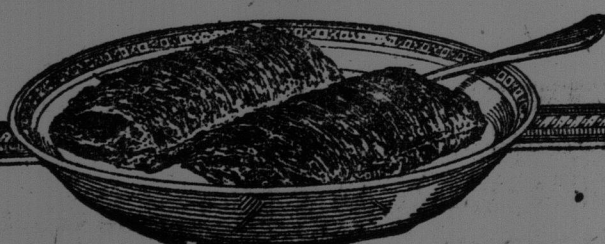
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