

CHANGES IN LABOR APPEAL BOARD

Mr. H. I. Thomas, of the J. R. Booth Company, Ottawa, and Mr. J. A. McLelland, vice-president of the International Association of Machinists, Montreal, have been appointed to the Labor Appeal Board in succession to Mr. George H. Duggan and Mr. Gustave Franco, respectively, who have retired. The first mentioned, and Mr. S. R. Parsons, represent the manufacturers upon the board, and the second, with Mr. John Bruce of Toronto, represents the interests of labor. The fifth member, who is chairman, is Mr. Justice McLelland, of Montreal.

CANADIAN TRADE COMMISSION WANTED

The Border Chamber of Commerce, representing the municipalities of Windsor, Ford, Walkerville, Sandwich and Ojibway, Ont., recently passed a resolution urging upon "the Dominion government the necessity for the immediate appointment of a permanent commission, the sole function of which would be toward the expansion of the general trade of Canada; and further, that such commission be amply and generously financed for the widest and most active conduct of such effort."

BRITISH COLUMBIA INSURANCE INSTITUTE

The Insurance Institute of British Columbia held its opening session of the season on January 14th, says the British Columbia "Financial Times." Mr. Fred. Burgess, president of the Mainland Board, was in the chair, with an attendance of about 25 members. The feature of the evening was an address by Mr. R. W. Douglas, of Douglas, Mackay and Co., entitled "The Humorous Side of the Insurance Profession." The next meeting will be held on the 28th, when ex-fire chief Davis, of Victoria, will speak on "Experience of a Fire Chief."

MONTREAL SCHOOLS ASKING FOR HIGHER RATES

A bill has been introduced into the Quebec Legislative Assembly by Mr. Gault, of St. George, Montreal, brought in for the Montreal Protestant School Board, asking for substantial increases in the Protestant school rate, and also in the neutral school rate. The Catholic School Commission of Montreal intend to support this demand for an increase in the neutral rate, but so far it is not anticipated that the commission will ask for an increase in the Catholic rates.

The bill of the Protestant board asks that the rate be increased from 60 cents per hundred dollars, or six mills, to 80 cents, and that the neutral rate be raised from 70 cents to 80 cents. Last session the rate was increased to 60 cents from 50 cents, and at the same session the Catholic rate was increased from 40 cents to 50 cents. In view of the circumstances quoted by the Protestant school authorities, there will doubtless be an increase allowed, but probably this will be 70 cents instead of 80 cents, as a jump of 20 cents is looked on as somewhat high in one session.

In support of their request for the higher rate, the Protestant School Board claim that it is absolutely imperative that the salaries of school teachers be increased, also that the annual deficit be done away with. They expect that the 1919 deficit will be \$250,000, taking in increases in salaries. The deficit in 1915 was \$108,965, and it went to \$288,834 in 1918. With the rate of tax asked for, the board hopes that such deficits will be avoided. Also, permission to borrow half a million dollars.

The Imperial Bank has opened a branch at Smooth Rock Falls, Ontario, in charge of Mr. R. C. Vaughan, formerly of Timmins, Ont.

The province of Saskatchewan will give financial assistance to the cities of Moose Jaw and Prince Albert with a view to making them livestock centres for the province.

MEAT INDUSTRY IN CANADA

Capital Invested in 1917 Amounted to \$85,673,271—Exports and Imports

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics has completed a preliminary census of the meat industry in Canada for the year 1917, the statistics being compiled under the following heads:—

1. Slaughtering and meatpacking with 69 plants.
2. Slaughtering not including meatpacking with 10 plants.
3. Other related industries including sausage, sausage casings, tallow refined and beef extract with 11 plants.

Capital and Salaries and Wages

The total capital invested in the industry was \$85,673,271, of which \$68,145,347 was in the first class, \$17,044,264 in the second and \$483,660 in the third class. The statistics of employees, salaries and wages by sex distribution are summarized in the following table for each of the above named classes:—

| Class | Employees | | Salaries |
|--|-----------|---------|-------------|
| | Males | Females | |
| Slaughtering and meatpacking | 1,486 | 375 | \$2,211,683 |
| Slaughtering not including meatpacking | 247 | 59 | 402,593 |
| Other related industries | 13 | 6 | 27,197 |
| Total | 1,746 | 440 | \$2,641,473 |

| Class | Employees | | Wages |
|--|-----------|---------|-------------|
| | Males | Females | |
| Slaughtering and meatpacking | 6,218 | 687 | \$5,772,545 |
| Slaughtering not including meatpacking | 1,184 | 51 | 1,053,581 |
| Other related industries | 55 | 18 | 47,714 |
| Total | 7,457 | 756 | \$6,873,840 |

Materials and Products

The value of materials used in the production of meats for consumption was \$156,095,921, of which class (1) accounted for \$117,196,755; class (2) for \$38,669,565, and class (3) for \$229,601.

The value of production was \$153,279,252 in class (1), \$53,441,466 in class (2) and \$452,585 in class (3), or a total for all classes of \$207,173,303.

Itemizing the articles of production for value, fresh meats with \$79,586,596 occupies first place, cured meats with \$78,886,140 the second, various by-products with \$28,865,045 the third, and other food products with \$19,835,522 the fourth.

Exports and Imports

The value of meats being the produce of Canada exported to all countries for the calendar year 1917 was \$77,119,877. Meats imported into Canada for consumption during the same period amounted to \$35,069,085, so that the total value of meats available for home consumption based on production and imports, less amount exported, was \$108,106,329.

INCOME MINIMUMS TO BE RAISED

The Toronto Board of Control will, at the next session of the Ontario Legislature, ask for an amendment to the assessment act to the effect that the income exemption of unmarried persons in Toronto be raised from \$600 to \$1,000, and of married persons from \$1,500 to \$2,000.

Financial institutions contemplate the establishing of a chair in the Halifax County Academy, or in Dalhousie University, or in whatever educational institution might be considered best, for the study of Spanish. This would be most timely and appropriate, in view of our trade with the West Indies and South America.