

The Farm Page



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A quart of milk supplies as much energy as 14 ounces of round steak, 14.5 ounces of fowl, or 9 eggs.

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HIGH WAGES ARE GREATEST AID TO FARMING COMMUNITY

The future prosperity of the American farmer depends upon the success of organized labor in maintaining its present wage scale, said Secretary of Agriculture Agee of New Jersey in an address to 4,000 farmers. The speaker said that a scarcity of farm labor and high wages is better for farm profitability than cheap labor in abundance.

"It is a fact," said the speaker, "that farmers' periods of prosperity have only been when labor was scarce and high priced. Great agricultural depression has always followed periods of cheap labor. This is partly due to the fact that a considerable portion of the farmer's income is a labor income, and when labor is high priced, the farmer's own work brings him more money. Another reason is that well paid labor affords the best market for high-grade products. Of course it is a serious matter not to be able to obtain labor for the farm, but it is better to have a condition of small labor supply than one of small food prices."

ARRANGE FOR RELIEF OF STOCK

Solution to Feed Situation Similar to That of Last Year

Returning from Winnipeg H. A. Craig, deputy minister of agriculture, announces that satisfactory arrangements have been made with the Provincial and Federal governments and the railways for the transportation of livestock and feed to meet the drought situation in the south country.

The terms and conditions of the relief scheme thus tentatively agreed upon are understood to be closely similar to those in force last year, and represent the findings of the conference after a careful consideration of the situation in the three provinces.

Certificate System Again

The shipment of livestock from the drought areas and of hay and straw from the north, or from whatever sources of supply may be available, at no expense to the farmers, is in general the form of relief that was thought by the Winnipeg meeting to be the most feasible. Certificates subject to Federal and Provincial government regulations will be issued to farmers wishing to take advantage of this privilege, and the freight charges on all such shipments will be financed by the Dominion government, a share of them to be afterward adjusted by the Provincial government. The railways on their part will give a rebate on their regular rates.

The relief scheme is agreed to by the council, its final details will be worked out through the departments of agriculture in the respective provinces, and will be announced at once, so that the farmers may know what provision is being made for them.

Crop reports have not been made to appear any worse than the yearly are, says Mr. Craig as a result of his observations to and from Winnipeg. In eastern Alberta and the border country of Saskatchewan there are great stretches, he states, where nothing whatever can be cut, the fields being almost as bare as before they were seeded. Farther east, however, toward the other side of Saskatchewan, the crops were looking much better, and in Manitoba they were excellent. There had been fairly abundant rains in the latter provinces, and most of its farming country was in good shape, with promise of a bumper yield.

Even in Manitoba, however, there were some dry places, and some measure of relief will be needed there, too. All three provinces are therefore interested in the scheme now under final consideration, though it will be Alberta that will make the greatest use of it.

OVERTIME LIABLE TO CAUSE RETURN OF 10-HOUR DAY

Stand for an eight-hour work day and reject any attempt to work overtime, is the call to members of the International Union of Timber Workers at Seattle by President Covert.

The unionist says Russia, which formerly produced approximately 48 per cent of the world's lumber products, will supply very little in the next three years, and that the market must be supplied by the United States, Canada and Sweden.

"I am afraid," he continues, "that many of our employers will attempt to increase production by running overtime. This should be fought with all the power we have, for it is a forerunner of the re-establishment of the 10-hour day. The employers will not hesitate to pay the time and one-half for the additional hours, because the price will certainly warrant it. We must not be deceived by their bribe of extra pay. Stand pat on your eight hours and refuse to work overtime except in extreme emergency. Make them put on additional shifts if they want more production."

Practically every eligible retail clerk at Winslow, Ariz., has joined the new Retail Clerks' Union.

EXTRAORDINARY REPORT INDEED, SAYS G.G. GUIDE

Farmers Unable to Follow Logic on High Cost of Living

In disregard not only of manifest economic principles but of plain common sense, the report framed by the Cost of Living Committee at Ottawa and submitted to Parliament before the ending of the session, sets forth conspicuously the price of wheat as a main cause of the conditions which the committee was appointed to spend some time in looking into, says the Grain Growers' Guide.

In the history of the Dominion Parliament there have been some extraordinary reports framed by investigating committees, so-called. But there has never been a more extraordinary report than this one, which presents as its main conclusion an assertion without either facts to support it, or arguments to give it a semblance of justification. The thing is fittingly dealt with in the following resolution which the Canadian Council of Agriculture passed at its meeting last week:

"Resolved that the Canadian Council of Agriculture is unable to discover either in the evidence given by the witnesses before the Cost of Living Committee at Ottawa, or anywhere in the report made by that committee to the House of Commons anything which justifiably can be made to serve as a foundation for the outstanding importance given in that report to the present price of wheat as a factor in the cost of living. The committee is careful to point out that it makes no attempt to say whether the price of wheat fixed by the Government was fair and just; it is also careful to say nothing at all about the fact that the fixing was done not to keep the price of wheat up but to hold it down. Competent authorities have stated that if there had been no such action taken by the Government, the price would have risen to nearly double the figure at which it was fixed. In that event there would have been a high rate of profit to the wheat growers, indeed, but not nearly as high as the rate of profit actually realized by some of the tariff-protected manufacturers on necessities of life. The manner in which the committee's report touches upon those exorbitant profits and also upon the excessive elaboration and costliness of distribution methods can only be characterized as lenient in contrast with the vigor of the endeavor made to give the fixed price to which wheat has been held down a disproportionate magnitude among the factors in the cost of living in Canada at the present time."

If, as the report framed by the committee at Ottawa asserts, the price of wheat is so all-important a factor in determining the costs of living, how then is the fact to be explained that when the Government fixed the price of wheat two years ago, the prices of all staple food commodities, like the prices of other necessities of life, kept right on climbing, month after month?

This, surely, is a question which those who declare the price of wheat to be a controlling factor should at least make some pretence of attempting to answer. It is a question which they cannot answer. They endeavor, instead, to draw attention away from it by means of high-sounding generalities, which, upon examination, are found to be hollow and empty.

NORTH DAKOTA LABOR JOINING WITH FARMERS

The North Dakota State Federation of Labor convention has voted to join hands on the political field with North Dakota farmers. The resolution includes the right to organize, eight-hour day and minimum wage, equal rights of men and women, democratization of education by free text books and better methods of administration, state insurance for all workers, payment of war debts by heavy taxation, especially on incomes and inheritances, public ownership of all public utilities, reaffirmation of the right of free speech and free assembly, labor representation in government and labor representation in international conferences.

CARNEGIE FUND RAPPED BY SCHOOL TEACHERS

Opposition to the Carnegie foundation preparing the report of the National Education Association's pension committee was expressed by Miss Margaret Haley at the association's annual convention at Milwaukee. The speaker is a member of the Chicago Teachers' Association.

"The foundation," she said "is seeking to influence legislation in the different states concerning teachers' pensions. The foundation wants a system of teachers' pensions which will give the least possible competition for the great industrial plants that must sooner or later establish pension systems for their employes."

TRUTH STRONGER THAN FICTION, SO WHY LIE ABOUT IT

The Dominion government is publishing in widely-circulated newspapers in the United States an advertisement which declares in large, striking type: "Western Canadian farmers pay for land from one year's crop."

It is true that there have been cases of one-year's crop paying for the land, but it is not true, as the advertisement of the Dominion government would lead its readers to believe that it is the usual thing in Western Canada for farmers to pay for their land from one crop.

Nor is it any longer true, as the same advertisement states, that "this is the country of free homesteads." Any homesteads that there are left within practicable distance of the facilities of civilization are reserved for returned Canadian soldiers, and rightly so. And by "practicable distance" is not meant "easy reach," by any means.

Surely the government of Canada would do well, in advertising this country, to stick to the truth.—Grain Growers' Guide.

LABOR TURNOVER AND INEFFICIENCY

Conditions Bringing Stability—Would Result in Economy

Employers who insist on efficiency in production might apply this theory after reading "Labor Turnover Among Employees of a Copper Smelting Company," by Paul F. Brissenden, and published in the current Monthly Bulletin of the United States bureau of labor statistics, says the Bufile Free Lance.

It is shown that for every 1,000 full-time workers, 3,129 were hired and 3,633 left during the year reported. In another case 3,575 per 1,000 were hired and 5,101 per 1,000 left during the year.

"The remedy for this costly changing of labor," says the writer, "would seem to be a general and thorough improvement in working conditions as to safety, sanitation, etc., surrounding the employment of mine workers and smelter men."

"Quite apart from any humanitarian point of view, if the mining and smelter job is to be made more stable, it would seem that mining and smelting wages should be increased, hours reduced and working conditions improved to a point where the mining and smelting jobs become attractive enough, in comparison with other jobs, to keep the incumbent in it."

"It is an axiom that labor instability is caused primarily by labor discontent. This discontent can never be completely allayed until and unless the workers are recognized as investors in the industry and therefore as entitled to a share in the determination of the conditions governing their work and in the management of the plant in which they have invested their strength and skill."

NEW SCHEME FOR ADMINISTERING ACT

Advisory committees to assist in the application of the factory act in the four Alberta cities will be appointed by the government as soon as nominations for the representatives of the employing interests are received. Under the amendment to the act it is proposed to have in each of these cities a committee of three members who will make regulations as to the number of working hours that shall be in force in that place and also as to the minimum wage that shall be in force for female workers. The employees are to have one representative on each committee, the employers one, and the government will name the third.

Representatives from the employes in Edmonton, Calgary, Lethbridge and Medicine Hat have already been named, but the government is waiting for the nominations of the employers before proceeding to appoint its own men.

It is a condition of the new regulations that the advisory committees will not have the power to make the minimum wage lower than the minimum provided for in the act or the hours of work greater. Local conditions, however, will be taken into account in any other recommendations that the committees may have to make in regard to the enforcement of the act.—Journal.

GEORGIA SENATE FAILS TO RATIFY WOMAN SUFFRAGE AMENDMENT

The Georgia senate has refused to ratify the federal woman suffrage amendment. This is the first state failing to ratify. To date the following states have favored the amendment: Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan, Kansas, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Texas, Iowa and Missouri.

SECURE 44-HOUR WEEK

Electricians of Yakima, Wash., have established the 44-hour week and secured substantial wage increases.

MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSE FEES

1. \$5 in case of a motorcycle, and for any other motor vehicle according to the length of wheel base in inches as follows:

| | |
|---|---------|
| For motor vehicles not exceeding 100 inches | \$15.00 |
| Exceeding 100 inches but not exceeding 105 inches | 17.50 |
| Exceeding 105 inches but not exceeding 110 inches | 20.00 |
| Exceeding 110 inches but not exceeding 115 inches | 22.50 |
| Exceeding 115 inches but not exceeding 120 inches | 25.00 |
| Exceeding 120 inches but not exceeding 125 inches | 27.50 |
| Exceeding 125 inches but not exceeding 130 inches | 30.00 |
| Exceeding 130 inches but not exceeding 135 inches | 32.50 |
| For every motor vehicle exceeding 135 inches | 35.00 |

2. The foregoing fees shall include the cost of one set of number plates.

3. The fee, payable after October 1 in any year, shall be one-half of the fee above prescribed.

4. Fire engines and fire patrol apparatus, police patrol and municipal owned ambulances shall be exempt from payment of the above fees, but such motor vehicles shall be registered and number plates issued on payment of fee of one dollar for each pair of number plates on filing of the statement required under section 3 of "The Motor Vehicle Act."

E. TROWBRIDGE,
Deputy Provincial Secretary.
Edmonton, April 24th, 1919.

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