

Labor News From Coast to Coast

8-Hour Day Sought by St. Railwaymen

Moderately Attended Meeting of O. E. R. Employees Also Discusses Wage Matters

Ottawa.—The 1924 agreement between the street railway and its employees, which comes into effect on May 1st, when the existing agreement expires, must be based upon the terms of the majority award of the board of conciliation which last year recommended that the employees be granted the eight-hour day without any reduction in the existing wage schedule.

This was the gist of a resolution unanimously adopted at a mass meeting of the employees which was held in the Gloucester street Orange Hall on Saturday at midnight, at which only about one hundred of the members of the street railwaymen's union were present, together with Mr. J. S. Woodsworth, M. P. for Winnipeg, President Tom Moore of the Trades and Labor Congress, and the executive of the Allied Trades and Labor Council of the city.

It was also decided by resolution that the employees will be willing to waive their recognized right to the "pull in and pull out allowance" providing the company will take over the cost of maintaining the insurance scheme which was put into effect by the company about a year ago and make it applicable to all employees.

President Frank W. McRae, of the street railwaymen's union, who expressed regret at the small attendance at the meeting, explained it had been called for the purpose of placing before the men, the executive's proposal as to the new agreement to be entered into with the company, so that there could not be later, any suggestion that this important matter had been railroad through by the executive. He believed that the conditions, which Major Burpee for the company, stated before the 1923 board of conciliation, prevented the O. E. R. from granting the eight-hour day, did not now exist under the company's new agreement with the city, and that therefore the employees had a right to expect in the new agreement that the award of the board last year be put into effect.

Boards Useless
Mr. W. P. Jennings, business agent for the union and financial secretary presented the report of the executive as to the proposed new agreement, and expressed the opinion that the employees had now an excellent chance to obtain what they had been fighting for during many years.

Against Conciliation Boards
In view of the experience of the employees in past years with regard to boards of conciliation, he was emphatically of the opinion that they were useless, and the advantage had always been with the company, when application for the adjudication of disputes had been made to the Industrial Disputes Act.

Mr. Jennings read a resolution passed by the union during the negotiations which were carried on between the city and the O. E. R. as to the new five year agreement, a copy of which had been sent to Mayor Plant and the board of control. In this resolution the employees asked the city and the street railway company to make provision in the agreement to enable the company to grant the eight-hour day recommended by the 1923 board of conciliation. He stated that Major Burpee, when acquainted with the request of the employees had informed the mayor and street railway committee that the company intended to control its property as it thought fit.

"Since the company's proposition was accepted by the city and the men's demands were not embodied in the agreement which the city has signed with the company, it is the company's funeral and not ours," said Mr. Jennings. "We are now in a position to tell the company that we will not be parties to any more arbitration boards until it accepts the awards of the 1923 board."

J. S. Woodsworth
Mr. J. S. Woodsworth, M.P. in a brief address, pointed out the necessity of labor upholding its organizations in view of the fact that the industrial concerns were organized to protect capital. He expressed the opinion that today it was absolutely impossible for the workers to obtain justice as to wages and working conditions without recourse to political action. He would like to look forward to the day when labor would undoubtedly assume the reins of power in Canada, as it had done in Australia and Great Britain.

President J. A. P. Hayden, of the Allied Trades and Labor Association, urged solidarity of labor particularly with regard to the street railway men, who would certainly need a solid organization in negotiating with a powerful corporation such as the O. E. R.

He was not a believer in strikes, he believed their day had passed, and

thought that all contracts between labor and capital should be agreed upon by voluntary arbitration.

"If you want to obtain an eight-hour day you will have to demonstrate to the company that you want it by a 100 per cent organization in its favor," said the speaker. "Don't forget that the street railway company has succeeded in electing a majority of its friends to the city council."

President Tom Moore of the Trades and Labor Congress, urged upon the organization the necessity for its accepting its responsibilities. He did not think the union could obtain a strength of 100 per cent in membership unless those employees carrying cards were 100 per cent enthusiastic for the union. Referring to some newspaper editorials he said some of them were as funny as jigs and other cartoons. He stated that just as long as unprotected unemployment existed it would be a menace to organized labor, and that much of the unemployment was due to the government's unrestricted immigration policy, which was resulting in the flooding of an already glutted labor market.

He stated that the lumber interests of the country had this winter thrown open their camps at the same time as the call was being heard for western harvesters, and that this move had been made intentionally, paving the way for the immigration of 1,200 laborers who were now begging the jobs of the men in the cities, at any old wage.

Urged Tolerance
"There can be no cure for radicalism until the cause is removed," said Tom Moore. "Just as long as men are asked to work seven days a week, ten hours a day, for inadequate wages, there will exist radicalism. There must be tolerance on both sides and open discussion, or the future is dark. I believe the ascension of labor to power in Great Britain heralds the dawn of a new era for labor all over the world. There is no gainsaying the fact that labor in this country will one day follow the example set in the Old Land."

Mr. Robert Mackie, secretary of the Allied Trades and Labor Council, also briefly addressed the meeting, pointing out the necessity for the members of the street railwaymen's union sticking closely together in the coming negotiations with the company. President McRae stated that the executive would shortly wait upon the company and present the resolution adopted by the meeting, and express the readiness of the men's executive to negotiate at an early date a new agreement.

Through the courtesy of the company the men, at 2.30, when the meeting ended, were taken to their homes in street cars manned by volunteer crews.

Clerks Do Well To Be Organized

Mayor Watters Speaks to Retail Clerks' Association

Ottawa, Feb. 14.—The members of the Ottawa Retail Clerks' Association, Local 358, held their annual dance and entertainment at their club rooms at Union St. Joseph building and it proved altogether a most enjoyable and successful event. A capably arranged programme of dances, songs, orchestral numbers and short addresses, carried out without a hitch, made the evening seem all too short. Close to 200 people were present.

The guests of the night included Mayor Henry Watters and Capt. J. A. L. Hayden, president of the Ottawa Trades and Labor Council. Mayor Watters, who arrived when the pleasure was at its height, received a splendid reception. He was introduced by President Alex Larose. The Mayor remarked that, although he had been pressed for time by two previous engagements, he had made a special effort to be on hand. He was pleased to see such a large gathering of alert intelligent citizens. As a member of the Retail Merchants' Association, he could testify to the good work the organization was accomplishing. If all the clerks in the city were united and organized, they would make themselves indispensable to the merchants of the city. Mayor Watters said he stood in favor of organized, co-operative effort, and believed retail clerks did well to organize like citizens in other walks of life.

A hearty vote of thanks was passed to Mayor Watters. It was moved by Past President William Howard and seconded by Ald. Thomas Marcell.

Capt. Hayden said that he believed there should be the fullest co-operation between the retail merchants and retail clerks. This co-operation would conduce to the solution of problems that were of vital concern to the members of both organizations.

Ald. Thomas Marcell, an old member and past president of the association, emphasized the value of organization. The Retail Clerks' Protective Association, in which the Ottawa local held membership, was founded about 30

years ago. It now numbered well over 40,000 members, and had paid out over \$400,000 in sick benefits. The aim of the association was to educate the clerks in salesmanship and see that the Minimum Wage Board decisions were carried out with respect to young girls.

Pleasing vocal selections were rendered by Mr. Emile Renaud and Miss Schilling, of H. J. singing in duet, and by Miss Albertine Valois. Mr. Aurele Groulx was the accompanist. Mr. Groulx was in charge of the orchestra which provided the music for the dance programme. Refreshments were reserved. The entertainment committee consisted of Messrs. Alex Larose, president; O. Paquette, secretary-treasurer; J. Hasenback, recording secretary, and Ald. Thomas Marcell.

Wage Increase Due on the Railroads

Half of 12 Per Cent Reduction of 1922 Made Good in States

Toronto, Feb. 15.—Conductors, trainmen, baggage men and yardmen on the Canadian National and Canadian Pacific Railways are due to receive more pay. The basis for the negotiations has been struck by the Brotherhood Executives in the United States and accepted by the New York Central lines, who have already put the new schedule into effect.

Canadian Roads Pledged
As both of the Canadian lines are pledged to adopt the scale of wages in existence on lines of the same standard, representatives of Canadian roads will at once meet the Canadian Executives and discuss the wage question, with the new scale on the New York Central lines as the basis. It was by arrangement that the brotherhood agreed to wait until the negotiations with the New York Central reached a conclusion. The new rates of pay are an advance of 30 cents a day to passenger train employees, 25 cents a day to freight trainmen and 32 cents a day to yardmen.

The new rate is just about half the 12 per cent reduction made in the pay of railway employees in 1922. The brotherhoods at a meeting in Cleveland last summer decided to ask for an increase in pay equal to the amount taken off at the time of the general reduction. When the decision respecting the negotiations with the New York Central lines was made known, the Executives met again at Cleveland and accepted the agreement.

Word was received here directing the attention of the chairman of the brotherhoods to the New York Central agreement and directing them to formally call the attention of the Canadian roads to the new scale, with a request for its early adoption. The negotiations are expected to be brought on at once.

A brotherhood officer speaking to a reporter recently said he expected no difficulty in having the Canadian roads adopt the new scale. The conductors, trainmen, baggage men and yardmen really expected to get a full 12 per cent increase, but, he said, the men will have to abide by the decision as to rates of pay on the New York Central lines.

Will Try to Put I.W. W. Out of Canada

Calgary—Fred Jackson, charged with being improperly in Canada according to the Immigration Act, is under arrest and the records of nine other alleged Industrial Workers of the World agitators are being investigated as a result of an unofficial visit of Arnold F. George, head of the Calgary branch of the immigration department, to Cranbrook last week, to investigate the loggers' strike.

Mr. George states that while no violence has been committed, considerable curtailment of the lumber production in the district between Cranbrook and Golden in British Columbia has resulted from the trouble. Mr. George learned that six hundred men are being fed at Cranbrook by the leaders of the strikers, the funds coming from the United States, according to information received by the immigration officer. It was also reported to him that 300 men were being fed at Nelson, which makes a total of 900 men who are being fed by the I. W. W. organization across the line.

Labor Temple Meeting Creates a Stir

Wrong Impression Being Given Out Retiring Directors Likely to Stand Again

Hamilton, Feb. 5.—During the past week much comment has been heard on the annual meeting of the Labor Temple Association, which will be held on Monday, March 3rd. It will be necessary to elect three directors at that meeting, due to the fact that

Directors Archie Shaw, John Pryke and Thomas Mepham will have completed their term of three years. All these gentlemen will be eligible for re-election. The opinion, in some way, has gone abroad that Thomas Mepham did not care to serve longer on the directorate, and when spoken to on this matter stated that he felt that he had done his share, but was prepared to again take up the task if chosen.

Valued Director
Mr. Mepham's many friends in the labor movement appreciate the advice and service he has given to this board and they are endeavoring to persuade him to again stand for the directorate, it being felt that now is the real testing time of the organization and that the experience he has gained on this board for the last ten years will be very valuable to the body in the next few years.

Many Activities
Fred Hawes, when spoken to relative to the possibility of his resignation being handed in at the annual meeting, stated that he had no objection to continuing in office, but he felt that with the many other union matters he has to take care of, it might be in the best interests of the association to appoint someone in his place. Unless there is a spirited election for the directorate next month it is likely that Mr. Hawes will remain on the board, as his term of office has not expired.

Minimum Wages in Amusement Trades

Toronto, Feb. 14.—A public hearing before the Minimum Wage Board was held at Spadina House for the purpose of considering the Board's order, concerning minimum wages for female employees in amusement trades, which is shortly to be put in force. This order fixes the minimum weekly wage at \$12.50, except in cases where an employee works less than 40 hours per week, in which case the wage must be at least 30 cents per hour, no working period to be reckoned as less than two hours.

The chairman, Mr. J. W. Macmillan, pointed out that it was not the function of the Board to establish a "fair" or a suitable wage, but to prevent wages that were unsocially low, with consequent lowering of the standard of living.

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Labor Survey Ready for Publication

Ottawa.—A complete survey of working hours in the Canadian industry will be in the hands of the Provincial Governments within a few days. The report, which is being prepared by the Federal Department of Labor, is intended to inform the Provincial Governments of the present position of the eight-hour day movement in industrial undertakings in Canada. The survey is the outcome of a conference of representatives of the Dominion Government and the Provincial Governments held in Ottawa last September for the purpose of considering the obligations of Canada arising out of the labor sections of the treaty of peace. The report is to be issued by the Department of Labor in the form of a bulletin.

May Organize Carpenters' Local Here

Carpenters and Joiners Being Urged to Link up With American Union

Toronto.—Arriving in the city to advance the cause of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, Pat Green, a general organizer for the brotherhood in Canada, stated that a branch in Ottawa had become affiliated with the United

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