

Labor News From Coast to Coast

Our Overseas Column

Gift Caused a Strike

London, Eng.—The joiners at Messrs. Bartram and Sons' shipyard at Sunderland, who struck five weeks ago, returned to work.

The firm provided as a gift a large notice board for the Royal Infirmary and set the carpenters to make it. The joiners contended it was their work, and so they went on strike.

Increase in Wages

Johannesburg, South Africa.—Justice de Villiers, chairman of Mines Conciliation Board made a favorable recommendation on the application of the miners for an increase in wages, and in his report supports the full increase of 20 per cent.

French Employers Workers' Education

Paris, France.—The Herriot Government, in the course of a discussion on fiscal policy in the Chamber, secured the adoption of a tax which burdens industrial and commercial enterprises with the obligation of helping to meet the expense of educational institutions engaged in technical instruction of employes and apprentices.

Is Largest Steel Mill in All Europe

London.—A gigantic steel mill, the largest and finest in Europe, and said to be larger than any in America, has had a satisfactory trial at the Mossend Iron and Steel Works in Lancashire, says The Daily Herald. The mill, which has been constructed with great secrecy, at a cost of £1,000,000, is 500 feet long, has a cast plant 114 feet long, and will produce 5,000 tons of steel per week. A unique feature is that, when running, the mill is almost silent.

Our Trade With Great Britain

Mother Country Contributed Greatly to Canada's Progress

One of the most important factors in the development of Canada has been our commercial and financial relationship with Great Britain. The effect of the war on international trade in general, and on Great Britain's economic situation in particular, tended to lessen the importance of this relationship from a financial point of view, and even affected the relative importance of our trade relations with the Mother Country in the post-war years. We are now, however, commencing a period during which more normal conditions will prevail, and may very well consider at this time the changes or developments which may be expected to take place in our commercial and financial intercourse with Great Britain.

In considering the pre-war situation, it is unnecessary to go farther back than the beginning of the century. The period from 1900 to 1913 was the time of Canada's most rapid progress, and to this progress Great Britain contributed more than any other outside country, although the United States ran her a close second. During those fourteen years, in spite of a rapid increase in Canadian exports to the United States, Great Britain took \$1,505,000,000 worth of our goods, compared with \$1,245,000,000 sold to the United States, and sent us close to 1,000,000 new citizens, which compares 900,000 who came to Canada from the United States.

The great importance of the Mother Country's contribution to Canadian prosperity is even more definitely established when the financial assistance extended is taken into consideration. The great proportion of the outside capital required by Canada for development purposes came from London, British investments in Canada during the period under discussion being estimated at \$1,753,000,000, compared with U. S. investments of \$629,000,000. Now the war, while it did not lessen Great Britain's demand for Canadian products, even after the cessation of hostilities, did interfere with her capacity for competing with the United States in the Canadian Market, and gave the latter country an advantage which has not yet been overcome. Moreover, with sterling at a fluctuating account in this country, English investments in Canadian industries or Canadian bond flotations in London were almost entirely shut out, and Canada was forced to look to the United States Money Market for such outside financial assistance as she required.

So far as the future is concerned, it is interesting to consider the subject under four heads, as follows:

1. Canadian exports to Great Britain.
2. Canadian imports from Great Britain.

Wheat Prices Help Prosperity

Farmer Is Now Able to Pay Debts and Buy Manufactured Goods

Continued strength in wheat prices is attracting much attention to the world statistical position of that commodity. Wheat's change of form from a price point of view, has been very rapid; compare the price of less than \$1.00 per bushel for No. 1 Northern wheat in Winnipeg in January 1914 with present prices to close to \$2.00 per bushel. As the bulk of our 1924 crop has already left the farmers' hands, our main interest in the market at the present time centres on price prospects for the 1925 crop. Wheat prices commenced to fall in 1920 along with the prices of other commodities. The low point for the post-war period was not, however, reached in 1921. Both in 1921 and in 1922 world crops were reasonably good; they were substantially in excess of the 1920 crop, and somewhat larger than the average crops of the years 1909-13. In 1923, unusually favorable weather conditions in many of the important producing countries resulted in a crop of 3,488,000,000 bushels (not including Russia), an increase of more than 300,000,000 bushels over the preceding year. This was the final blow so far as wheat prices were concerned. According to statistics published by the Food Research Institute of Stanford University in California, a bushel of wheat in Canada in 1923-24 commanded 30 per cent less in terms of goods than it did in the years 1909-14. European consumption was stimulated by these very low prices and the Orient increased its purchases substantially. As a result, the world carryover in 1924 at the end of the crop year, though larger than in 1923, was not nearly as large as might have been expected, and a decrease of about 450,000,000 bushels in the 1924-25 world crop (present estimates) left the world short of wheat for this season. An indication of the change which has taken place in the situation is found in the fact that Russia, instead of exporting wheat as she did in 1923-24, has purchased a large amount of flour from Canada.

While it is conceivable that the exceptionally favorable weather conditions throughout the main wheat producing areas of the world, which resulted in the large crop of 1923, might be repeated in the coming season, the chances are against this taking place. Obviously none can form a definite opinion in regard to our farmers' prospects for 1925-26 until the crop is harvested, but it can at least be said that the prospects look distinctly better than they did a year ago.

Get Fruit From Carpenter's Home

Chicago, Ill.—Illinois members of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners are receiving shipments of oranges from the brotherhood's home and orange orchard at Lakeland, Fla. Officers of the brotherhood announce that the first crop from their orchard will approximate 55,000 cases, and are being distributed to local unions throughout the country.

The home consists of 1,700 acres of land and represents an investment of \$700,000 on the part of the brotherhood. Development of the home has not yet taken place, but extensive plans are under consideration. It is intended to have an up-to-date model home for the aged and dependent individual members.

Sardine Packers Win Strike

Paris, France.—Three thousand workers in the sardine packing houses in the ports of Brittany have won their six weeks' strike. The owners suddenly collapsed and signed the terms suggested by the minister of labor under Prime Minister Herriot and then accepted by the strikers.

All France had been stirred up by this battle on the north coast between the fishermen with the fellows, and the wealthy packers. It was a case of simple industrial war, with the trimmings which we know well in America but which are rarer here and so make a stir. The owners took to open violence. Their method was to set up a sort of fascist company union which of course "came into unfortunate conflict" with the strikers. Result, half a dozen strikers stabbed or shot, including their leader, the ex-mayor of the sardine town of Douarnenez. But Douarnenez is not so far away from Paris as is Matewan or Logan in West Virginia from Washington, D. C. The facts were out in no time and things boiled here as they never did when 10,000 West Virginia miners with guns went marching to catch company gunmen.

The finishing stroke was that the fisher folk and factory workers organized a co-operative society for handling the fish. The employers, snuffed, but the Co-operative of Sea Workers soon were taking care of all the sardines caught, though the packing houses stayed strike-bound. The owners' moral props had been knocked out by the exposure of their attempts with thug strikebreakers and their financial supports were hit by the co-ops.

Vienna is threatened with a strike of bakers, who demand a 10 per cent increase in wages. The master bakers say they are prepared to grant the increase if the Government will again furnish them with a basis for calculation of the future price of bread. The Government refuses to furnish this basis, desiring "healthy competition" between the bakers.

Printers' Dispute Is Ended

Quebec, Que.—The local International Typographical Union members will not go out on strike, but will continue under present conditions. This was the decision reached at a meeting attended by practically 100 per cent of the local branch when the majority voted to continue under the existing scale. The agreement between the master printers and the International Typographical Union expired recently.

Radical Change in Soviet Policy

"There are numerous indications that the Soviet Government is undertaking a radical change in its policy," says a European newspaper correspondent. This takes the form of diminution of revolutionary activity abroad and concentration on internal problems. An article in the Pravda shows a paralysis of the Communist movement in Central Europe.

He continues with the obvious statement that the revolutionary movement has alarmed both Europe and the United States and in self-defense governments have been compelled to lower its flashing banners. He points out that Zinovieff, with "dogmatic obstinacy, has clung to the theory that the Soviet Government could exist only in a Europe conquered by Communism," but the idea has been relinquished for the less romantic work of appeasing peasants and establishing normal relations with bourgeois countries.

"This step will be of great international significance in permitting freedom of relations between the Soviet Government and capitalistic states." He warns, however, that the Third Internationale has not actually been buried, but may be put under cover only temporarily with the shelving of Zinovieff. Interpreted in the light of official censorship, the background of the despatch is one of sanity against keeping Zinovieff in the ascendancy, but the battles are not yet over.

Deport Indian Revolutionary

M. N. Roy, Indian, revolutionary exile, and the principal figure in the recent Indian Communist trial, has been deported from France.

M. Herriot's Liberal Government supported by the Socialists, has acted in this matter on the request of the British Government.

M. N. Roy has already been expelled from Germany (in 1923) after the British Government had brought great pressure to bear on the German authorities. Switzerland, where he lived for some time, is also closed to him—not because of his activities there, but because the British Government fears him.

In the Cawpore conspiracy case, Roy was given, in his absence, a four years sentence of imprisonment. The crime alleged was the publication of documents that have circulated freely in Britain, and the attempt to form a revolutionary party of the masses.

Ford Plant Active

After many delays due to various causes, the Ford assembling plant in East Toronto is now working

will be no slowing up in production for a considerable time to come. Extra men have been hired during the past few days, and once again it is a familiar sight to see miniature processions of new Fords making their way to the various agencies. In demand it is expected that there to capacity. Sixty cars daily are being turned out and by the increase

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