

# Labor News From Coast to Coast

## "OUR OVERSEAS COLUMN"

### CZECHOSLOVAKIA

**Unemployment**—Employment conditions in the republic are steadily improving, the month of May, 1924, showing only 29,000 unemployed persons, as compared with 48,600 in the spring of this year.

### DENMARK

**Unemployment**—During the month of May, 1924, the number of unemployed persons in Denmark continued to decrease steadily, the figures at the close of the month being 17,507, as compared with 25,577 on the last of April, 1924.

### ENGLAND

**Amend Unemployment Insurance Bill**—By amendment, children of the ages of 14 to 16, inclusive, are now excluded from the application of unemployment insurance bill, No. 2, thus reducing the contribution income and causing a decrease from 800,000 to 770,000 in the number of persons on the live beneficial register.

**Upward Movement**—An upward movement in wages is reported throughout England. In the industries for which statistics are available, the changes in rates of wages recently reported resulted in an aggregate increase of about \$275,000 in the weekly full-time wages of approximately 1,350,000 workers, and in an aggregate

reduction of £3,700 in those of approximately 45,000 workers.

### FRANCE

**Bakery Strike Settled**—Striking bakery employees in Marseilles returned to work upon the assurance of the Prefect that the law of 1920, forbidding work between 10.00 p.m. and 4.00 a.m., would be enforced by the government.

### GERMANY

**Emigration in 1923**—According to official statistics recently published in the Dresden Anzeiger by the Federal Bureau of Statistics, during the year 1923, a total of 115,416 German subjects emigrated from their native land.

**Revival of Merchant Marine**—A pressing demand for dock and forwarding laborers is following the revival of Germany's merchant marine.

**Unemployment in Saxony**—According to the report of 73 Saxon employment decreased from 87,206 to 52,003 recently.

### MEXICO

**Arbitration and Conciliation Council**—In accordance with the regulations of the Labor law of the State of Durango, the Council of Arbitration and Conciliation met recently and effected its organization.

## Provide Work for Canadian Members

majority vote of the General Executive Board. A fair measure of prosperity for members engaged in the building and jobbing industries with the exception of a few cities has been experienced during the past three years, Mr. Hynes reported, and from reliable sources he had learned that the condition should continue for several years to come.

### Extensive Building

With the continuance of the extensive building program and clarification of the European situation, steady employment at good wages and working conditions should, from all estimates put forward by the various statistical organizations and the government Departments, be the happy lot of workers on this continent.

During the year 1921, Mr. Hynes recalled, building trades organizations in Philadelphia, Chicago and San Francisco were the objectives of a severe attack on the part of open shop, American Plan and Citizens' Association, and these cities had not yet recovered from the effects of their troubles in that year.

## Forsees Big Industrial Improvement

Charles Hanna Talks at Trades and Labor Council

Belleville, Ont.—Belleville Trades and Labor Council in session here recently, endorsed the action of the city council in the appointment of a special committee to investigate labor conditions in the city. President George Beare of Belleville Trades and Labor Council and ex-Mayor Charles Hanna, were appointed to represent labor on this committee at the meeting.

An effort will also be made to have labor represented on the Local Brothers' Allowance Board as the result of the fire which was directed towards the re-appointment of this board recently.

The matter of old age pensions was introduced by Alderman Harry Greenleaf, and after much discussion, the matter was referred to the special Civic Labor Committee. This committee is advised to make such recommendations as it deems advisable to the Dominion government.

In the lengthy discussion which ensued relative to local industrial conditions, ex-Mayor Hanna explained that Belleville was in a much more health condition in this connection than many other cities.

There were excellent prospects here for much additional improvement industrially in the very near future here too he explained.

## 100 Strike Breakers Dismissed in M'tl.

Montreal, Que.—Statements that the building industry in the United States was in a flourishing condition and that the internal unions had been able to take care of their Canadian membership who had come to the United States, where they had been able to find work at rates higher than they had received in Canada, were made by officers of international unions in addresses delivered to the triennial convention of sheet-metal workers in this city recently.

John Coefield, general president of the United Association of Plumbers and Steam Fitters of the United States and Canada, stated that industrial conditions in the building industry were very good, with the exception of Canada, where conditions were very poor. In the United States the brotherhood had been able to take care of unemployed members of their union in the Dominion. The majority of these were now working in the United States at a higher wage rate than they had ever received in Canada, a rate averaging \$10, \$12 and \$14 per day.

W. A. O'Keefe, general organizer for the Operative Plasterers and Cement Finishers' International Association, made similar statements with regard to his organization and unemployed Canadian members. There had been an influx of hundreds of Canadian members during the past year and they had been found employment at \$12 and \$14 per day.

## Sawmill Walk-out Over; Men Return

Strike of Employees of Victoria Mill Over New Schedule is Satisfactorily Adjusted

Victoria.—The 350 employees of the Canadian Puget Sound Lumber Company's mill who walked out when the company posted a new wage schedule, are all back at work now. The strike is over and satisfactory adjustment

## has been arrived at for all differences over the new wage schedule.

The basis of settlement is practically what the company offered, although it is a modification of the terms originally proposed. The strikers will be reinstated and so far as known all the men will go back. Under the new wage scale white common labor will get 34 cents an hour instead of 32 and a half, as at first proposed. Asiatic common labor will get 23 and a half cents. Those earning above 40 cents an hour will have their pay reduced on a sliding scale. Some mechanics are getting as high as \$1.50 per hour.

## 100 Strike Breakers Dismissed in M'tl.

Montreal.—Something like 125 of the men who had been engaged to replace strikers at the Postoffice during the recent strike received notice recently that their services were not required any longer, and were asked to call for their salary.

Victor Gaudet, Postmaster of Montreal, declined to make any statement as to why the men were discharged.



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## Walkout of Shoe Workers Holds

Quebec, Que.—The local shoe industry is still affected by a serious strike which has not developed into open trouble but nevertheless is affecting some three hundred families. There is no possibility of a settlement being arrived at before the latter part of this week.

## Industry in the U.S.

Over 1,100,000 employees of manufacturing industry in the United States have been laid off since a year ago, according to the June employment report of the U.S. department of labor. This is a drop of 12.9 per cent in the number on factory payrolls and brings the total number of unemployed factory workers to a level of 18.5 per cent, below the average of the census year of 1913. This means that approximately 1,680,000 who had jobs then are out of a job to-day.

The falling off in the purchasing power of the working class since last June is shown to be more serious than the employment figures would indicate. Total payrolls have been reduced 16.8 per cent, meaning a loss in wages paid to workers running at about \$39,500,000 a week or some \$160,000,000 for the single month of June. This includes a loss of 4.6 per cent in average per capita earnings which fell from \$26.75 in June 1923 to \$25.56 in June of this year.

## Ready for a Big Convention

Washington.—No special problems will be up or solution at the quadrennial convention of the Machinists at Detroit in September, according to General Secretary-Treasurer Davison. He is about to send out to the local lodges a printed circular containing the proposals submitted or endorsement. None of these, in his opinion, is likely to lead to long debate or a close vote in convention.

Although the railroad shop strike of 1921-23 cost the I. A. of M. nearly \$2,000,000 and 10,000 members, the international now has approximately \$1,000,000 in assets, to which it is steadily adding. The present year has seen few strike activities and no major disputes are now in sight. The shop strike on the Pennsylvania railroad system is stiff officially maintained.

## T. and L. Funds Low Handouts Few

Montreal, Que.—Appeals for funds found the Trades and Labor Council at its meeting were somewhat shy. So what purported to be an appeal from the striking miners of Alberta and an appeal for the German workers went by the board for the present at least.

In the case of the miners the appeal came from the Montreal assembly of the Labor Party asking the council to subscribe. The executive recommended that the secretary be instructed to communicate with District No. 18 of the miners, asking them if they have launched a financial appeal.

## Permits for Child Factory Wks. Few

Hamilton, Ont.—Not more than half a dozen permits for children between 14 and 16 years of age to work in the canning factories here have been issued this year, according to W. R. Rollo, adolescent officer.

In other years hundreds of children were employed in those factories. The reason so few have obtained jobs this year is believed to be the scarcity of work.

Only about 25 permits have been given children to work in factories of any kind. That means there are practically no boys and girls between 14 and 16 years of age working in the city except those who have working permits for the year and are attending part time classes in the schools.

Even during the vacation boys and girls between 14 and 16 years of age must have permits to obtain work in the city, and they must have the job before the permit is issued. If they are found working the factory inspector stops them and has the authority to prosecute the employer. Children under 14 are not allowed to work at all. No permit is required for children who go into the country to pick fruit. But even there work for the children is scarce, because men and women are taking those jobs when they cannot obtain other employment.

## Labor Head Sees Many Blessings

Metal Workers Enjoy Wages Not Dreamed of 20 Years Ago

Montreal.—All building trades mechanics are enjoying a wage and working conditions today little dreamed of ten or twenty years ago, according to the report of John J. Hynes, general president of the Amalgamated Sheet Metal Workers' International Alliance, submitted at the triennial convention of the organization.

Evolution in the building industry has brought sheet metal workers into closer relation with other trades, Mr. Hynes stated.

He advocated that the sheet metal workers' convention elect a committee of three to negotiate trade agreements with organizations, all such agreements to be subject to approval by a

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