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FORMER MINISTER OF LABOR DEAD

Senator T. W. Crothers, former Minister of Labor in the Borden Cabinet for nearly eight years, who was appointed to the Senate about two months ago, died suddenly Saturday afternoon at his residence, after an illness which had confined him to his home for the last two weeks. He was 71 years of age.

Senator Crothers had enjoyed an honorable and useful public career, and his death will be sincerely mourned, not only in the Capital, but throughout the whole of Canada. As Minister of Labor he put heart and soul into the position, and each succeeding Convention of the Trades and Labor Congress, saw him in attendance in some instances from the beginning to the end of the session.

Senator Crothers was born on a farm in the township of Ameliasburg, Prince Edward County, Ontario, in 1850, the son of the late William Crothers and Nancy Gray. He received his early education in the Public School of the township and at the age of 17 obtained a first class certificate and began teaching Public School in the township of Adolphustown. In this particular section the father of the late Sir John A. Macdonald kept a general store for many years.

Senator Crothers taught School there for six years. He then attended Albert College and later Victoria University, graduating in 1875 as Bachelor of Arts. From 1875 to 1876 he was headmaster of Waterloo High School in Middlesex County. He then decided to put himself through for law and after a creditable course was called to the Bar in 1879. Provincial politics threw out a strong appeal, his restless and ambitious yearning, and he became Conservative candidate for West Elgin in the Ontario Legislature in the same year he was called to the bar, but was defeated by the late Dr. Casagrande by seven votes, where the Liberal majority usually was about 200.

From 1905 to 1912 Mr. Crothers was a member of the Board of Governors of Toronto University which office he resigned on becoming Minister of Labor. Mr. Crothers practised law in St. Thomas and acted as arbitrator in connection with gas and electric lighting facilities of St. Thomas.

In 1906 Mr. Crothers was made a King's Counsel. Shortly afterwards he became associated with Colonel John A. Cooper. He was appointed chairman of a commission to investigate the prices of public and High School text books for Ontario the result of which was a reduction in the prices of these text books in most cases, by about one half. At the close of the investigation the Government sent him a check for \$2,500 as a reward for his services, but with commendable spirit, Mr. Crothers stated that he had not acted on the commission for pecuniary gain and returned the money.

In 1908 Mr. Crothers became Conservative candidate for a seat in the House of Commons, to which he was elected by a large majority. He continued to represent that constituency until his appointment to the Senate about two months ago. In 1911 he was sworn in as Minister of Labor in the Borden Cabinet, which position he held for nearly eight years, when owing to ill health he resigned. In 1911 he accompanied Sir Robert Borden on his western tour. He vigorously opposed the Taft-Fielding reciprocity pact, and it was on the defeat of the Laurier administration that he was appointed Minister of Labor, resigning that post in 1918.

Probably the outstanding and most worthy achievement of Hon. Mr. Crothers during his tenure of office was obtaining reinstatement and "back pay" for employees of the Grand Trunk Railway. In 1912 Mr. Crothers insisted upon the Grand Trunk Railroad Companies carrying out the promises made by the late Charles M. Hayes in 1910, to reinstate the trainmen who had been on strike and pay them what was known as "back pay." He even went so far as to advise the Railway Committee of the House of Commons to reject two private bills introduced by the company. This was done with the result that the promised reinstatement, back pay and back pay was granted. While he was Minister of Labor there were in Canada fewer and less serious strikes than in England, United States and Australia.

HOARY WAGE TRICK USED BY EMPLOYERS
 "Trick wage statistics" is the comment of James Lord, president of the A. F. of L. mining department on the claim of Logan county (W. Va.) coal owners that the gross earnings of mine workers is \$13.87 per month.

W. R. Thurmond, president of the Logan coal operators' association, states that "the earnings of 75 men at 15 different operations has been computed, showing that the average gross earnings of the mine workers was \$13.87 per month."

HUGE LAND AREAS HANDED RAILROADS

"The free-land gifts of the American people to the railroads are 100,000 square miles in excess of the area of either France or Germany before the war," said Dr. Frank Warner, economist for the railroad transportation employees, before the senate committee on interstate commerce.

"These free-land grants," said the witness, "approximate 200,000, 300,000, or 312,000 square miles of territory. This is 137,000 square miles more than are contained in the entire area of Turkey. They are 50,000 more than the territory not of Japan proper, but of the empire of Japan. They are 187,000 square miles larger than Norway, and 139,000 square miles larger than Sweden. The kingdom of Spain lacks 115,000 square miles and that of Italy 192,000 square miles of being as large in area."

Dr. Warner said these land gifts would cover a territory equal in area to Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, District of Columbia, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina. He showed that the government has failed to reveal suits to recover control of the vast mineral and oil resources in some of this western land and in consequence immense wealth has come to these lands, which they are now developing in large part through subsidiary companies.

COMPANY HIRES FIRE BUG
 Richmond, Cal.—It took a jury but 29 minutes to convict "Frame-Up" Emerson of setting fire to buildings owned by the Associated oil company. He was employed by the company to guard property during the recent strike of oil workers.

The company offered a reward of \$1,000 for the arrest of the fire bug, but when Emerson was arrested the police could induce no one connected with the company to swear out a warrant.

A significant feature of the trial was the presence of "Black Jack" Jerome, who is in charge of a well-known strikebreaking agency. Jerome testified that he sent Emerson to guard property during the recent strike of oil workers.

BOYCOTT IS FAVORED
 Chicago.—Workers can still be enjoined from boycotting but a city official may recommend the scheme without incurring the wrath of an injunction.

DEFEAT SECESSION
 Winnipeg.—The Brotherhood Railway Carmen and its local affiliate have won a victory over a crowd of disruptionists who voted money two years ago to aid the one big union.

STEEL AND COAL UNITING
 Wall Street is discussing two large steel and coal combinations that are being formed by the same financial group. The steel combine will consist of several independent concerns that will develop a corporation second to the steel trust.

RAILWAY COMPANIES AND TRADES UNIONS IN THE UNITED STATES

In the course of a speech delivered in New York, William H. Johnston, president of the International Association of Machinists (of America), made the following remarks:

"There will always be danger of strikes so long as the railway companies are allowed to defy the Rail Board's decisions, which are only enforced against the workers. It required the threat of a strike in October last to make the Railroad Labor Board show that it had any power at all."

"The solution of the whole transportation question can only be brought about by government ownership and by unified operation by a joint board representing the railway companies, the public and labor. This is in accordance with the well-known 'Push PMR.'"

UNEMPLOYMENT IN UNITED STATES LIKELY TO BECOME WORSE
 At a meeting of the Standing Committee of the Unemployment Conference, of which body he is president, the Secretary of Commerce, Herbert Hoover, declared that "the apparent improvement in conditions will be followed by a tendency in the opposite direction; the public will soon have to realize this fact, the unemployment wave in the United States has not yet been reached; that will probably be in January or February."

THE SPIDER AND THE FLY
 "Some big railroad managements are working hard to establish the benevolent despotism plan of control of employees," says the Locomotive Firemen and Engineers' Magazine. "They want to have a complete domination over their workers as they have over the inanimate assets of their respective companies."

DEMANDED HIGHER BOND
 New York.—Secretary-Treasurer O'Connell, of Typographical Union No. 6 asked that his bond be increased from \$5,000 to \$50,000. The union granted the request.

CAL WYATT IS DEAD
 Cal Wyatt, one of the oldest organizers on the staff of the A. F. of L. died after a few days' illness with pneumonia. Deceased was an old-time trade unionist, joining the Typographical union at an early age. The remains were interred in Pittsburgh, the home of deceased.

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