

Europe was considered at several consecutive meetings. Objections raised were the import restrictions now imposed by European countries, and the varying gauges of railways. It was decided, however, that the plan had so much to recommend it as an advertisement for Canada, that it should be referred to the annual meeting, when the personal advice of Mr. Lloyd Harris, chairman of the Canadian Mission in London, would be available.

"A proposal to support the despatch to China and Japan of a trade commission, consisting of one representative from each of the boards of trade of Montreal, Toronto, Hamilton, Winnipeg and Vancouver, and one representative from the association, was referred to the boards of trade mentioned for their consideration, but action is deferred pending receipt of the boards' decisions.

"The appointment of three new standing committees, namely: 'Industrial Relations,' 'Publishing,' and 'Commercial Intelligence,' is recommended, and the necessary notices of motion to amend the by-laws have been made accordingly.

Proposals Endorsed

"During the year, on the recommendation of your committee, the executive council endorsed, among others, the following proposals:—The removal of war-time restrictions from business; the establishment of a central bureau for scientific research; the provision of facilities to encourage technical education and industrial training; the attempt of the Dominion government to encourage the building of small houses; the work of the Canadian Engineering Standards Association; the establishment of government employment offices; the continuation of daylight saving legislation; the proposal of the Canadian Association of Stationary Engineers to secure a higher standard of technical efficiency for stationary engineers.

"At the November meeting of the council, it was moved that a special general meeting be called to consider the advisability of moving the head office of the association to Ottawa. An amendment, which directed that an office be opened in Ottawa immediately, and that the question of transferring the head office from Toronto to Ottawa be referred to the next annual general meeting, was carried."

President's Address

Mr. Bulman, the president, said in part:—

"If this country is to retain confidence in organized labor, the trades and labor unions will have to denounce any of their members who hold and preach seditious doctrines that are repugnant to the common sense of the Canadian people. Private property is not going to be eliminated. Revolutionaries cannot convince a million farmers in Canada that they should hand their farms over to anybody. They cannot persuade some hundreds of thousands of Canadians who own small shops that they should relinquish possession. They cannot convince other hundreds of thousands who have accounts in the banks that their savings should be put into a common purse. They cannot convince some millions in Canada, many of them wage-earners, who own or are paying for their houses, that these houses should be given to Soviets, as they were in Russia, for the purpose of billeting the chosen friends of the Soviets. They cannot convince the owners of factories, whether individuals or stockholders, that their rights under the law are an illusion. They cannot convince any loyal citizen who has acquired property by industry and thrift that he is not entitled to the free use and possession of it.

More Production Needed

"In the discussions about the high cost of living there is a tendency to forget the historical fact that great wars are succeeded by great scarcity, which often approaches famine. During four and a half years the energies of the civilized world have been devoted to destruction. Food and all kinds of material have been wasted in stupendous quantities. Production has been restricted through diversion of effort. The result is a world scarcity. Articles are dear now because they are scarce, and they will be dear until they become plentiful again. Other minor factors

contribute, but this is the chief explanation of the high cost of living.

"Therefore our only salvation is not in doing less work, but in doing more work. The war has increased our debt. We have fewer hands to do the work that is necessary to provide for our wants and to pay our debts. Our forests can only be converted into lumber, then into money, and then into food and clothing, through the efforts of all connected with the lumber industry. The ore in the mines is useless until it is in a marketable condition. The land is fruitless until it is tilled and reaped. We have great stores of raw material, but they are valueless without work, and work must be defined in the broadest sense, the work of brains, the work of capital, and the work of hands.

"The grievances of the wage-earners who are not destructive revolutionaries may be concentrated into three demands:—

"(1) They want a shorter working day.

"(2) They want more pay for the shorter period of work than they now receive for the longer period.

"(3) They want to share in the control of industry.

"What is the average day's work for all the people of Canada, both men and women. The farmers, for example, work about twelve hours a day in summer, and at least ten hours a day in winter, six and part of the seventh day; the retail storekeepers average at least ten hours a day, and the housework done by women occupies their time probably ten or twelve hours each day. Few employers escape with less than ten or twelve hours.

"As for the control of industry, the expression 'self-government of industry' is misleading. The direction of industry has little parallel with the government of a country. The government has complete control over its citizens; it has the power of life and death, the right to give or take away property. Industry has no such control over its employees. Nearly all the heads of Canadian industries were once workmen themselves. They have risen to their present positions by ability, perseverance and thrift. The most difficult thing to get to-day is managing ability. The directors of Canadian industries are not trying to keep men down, they are trying to fit them to assume the responsibilities of management. They are eager to find ability, to reward it, and to place it in responsible positions where it will share in the control of industry. The purchase of stock is open to employees in many industrial companies, and employees have the same opportunities as other men who have succeeded, to save and invest their money. I think the executive council and this annual meeting firmly believe that all industrial employees and all other wage-earners are entitled to and should have as short hours and as high wages as the rights of all other citizens and the competition of other nations permit them to enjoy.

"The past year has marked the revival of the agitation for lower tariffs and reciprocity and freer trade. The association, which has always supported the policy of adequate protection for Canadian industry and agriculture, maintained that position, and urged upon the government and the public the danger of departing from the national policy when the country is being readjusted from a war to a peace basis, when it is necessary to find employment for the army and for the war workers, and when nearly every other country in the world is either retaining or increasing the protection given to its own industries. It is interesting to note that the economic history of the Western United States is being repeated in Western Canada. Successive agrarian movements in these Western States agitated to secure free trade and wider markets, but when great industries located in the west and built up large cities these agitations subsided. It is inevitable that a similar change will take place in Western Canada.

"Canada has never had a high tariff. The fact that our imports have always greatly exceeded our exports, except in the abnormal conditions of war times, supports this statement. For years the United States, for example, has sold us from 50 to 100 per cent. more than we have sold to them. Moreover, their sales to us have been largely finished pro-