Labor News From Coast to Coast

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Thomas, E. A. Acct., Dept. of Labor

NO BOLSHEVISM FOR BRITISH LABOR PARTY

LENINE MEANS WHAT HE SAYS WHEN TALKING OF REVOLUTION BY VIOLENCE

British Labor Party Convention at Scarborough Decides Against Affiliation With Third Internationale—Favors Nationalization of Mines and Local Option—Divide on Irish Question.

The British Labor Party Conference, which sat all last week in Scarborough, concluded its sessions on Friday, at which adherence to the Third International was lost by a large majority. Secession from the Second International was also lost. Nationalization of coal mines was carried unanimously, and, in dealing with the important question of the liquor trade, total prohibition and state purchase were both lost, but local option was passed by a large majority. At previous meetings a vote in favor of Irish independence, endorsing self-determination, was passed. Sir David Shackleton, general adviser to the Ministry of Labor, has been able to bring together the two sides in the printing trade, the gasworkers and the wireless operators' disputes, and, while the industrial sky was considerably overcast during the past week, it is now comparatively clear. Strike notices for gasworkers, which would have resulted in a strike on Saturday, have been postponed, and meetings will take place next week.

In the discussion on the question of joining the Third International, the Hampstead Labor Party proposed a resolution in favor of secession from the Second International on the ground that it had broken down, and the British Socialist Party proposed an amendment that the Labor Party should apply forthwith for affiliation to the Third International at Moscow.

Leader Urges Moderation.

J. Ramsay Macdonald explained the view of the executive and said that the Labor Party must take a quiet and sane view of the whole situation. The Third International had a sort of Mayfly prosperity, he said, and proposed to apply Russian conditions to International policy; but these conditions, according to the International, must be duplicated in France, Italy and England. It stood for revolution by violence and dictatorship of the proletariat. He pointed out that there was a middle way between dictatorships of plutocracy or of proletariat.

Tom Shaw, who has recently returned from Russia, said that Nicholas Lenine and his associates meant exactly what they said, when they talked of revolution with violence, and Charles Radek, when he said that, after the revolution in various countries, Labor leaders would be put into prison, meant exactly what he said. The Second International, on the other hand, he declared, said let all parties come together to Geneva and produce a programme that will unite the revolutionary and Labor movements of all countries.

George Lansbury made a strenuous appeal on behalf of Mr. Lenine and the Third International and received approval from a noisy minority, from which one would have believed that practically the whole meeting was in favor of the Third International; but when the vote was cast, less than one-twelfth was found to be in favor of adherence to the Third International out of over 3,000,000 votes, while a resolution in favor of secession from the Second International was lost by a large majority.

Local Option Favored.

Robert Smillie, of the Miners' Union, proposed a resolution that the conference reaffirm its belief that nationalization of mines, with joint control, is the only solution of the mining problems. This was carried unanimously.

Ben Turner, on behalf of the General Union of Textile Workers, then moved a resolution calling on the Government to acquire the liquor interest in England and Wales at not more than pre-war values, to which an amendment was proposed by the Glasgow Trades and Labor Council expressing the opinion that the total prohibition of manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors would be of great advantage to the workers. An amendment for total prohibition and also the original resolution for state purchase were both lost by large majorities. Philip Snowden, on behalf of the Independent Labor Party, then moved a further resolution endorsing local option, which was passed by a large majority.

At a previous meeting on Thursday, Sidney Webb proposed absolute self-determination for Ireland and withdrawal of British troops and Dublin Castle officials, but an amendment was brought forward by James Walker that the Irish people should deal with exclusively Irish affairs by means of Parliament for the whole of Ireland within the British Commonwealth. During the discussion which followed, a Belfast trade unionist, Mr. McKeag, said: "We in Ireland know what the Sinn Feiners mean by self-determination; it means the rule of Ireland by Sinn Feiners; this octopus of gombeen men and publicans, which has drugged certain sections of the Irish people, and which is to be used just as Tammany Hall is used in New York to feather the nests of its supporters."

Irishmen at Variance.

J. H. Thomas, secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen, in supporting the amendment, asked the conference to pause before it committed itself to any cut and dried settlement of the Irish problem. When the delegation approached the Prime Minister a week ago, he said, the Sinn Fein members told him their policy was an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth, and that the murders of policemen were justified because they were soldiers of a foreign country, whereas other members of the same deputation begged Mr. Lloyd George to send more troops to Ireland.

In face of these facts, he declared, it was idle to assume that this was an easy question. Mr. McKeag's speech emphasized Mr. Thomas' assumption and showed clearly that Irishmen are as divided over the Irish problem as anyone else.

Murdock and His Straight-Flung Talk

Some extracts from James Murdock's sensational letter to Sir Robert Borden, the Premier, follow:

"We have been handicapped for months without a chairman and a proper staff, and I am not going to be a party to making a joke of the law."

"The people of Canada expect service for salary, even though your Cabinet do not."

"The majority of your Cabinet . . . are not, and never have been, in sympathy with the intent of the Board of Commerce Act."

"Members of your Cabinet began to undertake to minimize to as great an extent as possible what they believed to be unnecessary and unfair provisions when applied to the businesses of those for whom these honorable gentlemen no doubt had first regard."

"That the chairman (Judge Robson) appointed by your Government was regarded by certain interests as being safe and sane."

"That the general viewpoint and desires of the former chairman (Judge Robson) were well known by various honorable members connected with your Cabinet, and especially by the Hon. Mr. Calder."

"Business men living together under the protection of the tariff have got to know each other so well that price-fixing agreements and all sorts of agreements and arrangements are the rule rather than the exception."

"My conscience will not permit me to become a high-salaried time-server."

HON. WALTER ROLLO SAYS SIR ADAM BECK WELCOMES STRIKE AT CHIPPEWA

Work Could Not be Completed in Alloted Time—Much Said About Increased Labor Costs; Nothing About Increased Cost of Machinery and Materials.

Sir Adam Beck actually welcomes, in my opinion, this opportunity of closing down the work on the Hydro at Chippawa," stated Hon. Walter Rollo, Minister of Labor, in commenting on the present situation at the Hydro works. "I don't believe that anyone, outside the Hydro offices, believes that the job could be completed within the time it was expected to have been done."

"What is more," continued the minister, "I believe that one of the main reasons why the proposed Hydro auxiliary steam plant is being rushed in Hamilton is to meet the Toronto situation when the time comes for the city to take over the Toronto Railway Company's street car system, knowing that the Chippawa plant won't be prepared to furnish power by that time.

"Even at the rates of wages which was paid and the working conditions which prevailed last year, I don't believe that Sir Adam would want to continue the work. The commission was not complaining last year that it was not getting enough for the money it was spending, so it is doubtful whether it would be willing to carry on. The commission knows well that it can't finish the job in time.

"The commission is whimpering about the high labor costs, and says that it will mean a big jump in the cost of power to the people. How about the higher cost of materials and machinery? They are not complaining about them. It would certainly be interesting to align the estimated cost of machinery and materials and their actual present cost with the original estimate of labor costs and the present labor costs. The firms selling the machinery and other materials are able to get the market prices—in fact, anything they ask. They are not asked to bear the burden of giving cheap power to the people of Ontario. Why, then, should 2,000 workmen at Niagara Falls be asked to sacrifice wages and working conditions to give cheap power to the people of the province?"

Asked what should be done, and who should intervene to straighten out the present situation at Chippawa, Hon. Mr. Rollo said: "Why, it's the municipalities that should step in. All the Government has to do with the Hydro is to guarantee the bonds of the municipalities. But it is the municipalities that have to pay off these bonds. They are the ones vitally interested. If there is a profit who gets it? If, on the other hand, there is a loss, who bears it? Is it the Government, the Hydro-Electric Commission, or the municipalities?" The Minister answered his own question: "It's the municipalities. I don't think Sir Adam Beck should decide alone, nor should the commission. They are the trustees for the municipalities; but it is the individual municipalities who should settle whether or not they will pay higher wages. In any case, I understand there is a daily loss of about $4,000 for interest charges for every day the work remains idle.

"The Government, I don't believe, would see any great obstacle in guaranteeing a slightly higher amount of bonds, if these were necessary to pay the additional wages."

The Minister then charged Sir Adam with having had full knowledge that the present situation would develop. "While I was down at the Hydro committee room with Sir Adam," said Hon. Mr. Rollo, "just before the Legislature Commission went to Niagara Falls, Beck said that unless the men would work a 10-hour day on a flat rate the job would not be carried on, but that the Hydro would shut it down and then reorganize the whole thing on a 10-hour day basis.

"I told him then that he would have a strike on his hands if he attempted to put his scheme over. He had granted the men a basic eight-hour day the year before, giving them time and one-half for the two hours each day, and to ask these men to give up the eight-hour day now was one thing labor would fight. He has now come forward with an offer to slightly increase the wages, but he takes away the eight-hour day."

O. B. U. Doomed to Early Extinction Declares Gompers

Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, when interviewed while passing through Vancouver on his way to San Francisco, declared that the One Big Union was doomed to early extinction. "From their own confidential reports," he said, "we know that it has started from nothing, will end in nothing, and that it cannot survive much longer. The few workers who are deluded by the novelty of something new have realized that little can be hoped for from such theories as have been advanced by those behind the movement."

Speaking with regard to the labor situation in the east, Mr. Gompers said that unrest was rapidly disappearing and would vanish altogether as soon as those opposed to it became convinced of the soundness of the aims and objects of organized Labor.

Throughout the entire continent, of course, he said, the radicals were continually endeavoring to stir up discontent and trouble, but the average working man was learning that drastic measures were to be avoided if he desired to better his lot, and so, whatever influence these radicals had possessed in the days gone by, was rapidly dwindling.

CIVIL SERVANTS SHOULD IMMEDIATELY AFFILIATE WITH ORGANIZED LABOR

Average Wage is $1,071.50 a Year—91 Per Cent. Receive Less than $1,600 a Year—Privilege After Privilege Being Withdrawn.

"More About the Overpaid Service" is the caption of an article in The Civilian, organ of the Civil Service Federation, which reproduces the number of employes in the service and the pay they receive, contained in a memorandum which was given to Parliament in reply to a question. It is but another proof that the civil servants of Canada as in other countries should immediately affiliate with the trade union movement so that they might be in a position to better their conditions and bring up their wage standards.

The article shows that the average salary of a civil servant is $1,071.50 a year. The list gives the following information, the number of employes being given first:

375, less than $400; 162 less than $500; 395, less than $600; 2,738, less than $700; 4,392, less than $8.00; 1,834, less than $900; $4,339, less than $1,000; 2,561, less than $1,100; 1,437, less than $1,200; 1,846, less than $1,300; 1,076, less than $1,400; 1,393, less than $1,500; 454, less than $1,600; 528, less than $1,700; 229, less than $1,800; 353, less than $1,900; 175, less than $2,000; 299, less than $2,100; 251, less than $2,200; 94, less than $2,300; 64, less than $2,400; 64, less than $2,500; 76, less than $2,600; 62, less than $2,700; 59, less than $2,800; 107 less than $2,900; 29, less than $3,000; 45, less than $3,100; 10, less than $3,200; 20, less than $3,300; 20, less than $3,400; 20, less than $3,500; 36, less than $3,600; 21, less than $3,700; 10, less than $3,800; 5, less than $3,900; 8, less than $4,000; 46, less than $4,100; 1, less than $4,300; 1, less than $4,400; 9, less than $4,600; 1, less than $4,700; 1 less than $5,000; 20 less than $5,100; 26, less than $6,100; 1, less than $6,600; 1, less than $11,000; 1, less than $13,000.

Total employes—25,675.

Total salary pay roll—$25,511,000.

Average salary—$1,071.50.

Notes:—The above figures show that 31.4 per cent. receive less than $900; 55.6 per cent. receive less than $1,000; 91.6 per cent. receive less than $1,500; leaving less than 9 per cent. receiving over the $1,600. These figures include every employe from the lowest up to the $12,000 per annum.

"Temporary employes:—The list of temporary employes which, of course, fluctuates considerably from month to month, includes practically none with salaries above $1,600. Consequently, the percentage would be at least as low as that of the permanent staff.

"It will be noted that the total of the pay roll represented by the above figures is $25,511,000, which divided among the 25,675 employes shows an average salary less than $1,000.

"Taking the Civil Service Commission as an example of salary range, there are on the April pay roll 109 temporary employes with a total annual salary of $83,448, being an average of $765.57, and on the permanent staff of 47 with an annual pay roll of $81,550, or an average of $1,735.10."

An order-in-council has just been passed stopping leave of absence to attend conventions with pay by civil servants. From now on civil servants will be given leave to attend such gatherings, but they will not be paid, unless the time lost is applied on annual leave to which they may be entitled. This does not apply to conventions this year arrangements for attending which have already been made.

The Civilian, which reproduces the order for the first time, calls this "hitting below the belt," and in an editorial under that heading says:

"As privilege after privilege is withdrawn civil servants find themselves thrown more and more on their own resources. In the midst of the 'Jack Johnsons' with which we are being bombarded, sniping must be also expected. The plain duty of civil service organizations is to steel themselves for the trials ahead. In the darkest days of the war we were authoritatively told that conditions would be worse before they were better. The only workers who enjoy these rights get them and maintain them by organization. So must we."

MANITOBA LABOR CANDIDATES MAKE SPLENDID GAINS

Following Ontario's Lead Western Workers Support the Labor Party.

WINNIPEG, Man., June 30.—Electors of Manitoba seemingly have adopted the group system of Government. Yesterday they defeated the Norris Government, in the sense that Norris candidates could not today command a majority over all other groups in the Legislature, but the followers of the present Premier will number 30 or a little more, and will constitute the largest single group in the House. Labor will have a group of 10 or 12 members, and predictions are heard today that F. J. Dixon, who received a tremendous vote in Winnipeg, will be the leader of the Provincial Labor Party, this being based on the fact that he has had experience in the Legislature and on his outstanding achievements at the polls yesterday.

Winnipeg's ten members for the most part still are unknown. It is conceded that Dixon and Hon. T. H. Johnson, attorney general, are elected, since they lead the other 39 candidates by a big margin, even though Dixon leads Johnson by probably 6,000. It is claimed that the remaining eight seats will go about three to Labor, perhaps three to the Government, and two to Conservatives. Mrs. Arthur Rogers, Government candidate, is among the leaders and final count under Proportional Representation might send her to the Legislature. At least half of the Winnipeg candidates are believed to have lost their deposits.

Allowing one seat to the Government and one to Labor in Winnipeg, the standing at 8 a.m. today is approximately as follows: Government, 18; Conservatives, 6; Farmers, 8; Labor, 8; Independents, 5; deferred, 2.

Total 47, which, with eight other Winnipeg seats, makes up the Legislature of 55 members.

ONTARIO CARPENTERS' NEW OFFICIALS.

Fred Hawes, of Hamilton, was elected president of the Ontario Provincial Council of Carpenters at their annual convention at Peterboro this week. T. Jackson, of Toronto, was re-elected secretary-treasurer, while the following were elected members of the executive council: T. L. Clancy, of Stratford; A. Eaton, of Kitchener, and Barney Alden, of Windsor.

Pat Green, of Ottawa, was appointed fraternal delegate to the Quebec Provincial Council convention.

[illegible] deliberations will be published in our next issue.

WILL INTERCEDE ON BEHALF OF HUNGARIAN WORKERS.

The International Federation of Trade Unions has received a request from Hungary, through diplomatic channels, to delegate its secretary to proceed to Vienna in order to negotiate with representatives of the Hungarian Government concerning the raising of the boycott. In response to this request, Edo Fimmen, of Holland, will probably start for Vienna this week.

Asked what he thought would be the outcome of the negotiations, he declared: "If I did not think the negotiations might be a basis for raising the boycott, I should not go." He added that the boycott had nothing whatever to do with the policy of Hungary, beyond putting an end to the White Terror and thus freeing the way for development of the Hungarian Labor movement.

WANT 'EM TO TELL THE TRUTH ABOUT COAL SHORTAGE.

The United Mine Workers' Journal again calls on the Black Diamond, a coal owners' publication, to tell the truth regarding coal shortage. In a recent issue the Black Diamond said:

"Apparently the average miner has set a limit on what he wishes to earn and when that limit has been reached he lays off for the rest of the week. Consequently the wage increase which has been granted him has worked, in many cases, to his detriment, as well as to the detriment of the nation and the industry."

In reply to these charges, the United Mine Workers' Journal quotes records. In the week ending May 22 car shortage and transportation disability caused a loss of 46.6 per cent. in the production of bituminous coal. Mine disability caused a loss of 2.3 per cent. and labor shortage caused a loss of 2.6 per cent. The labor paper suggests that the Black Diamond tell the truth, instead of attempting to provide an alibi for coal owners.

SASKATCHEWAN INDUSTRIES' STEADY GROWTH.

Industry is making steady growth in Saskatchewan, according to figures published as a result of a survey made by the Bureau of Industry and Labor of the Provincial Department of Agriculture. During the fiscal year ending April 30, 1920, the total number of factories in Saskatchewan was 268, employing 3,177 persons and using 14,800 h.p. Accidents reported during the year were 813, of which 15 were fatal.

BRITISH RADICALS ADMIT BOLSHEVISM IS DISAPPOINTING.

A Reuter despatch from Stockholm on June 24, quotes Mrs. Philip Snowden, and Dr. Guest, members of the British labor delegation which went to investigate conditions in Russia, who have arrived in Stockholm on their return trip, as declaring that in their view Soviet Russia could teach western Europe nothing. Socialism they predicted, would prevail in Great Britain long before it would in Russia, the message adds.

CHIPPAWA WORKERS FIND EMPLOYMENT ELSEWHERE

Conditions on the Chippawa development scheme, as a result of the decision of the Hydro authorities to cease work, shows little change this week. The Hydro officials are steadfast in their refusal to grant further concessions to the men, and, although several laborers have signified their willingness to go back to work, nevertheless the Chippawa officials are obdurate and have made no move to continue the work. Fully 30 per cent. of the men, it is estimated, have either left the district or have found other occupations nearby. Seven hundred laborers have been placed on other construction work by the federation officials.

There is a great scarcity of labor in the Niagara district, and employment managers of the larger plants are in the city negotiating for the men's services. They are offering flattering wages and promise to provide transportation to their destination.

DROP IN PRICE OF SHOES MAY COME

That shoes are bound to be lower in price was the opinion expressed by several Canadian manufacturers. Cheaper hides must have an effect, it was said, though the finer grades of leather have not yet decreased in price to an appreciable extent. It is expected, however, that there will be a reduction in imported hides following the sensational drop in calf skins, but as regards this there is great variance of opinion.

The effect of decreased cost of production, however, would not be felt for some time, said one man, how long is a matter of conjecture, since any sudden drop would result in serious loss both to the manufacturer who has bought his material at high prices, and to the retailer who has purchased his stock at a corresponding figure.

Prices have been cut in New England, but the reduction, it is claimed, was caused by the selling of the manufacturers' overstock direct to the consumer for less than the shoes cost.

Seamen on Board Ships to Have a 48-Hr. Work Week

The International Seamen's Conference, in session at Genoa, Italy, on Thursday, adopted a proposal for an eight-hour day and a 48-hour week for seamen on board ships by 17 votes against 12.

The International Seamen's Conference was called in connection with the provisions of the Peace Treaty, and is the second international labor conference called by the Governing Body of the International Labor Office. Canada has its full quota of delegates at the conference, but we have been unable to ascertain how they voted on the shorter work day.

BOARD OF CONCILIATION FOR C. P. R. TELEGRAPHERS.

The Minister of Labor has appointed a board of conciliation to investigate the dispute between the Canadian Pacific Railway Company and the commercial telegraphers. F. H. Phippen, K.C., of Toronto, will represent the company and J. T. Gunn, also of Toronto, the employes. A chairman has not yet been appointed.

WORKERS TO CALL MEETING OF INTERESTED PARTIES IN HYDRO DISPUTE.

As a result of suggestions made by C. F. Swayze, M. L. A., at a mass meeting of striking Hydro employes at Niagara Falls on Sunday evening, a public meeting will be called this week, when the officers of the Niagara Falls Chamber of Commerce, Retail Merchants' Association and representatives of all the municipalities of Ontario which use Hydro power will be invited to attend.

A telegram from Premier E. C. Drury was read at the meeting, the telegram stating that the Government could not interfere in the dispute.

A letter was received from W. Pope, secretary of the Hydro Commission, stating that further negotiations would be a waste of time.

"CAN'T STRIKE" ALLEN HAS REAL OPPOSITION.

John B. Snow, bachelor farm laborer, who has filed his declaration as a candidate against Henry J. Allen for the Republican nomination for governor, has announced that if he is elected his first official act will be to get married. He will appeal to the farmer voters and to the women in his campaign. Allen has been made famous by the introduction of the Can't Strike Law in Kansas, and Labor is determined to defeat the measure through a repeal of the act. Success to Snow.

CANADIAN WIRELESS OPERATORS WILL ASSIST BRITISH STRIKERS.

Canadian wireless telegraphites will give support to the British wireless operators who are at present on strike for higher wages from the Marconi Company. Canadian wireless operators belong to the Commercial Telegraphers' Union of America and a leading member of the union stated this week that the Canadian union would oppose the clearance of passenger ships from Montreal, which did not carry the legal number of wireless operators.

G. T. R. CLERKS VOTING ON ACCEPTANCE OF AWARD.

The Department of Labor is in receipt of notice from the Grand Trunk Railway Company advising that it accepts the recommendations of the majority of the board of conciliation which recently dealt with the dispute between the company and its clerical employes, and that the award is being put into effect.

The acceptance of the majority report of the board involves an increased annual expenditure for wages to the employes affected aggregating about one million dollars.

The clerks throughout the whole system are voting on the award, and it is expected that the vote will be against the acceptance of the majority report. However, at the headquarters of the Canadian Brotherhood of Railroad Employes it was learned that full returns of the vote will not be obtainable until the end of this week.

ONTARIO MINISTER OF MINES SWORN IN.

Hon. Henry Mills, Labor M. P. P. for Fort William, who has been acting as Minister of Mines since the formation of the Drury Government, was on Saturday sworn in as minister before the lieutenant-governor-in-council. This makes the tenth portfolio in the Government. Hon. Mr. Mills must now stand for re-election.

RATHER LATE IN DAY FOR EMPLOYERS TO SAY THEY WILL NOT DEAL WITH A UNION

No Change in the Ottawa Woodworking Strike—Employers Still Refuse to Arbitrate—Mayor Fisher Addresses Strong Letter to Employers.

Ottawa carpenters and laborers employed in the woodworking industry are still on strike.

There have been no new developments during the past week but on Tuesday a deputation composed of President Tom Moore, of the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress; Arthur Martell, of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America; President Fischer, of the Woodworkers' Union, and Business Agent Martin Ryan, of the Laborers' Union, waited on Mayor Fisher and requested that he take a hand in the matter. Following this interview the Mayor has sent a letter to all of the employers requesting them to arbitrate. Among other things the Mayor says: "It is rather late in the day for any set of employers to say they will not deal with a union." Just what will be the outcome of the Mayor's action is problematical.

The strikers received their first strike pay this week and are as determined as when they quit work some three weeks ago.

Local unions of Ottawa are coming to the assistance of the strikers and the Ontario Provincial Council of Carpenters in convention at Peterboro this week, voted to assess their membership 25c per month to assist the Ottawa workers who were forced to strike.

Public opinion is with the strikers and the daily press has condemned the employers for their refusal to arbitrate.

"CAN'T STRIKE" LAWS FAIL IN AUSTRALIA

Government Has Called Conference of Employers and Workers on Issue.

Anti-strike legislation, compulsory arbitration in various forms, and wages by law have failed to fulfill their widely heralded purpose in Australia, and the Government has called a conference of employers and employes throughout the commonwealth. The call states that an effort will be made to arrive at a better understanding between the two parties, and that the solution of the question is mainly in their hands. It is hoped that as a result of frank and amicable discussion the proposed conference will succeed in formulating a basis of legislative or administration action that will tend to improve the relations between employer and employe. Australian trade unions and employers' organizations are asked to be represented at the conference.

The failure of the present system to stop strikes and social unrest is indicated by a recent report issued by the employers' federation of five Australian states. This report said:

"It is obvious, after an experience of 20 years, that our industrial laws have lamentably failed to secure industrial peace," and that during the six years from 1913 to 1918, inclusive, there were 2,153 strikes in the commonwealth. The number of workers involved numbered 603,176.

The report also stated that "it is freely and fully recognized that the efforts of trade unions to improve the status of their members, financially and otherwise, are legitimate and desirable." The main reason for workers' unrest, the employers said, "would seem to be based on the assiduous promulgation of the belief that the workers should receive a larger share of the profits of the industry, and thus add to the amount received in the way of wages."

MEMBERS MUST NOW ATTEND TO DRAW INDEMNITY.

Members of the House of Commons now that they are to get an increase from $2,500 to $4,000 in their indemnity, are to be subject to new attendance regulations. Hitherto, a member must put in 30 days to draw the indemnity, and for every day in excess of 15 days' holiday he has had to forfeit $20. The new proposal is that a man must put in 50 days to get the $4,000. If he puts in less he will not be deducted $20 per day, but he will be paid $20 for each day of actual attendance. This, it is pointed out, will overcome the complaint of many regular attenders who contend that others very seldom are seen within the precincts of the House should be paid on a basis of $20 per day for all days of attendance rather than deduction of the $20 per day from the full stipend as outlined above.

WESTERN MINERS GET REAL INCREASE.

(Mine Workers' Journal of June 15, 1920).

The scale committee of the conference of the United Mine Workers of America which has been in session in Calgary, have reached an agreement on a request for an increase of 13 per cent. over the schedule now in effect, and the increase will be 27 per cent. above that in effect on October 31, 1919.

Reports of the increase have been confirmed by Robert Livett, district organizer, and John P. White, international officer of the U. M. W. of A.

The increase is to equal the average increase of 24 cents a ton awarded by the Washington commission, said Mr. White. The Washington award was on a tonnage basis; here it is according to scale. Besides the request for an increase in wages, the miners will present other requests for better working conditions. There will be many of them, but the operators will have no reason for balking at granting them, according to Mr. Livett, as they are reasonable. They will be similar to those in effect in other mining districts.

ENDS ALL DANGER OF GENERAL STRIKE OF U. S. RAILWAYS.

A decision on the demands of railroad employes for wage increases will be made on or before July 20 by the Railway Labor Board, Judge R. M. Barton, chairman, said in a statement late on Friday. The award would be retroactive to May 1, the statement said.

According to W. G. Lee, president of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen, and spokesman for union leaders who gathered at Chicago on Friday, the board's declaration would end all danger of a general railroad strike.

Mr. Lee said that secret plans had been made by a disaffected union element to spread the strike throughout the country because of the continued delay in announcing the wage ruling. "The men would have quit at midnight tomorrow night," Mr. Lee said. "It was impossible to hold them longer. Men of my organization have been waiting patiently for nearly a year."

The Railway Board's statement declared that an agreement on a method of working out the wage programmes had been arrived at, and that no time would be lost in reaching a conclusion.

Lee and other representatives of the organized Railroad Brotherhoods who met at Chicago to discuss the railroad wage situation, said there was no doubt the men would be satisfied with the promise of a decision to relieve their impatience.

"Was the decision the result of a warning of a probable strike brought by you and your associates to the board?" Lee was asked. "You can draw your own conclusions as to that," Lee answered.

STILL THE "VICIOUS CIRCLE."

The National (Railway) Wages Board of Great Britain awarded increases of wages to railway servants varying from 2s 6d to 7s a week. The lowest grade of the A. S. L. E. and F., the cleaners, are awarded what was asked for, 19s a day; the firemen and drivers slightly less. The conciliative grades and signalmen get from 2s 6d to 5s 6d a week advance, as against the 20s demanded by the N.U.R. But the board state distinctly that this award means that the railways will be worked at a loss under present conditions, and that additional revenue must be secured to meet that loss. Consequently, the board recommends that an additional 20 per cent. on passenger fares and goods rates is necessary to meet this additional expenditure. That is to say, that we expect railway fares to go up 80 per cent. beyond the regular pre-war rate of a penny a mile for third-class fares. This is only another illustration of the fact that increased wages, however just and necessary, settle nothing.—Justice.

C. N. R. EXPRESS EMPLOYES GET INCREASE.

The Board of Arbitration in the matter of the Canadian National Express Company and their employes has finally settled the wage dispute. The agreement signed on Saturday provides increases ranging from $10 to $35 per month, or an average of 25 per cent. It is estimated the yearly increase to the Express Company wage bill will be over $300,000. There are over 600 employes involved at various points from Quebec to Vancouver.

RAILROAD BROTHERHOOD'S CHAIRMAN TO CONSIDER AWARD ON JULY 19.

One thousand general chairmen of the four railroad brotherhoods—the engineers, trainmen, firemen and conductors—will convene in Chicago on July 19 to pass judgment on the wage awards the Railroad Labor Board has announced will be handed down not later than July 20, W. G. Lee, president of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen, said on Sunday on his return to Cleveland from Chicago.

President Lee said that the meeting was called on the assumption that the board would not hand down a decision until July 20. He reiterated his statement made in Chicago that the Labor Board's promise would remove the strike danger.

BOLSHEVIKI FOR RUSSIA.

Hanichuck, the Russian who has been operating a shoe repair shop at 28 North Main, Welland, sold out last week to "Teddy" Neal, and is leaving at once for Russia, where he intends to join the Bolshevik army.

Hanichuch has been known for some time as a confirmed Bolshevist and now he intends to put his principles into practice.

This departure is a God-send to Canada. If all "loyal" Bolsheviks would adopt the same course it would prove beneficial to all loyal Canadians.

Should Bend Our Energies in Making League a Reality

"In the first days of its operation, the league of nations has not responded to the great hopes entertained for it," declared Jan Christian Smuts, Premier of the Union of South Africa, in the course of an assembly debate on the league. "But," he continued, "rather than rejoice over its failure every one should bend their energies to make it an instrument of reality and power in the affairs of the world."

Several things militated against the league, the Premier added, notably the refusal of the United States to become a member. "For it is beyond doubt that the league had counted largely on America for its initial strength and success. America could have brought to the league the influences and resources absolutely needed today, but she has not chosen to play the part of moral leader of the world," said Premier Smuts. "I hope the time will come when the United States will appreciate the position it occupies. But, pending this, it is better to suspend judgment.

"The Supreme Council has pushed the league into the background, but it is hoped both bodies will soon be united. The present international situation finds England and France alone trying to right a hopeless situation. There is grave danger of further alliances unless the five world powers act in complete accord. The Polish war has done more to make the people realize the impotency of the league than anything else."