

# Canadian Official Record

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## REVIEW OF CONDITIONS IN LABOUR MARTS

*Unemployment Reported from all Cities with exception of Halifax--Shipyard Workers were Busy Generally.*

### BUILDING PERMITS INCREASE

During February unemployment was reported in practically all the cities and towns in the Dominion with the exception of Halifax, according to the Department of Labour report for that month. There appeared, however, to be no distress. The mildness of the weather had the effect both in decreasing and adding to the amount of unemployment. Slightly more outdoor work was undertaken, but, on the other hand, the reduction in the consumption of coal was responsible in a great measure for a very considerable amount of unemployment among miners in all the coal-fields of the country. Due also to the mild weather, railways were able to haul almost the equivalent of summer

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## MINISTER OF RAILWAYS IS APPOINTED AS RECEIVER OF GRAND TRUNK PACIFIC

GENERAL PAU  
THANKS CANADA FOR  
HER WARM WELCOME.  
FROM GENERAL PAU TO  
GOVERNOR GENERAL.  
Montreal, 7th March.

On behalf of the French Mission, and at the moment we are leaving Canada, permit me to express to you our heartfelt gratitude for the charming reception which was extended to us by Your Excellency and which leaves in our memories a deep and lasting recollection. In the personal welcome of Your Excellency as well as in the welcome which was given to us by the Government and people of Canada we could feel as representatives of France a striking symbol of the feelings of sympathy existing between Canada and France--between the British Empire and France--and which a common fight crowned by a common victory has magnificently developed. We shall feel proud and happy if our mission has succeeded in making clear to this great Dominion the profound gratitude and sincere friendship of France.

(Signed) GENERAL PAU.

*Announcement made Saturday that Order in Council is Passed to Ensure Continued Operation of Line.*

### ACTION TAKEN UNDER AUTHORITY OF WAR MEASURES ACT

Sir Thomas White, Acting Premier, announced in a statement issued on Saturday, March 8, that a receiver had been appointed for the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway. The official statement was as follows:--

"Hon. J. D. Reid, Minister of Railways, has been appointed receiver of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway system. The appointment follows an official notification which Sir Thomas White received on Thursday from the vice-president of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company--a notification that, in view of the fact that the increased rates applicable to the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway have not been sufficient to meet the increased operating expenses, it would not be possible for the company, owing to lack of funds, to continue its operation beyond March 10.

#### UNDER WAR MEASURES ACT.

"In view of this notification, it became necessary that the Government should, in the public interest, immediately take steps to insure the continued operation of the system. Under existing legislation this could not be accomplished by an application to the courts for the appointment of a receiver. The War Measures Act, however, was found to provide adequate authority for action by the Government, and consequently an Order in Council was passed appointing the Minister of Railways receiver of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway system, which includes the branch lines, telegraph, steamships, hotel, and development and other companies. Mr. W. P. Hinton, general manager of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway system, has agreed to conform to the requirements of the order and to facilitate the carrying out of the powers and duties required of the Minister as receiver. The immediate object of the order--viz., to prevent interruption in the operation and management of the system--has therefore been already attained."

The full text of the Order in Council passed on March 7 is as follows:--

Whereas under the authority of "The

Appropriation Act No. 2, 1918", the Governor in Council, advanced the sum of \$7,471,399.93 or thereabouts to the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company for certain purposes in said act defined, including the meeting of "deficit in operation of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway System", such sum being in addition to other large sums previously advanced under previous authority for similar purposes.

And whereas a letter dated 4th March, 1919, from the vice-president of said company was received by the Minister of Finance, as follows:--

"I am instructed to inform the Government that in view of the fact that the increased rates applicable to the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway have not been sufficient to meet the increased operating expenses, it will not be possible for that company to continue its operations when the present funds have been exhausted, which will be about 10th instant. May I ask you to be so good as to acknowledge receipt of this letter."

And whereas should the operation of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway system be discontinued, great detriment to the public interest would ensue, and the intention of parliament in authorizing the said advances would be defeated.

And whereas the continued operation of said system is essential in the present position of Canada resulting from the war, which has not yet been terminated by peace, especially in connection with the transport of returning Canadian troops and of supplies and equipment and freight, and other services made necessary by the war.

And whereas for the protection of the public interests and for the purpose aforesaid, it is essential that the operation of said system should be continued without interruption.

And whereas the duty of continuing such operation is thrown upon the Government of Canada, inasmuch as there are no effective provisions in existing laws whereby such continued operation could be otherwise secured.

And whereas immediate action by the Government is imperative.

Therefore, His Excellency the Governor General in Council, under the

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### Contracts Awarded.

The following contracts have been awarded under order in council of January 6:

- STE ANNE DE BELLEVUE, QUE.--re Military Hospital.
- Construction of Guard House,--Contractors: John Quinlan & Co., of Montreal, at \$7,800.
- Construction of Recreation Building,--Contractors: John Quinlan & Co., of Montreal, at \$55,600.
- Construction of Physiotherapy Building,--Contractors: Quinlan & Robertson, Ltd., of Montreal, at \$68,565.

## BRITISH RESTRICTIONS HAVE BEEN TAKEN OFF

*Goods of British Empire Origin are now Allowed to Enter Great Britain--Important Decision Affects Canadian Shippers.*

A cablegram to the Canadian Trade Commission in Ottawa confirms and supplements the information published that the British Board of Trade (Department of Trade and Commerce) has announced the definite removal of all restrictions on imports into Great Britain which come from within the British Empire.

The Canadian Mission in London further states the all important fact that the Board of Trade regulations will insist that only goods of British Empire origin shall be exempted from the rigid general restrictions which were imposed in continuation of the wartime trade regulations. "Canadian manufacturers and producers," the message adds, "should comprehend the importance of the fact that foreign goods cannot, therefore, reach England by way of Canada."

"The market here is now being opened," the cablegram continues, "and Canadian manufacturers have a big opportunity, as stocks in everything are very low. As this is

business which does not involve government credit, it is up to Canadian business men to make the necessary effort to get orders. Our business is to find the markets."

The shipping situation is also easier, so that prompt and good business may be looked for. A previous communication to the Canadian Trade Commission from London states that there are now over 200 representatives of Canadian exporters in Great Britain, a fact which in itself proves the eagerness and modern business spirit of Canadian firms.

In answer to a question in the British House of Commons, on March 7, the secretary of the Board of Trade said:

The Government has decided no import restrictions shall be or continue to be imposed on goods coming from any part of the Empire without the assent of the cabinet which shall not be given unless some unforeseen necessity arises. Stop. It is not possible at present to remove all restrictions on imports from foreign countries because of the state of the exchange, but all raw materials will be free from import restrictions.