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### EMPLOYERS BLAMED.

Trenton, N.J.—Acting as arbitrator in the building trades dispute, Attorney Martin P. Devlin placed the blame for waste on employers, and refused to accept the claim that workers are slacking.  
"At the hearings it was conceded by all," said the arbitrator in his decision, "that the government contracts with the builders during the war were based on the cost plus system, which encouraged inefficiency and caused a large expenditure of time and money regardless of the labor returned for the same. Such conditions demoralized the efficiency of the building trades and was largely due to the employers. It is now admitted by the employers that on the general average the men are performing a day's work equal to the years preceding the war and that the unions give the employers the right to discharge any man who is either incompetent or inefficient. This leaves the remedy entirely in the hands of the employers."

### REFUSE WAGE CUT.

Chicago.—Federal Judge Alschuler, arbitrator in the meat-packing industry, has refused the packers' demand for a horizontal wage cut of 5 cents an hour. Approximately 100,000 workers are affected by the decision. The arbitrator held that reductions in the cost of living are not as pronounced as employers claim, and in some instances there has been no decline. Taxes, he said, are constantly mounting, street car fares remain 60 per cent. above pre-war prices while gas, electricity and fuel continue at high rates.  
"Newspapers, a most general necessity, remain at the highest point, from 100 to 200 per cent. above 1914 prices," he said. Among other costs which have not started to decline, the arbitrator named rents, telephone and telegraph service, freight and passenger rates, while such essential foods as milk, bread and bakery products, fruits and meats show only slight decreases.

### MEMBERS OF CONCILIATION BOARD.

The minister of labor has appointed a board of conciliation as between the Toronto Suburban Electric Co. and its employees, linemen and wiremen, members of the Electrical Trades Union, the dispute involving wages. The chairman, appointed by the minister in the absence of any recommendation, will be W. E. Gillen, manager of the Toronto Terminal Railway, Toronto. The men are represented by H. E. Manning, Toronto, and the company by Geo. D. Kelly, barrister, Ottawa.

### CITE BRITISH WELFARE WORK.

WASHINGTON.—The \$2,000,000 England spends for maternity and child welfare centers was compared with the zero amount the U. S. contributes, at hearings on the Sheppard-Towner bill by the house committee on interstate commerce.  
Dr. Van Ingen of Columbia university declared that England considers the prevention of needless deaths among mothers and infants of first importance, and that that nation will economize everywhere else before saving on this activity.  
Mrs. Josephine Baker of the New York board of health told the committee that instructive work among mothers in New York showed that high maternity death rates could be cut down. There is no reason, she added, for permitting "criminal mortality to continue when it can be prevented," as proposed by the bill. The bill provides for a fifty-fifty campaign of education between the government and states that accept the act. There is no element of compulsion in the bill, and after a state accepts it, and appropriates money for that purpose, any individual citizen may decline to accept its educational facilities.

### CONFERENCE AT MONTREAL.

A tentative agreement as to a reduction in wages of maintenance of way employees and railway shop laborers was reached today as the result of negotiations which have been proceeding in a friendly way for the past ten days between officials of the leading railways and officials of the unions concerned.  
It is understood that 40,000 employees on the Canadian Pacific Railway, Grand Trunk Railway and Canadian National Railway and smaller railroads will be affected. The new scale will be effective from July 16th.  
This decision affecting one section of railway workers only.  
The agreement was signed today on behalf of the United Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way employees and railway shop employees by its president, William Darcy, and by Grant Hall, vice president of the Canadian Pacific Railway and chairman of the Operating Committee of Railway Association of Canada.

### TRADES COUNCIL PROTEST.

The Montreal Trades and Labor Council has sent a protest to Premier L.A. Taschereau of Quebec against the omission of a fair wage clause in the contract for the building of the new court house annex. The labor men claim employers are taking advantage of the present unemployment situation to unduly reduce wages.

### MAKE STRONG OBJECTIONS.

At a meeting at Niagara Falls, Ont., of some forty or more executive officers of the trades operating on the Chippewa Development, which was attended by John A. Flitt, organizer for the American Federation of Labor, a resolution was passed denouncing as "unjustifiable and unwarranted" the proposed reduction of wages scheduled to follow the weeding-out of the staff now in progress.  
A deputation was appointed to wait upon the Hydro Electric Commission to present the case of the employees not only in respect to wages, but with some reference to the situation caused by the discharge of so many workers on the Chippewa scheme.

### HAMILTON CALLS FOR MINIMUM WAGE.

At a meeting of the Independent Labor Party at Hamilton recently, H. W. West introduced a motion calling upon the provincial government to enact a minimum wage scale for men of 18 years and over. It was adopted by the meeting, and Mr. West, George G. Halerow, M.P.P., C. W. Welby, H. J. Halford and B. Furey were appointed a committee to bring the subject before the government.  
Mr. West charged that some men in Hamilton were working 14 hours a day and were getting \$10.00 a week. Mr. Halford criticized the Ontario government, claiming that the department of public works was paying only 30 cents an hour for laborers.

### TO HAVE UNEMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE.

A committee, representative of industry and labor in the province, will be appointed by the Ontario government to report on the question of unemployment, and if possible map out a program to meet the serious situation likely to develop next winter. Premier Drury presided at a four-hour conference with his cabinet and representatives of many groups of industries on the unemployment problem. Views were freely exchanged and the consensus of opinion seemed to be that the revival of trade was being delayed by high prices.  
The attitude of the labor representatives was that lower wages would be accepted in order to promote a revival of industry providing a cut did not entail a reduction in the standard of living. In other words, they would take lower pay as the cost of living came down.  
The committee on unemployment will be appointed by the government on the nomination of the following various groups: mercantile groups, returned soldiers, farmers, the building industry, the mercantile interests, the retailers, the manufacturer and labor. The committee will not be a commission in any sense and will have no administrative powers. It will be merely an investigating and advisory body, the premier explained.

### CARPENTERS AGREE TO ARBITRATION.

A break in Rochester, N.Y., building strike came tonight when union carpenters, who represent nearly a third of the 5,000 organized workers on strike, voted to accept an arbitration plan to which the Building Trades Employers' Association already had agreed. They will return to work as soon as the wage scale can be decided.

### REJECT "COMPANY" UNION.

Omaha.—Organized butcher workmen have declared war on the meat packers' company "union," and will expel any member who affiliates with this boss-controlled outfit.  
The packers boast that their "union" will be the only organization in this industry after the Alschuler agreement ends. This agreement which the government is a party to, was entered into when this country entered the war. It expired about two years ago, before the present depression appeared. The packers then asked that the agreement be extended until one year after peace is declared. This was accepted by the workers, although at that time they held the strategic position to improve conditions. A few months ago the packers repudiated this agreement, and the government, instead of condemning the packers, favored a settlement that abrogates the agreement the coming fall. The employees accepted and have been perfecting their lines since that time.  
The packers will undoubtedly attempt wage cutting when the agreement expires and when Federal Judge Alschuler, acting as arbitrator, is automatically removed from their path. Then the packers hope to have their personally owned "union" in full swing. The workers are alert to this situation.  
The packers' opposition to Judge Alschuler was increased last week when that jurist rejected the proposal to cut wages 5 cents an hour.

### WIVES STICK TO STRIKERS.

Philadelphia.—Business men in this city have failed to turn the wives of striking carpenters into strikebreakers. Wages have been cut 22½ cents an hour, and in ad sperate effort to break the strike the unionists' wives were appealed to.  
The women not only declined to urge their husbands to turn traitors, but they wrote to the wives of the business men who signed the letter to them.  
In their letter the workers' wives said:  
"We as women must live and bring up our children under such conditions as our husbands make possible. Would you want to run your household and bring up your family on a wage of less than \$1 an hour in an industry where weather conditions make reasonable unemployment unavoidable?  
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