

Railway Workers Oppose Decrease in Wages on The C.N.R.

EMPLOYMENT REPORTS SHOW A MARKED IMPROVEMENT

The liabilities of the Federal Government in regard to unemployment relief during the last winter are estimated approximately at \$1,200,000. About half of this amount, as close as it can be approximated at present, is on account of direct relief, and the remainder is the federal share of the excess cost of public relief works undertaken by the local authorities during the winter.

In addition the Federal Government undertook to bear one-half of the expenditure incurred by a Provincial Government on unemployment necessities in an unorganized district and where no municipal government existed; also the Dominion agreed to bear one-half of the cost of direct relief given by municipalities to returned soldiers.

ARBITRATION TO SETTLE COAL STRIKE

Washington.—President Harding's proposals for arbitration to end the suspension of work in unmined coal mining areas are still in suspension, awaiting final answers from the mine operators and union officials to whom they were directed.

UNION IS AGAINST RULING OF GOMPERS

New York.—Denouncing as "Star-chamber proceedings" the suspension of the charter of the Bookkeepers, Stenographers, and Accountants' Union, on orders from Samuel Gompers, nine members of the organization's executive committee announced that the union would hold a meeting next Monday night to take action on "this high-handed attempt to deprive us of membership in the A. F. of L. and to disorganize and disrupt our organization."

INDIAN WOMEN WIN STRIKE

Photostating against twelve hours' labor a day for seven days a week with wages averaging less than 20c a day the women workers of the New China Textile Mills in Bombay, India, owned and exploited by British capitalists, have organized and won a remarkable labor victory.

NO GROUNDS FOUND TO SETTLE STRIKE

Calgary.—That the suggestions of the minister of labor in his recent telegram to the representative of the department in Calgary do not offer any satisfactory grounds for resumption of work is the opinion of the Western Canada Coal Operators' Association. The "Knowles" finding, it is pointed out, would not make it possible for association mines to secure business, and consequently would not give the men work.

THE MUSKOKA LAKES

The Muskoka region of the "Highlands of Ontario" was for centuries the chosen hunting ground of the Hurons. It was the red man who gave the musical name Muskoka (signifying "clear sky") to this land which held supremacy over all others in his affections, and he christened the islands, promontories, massive rocks, lakes and rivers in a manner that showed his appreciation of the beauty of his forest home. No happier appellation than "clear sky" could have been adopted, as the altitude of the region—one thousand feet above sea level—gives splendid atmospheric conditions. Muskoka spreads its manifold charms to blue skies decked with soft, white clouds. It is a delectable land, brilliant with rich coloring, its air pungent with the fragrance of the pines, its waters cool and clear; moreover, a land of many pleasures, offering a wide variety of health-giving, open-air sports and pastimes suited to all ages. There are about 100 hotels in the district that cater to those of modest taste as well

WESTERN OFFICIALS ON WAY TO OTTAWA

Winnipeg.—To discuss the proposed wage reduction with executive officers, three western representatives—Robert Sykes, Winnipeg; W. A. Hardacre, Edmonton, Alta.; and C. H. Minchin, Calgary—of the Brotherhood of Railway Employees, left for Ottawa.

WOMEN'S TRADE UNION ELECTS OFFICERS

The National Women's Trade Union League, founded fifteen years ago to unite the women in American industries, held its eighth biennial convention two weeks ago at Washington, Illinois. Mrs. Maude Swartz of New York City was elected president, succeeding Mrs. Raymond Rodina, who has been president of the League since its organization.

RAILWAYS HAVE LOWER FIGURES

The most prominent feature of the report for April of Canadian railways as a whole was the sharp decline in revenues from March, declares the monthly statement of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics covering operating revenues, expenses and statistics of steam railways of Canada for April. This was due almost entirely to seasonal decrease in freight traffic, although the decrease was much greater than for either 1921 or 1920. Canadian National railways showed a decrease of \$1,491,092, or 16 per cent, in total revenue, compared with April, 1921, the statement continues. This was due to decreases in rates, but also to decreases in freight and passenger traffic. The decrease in freight traffic from March was much greater than for any other month since the beginning of 1921. The operating loss was \$1,249,516 for the month, as compared with \$2,636,629 for April, 1921.

SOUTH SHIELDS MINERS ON RIOT

South Shields, Eng.—Several constables and civilians were injured and thirteen arrests were made during a riot early Tuesday in connection with the miners' strike here, when thousands of miners assembled at the pithead of one of the collieries to prevent men from going to work.

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MEN SAY SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ON COST OF LIVING BASIS ALONE

OFFICERS ARE GIVEN POWER TO TAKE STRIKE VOTE IF NECESSARY

Railway employees are determined to use every effort to prevent the proposed decrease in wages, as announced by the C. N. R., going into effect. At a largely attended meeting of Progress Division, 11, Canadian Brotherhood of Railway Employees, officers were authorized to oppose the reduction and if the order is not cancelled a strike vote was authorized.

The following resolution was unanimously carried: "Resolved that we, the members of Progress Division, 11, C.B.R.E., having considered the wage reduction proposed by the C. N. R. management, effective July 16th, fecord ourselves as being unalterably opposed to such proposal on the grounds that the cost of living does not warrant any such reduction. No appreciable reduction has been evident in living cost since the last cut in wages, which was made effective July 16th, 1921, but, on the other hand, so far as Ottawa and district are concerned, at least two items, namely rent and fuel, which affect the cost of living, have increased materially, and present conditions do not point to any lowering of present costs.

"We point out also that this matter of wage reduction should be considered only on a living cost basis. The wages now being received by the railway employees affected are less than are necessary to maintain a proper Canadian standard of living and can only be reduced at the danger of seriously impairing the ability of these workers to carry out their part in the nation's activities. In our judgment this proposed wage decrease, if made but, to a very great extent also, on the public, from the fact that lower wages mean decreased purchasing power. They will be unable, with lower wages, to buy many of the essentials of life, and this is bound to react on all those who are engaged in the production and distributing of commodities of all kinds. We feel therefore that the proposal of the railway, if made effective, will seriously aggravate our present admittedly bad industrial situation and, for that reason, should be fought not only by the railway workers who will suffer in the first instance, but by our business men and all others upon whom such decreases will react.

"The members of this local of the brotherhood are of one opinion as to the attitude which, in view of all the circumstances, should be taken towards the proposal of the railway management and it is hereby resolved that we authorize our general officers to protest the same to the very limit of the collective ability of the membership involved, and, it is further resolved that, failing by negotiations to secure a cancellation of the proposed reduction, our general committee be authorized to take a strike vote of all employees affected, union and non-union, and also that our representatives be authorized to confer with representatives of other railway crafts who are similarly threatened with a wage cut and to act with them in all lawful efforts to resist this unwarranted attack on our already too meager wages."

Details of the announced reductions averaging six per cent. in the wages of the stationary employees of the Canadian National (Continued on Page 4.)

HOPE TO AVERT TIE UP IN CANADA

Echoes of the railway strike in the United States are being felt in Canada, although it is not anticipated they will be felt injuriously. At points in Canada where American roads touch, orders to strike were issued, but owing to the action of the minister of labor, it is hoped that trouble will be averted. The Michigan Central and Pere Marquette employees in Canada have invoked the services of the Lomieux Industrial Disputes Act. In Montreal the railway machinists of division No. 4 of the A.F.L. are in conference with the Railway Association seeking an adjustment of wages and working conditions. In Winnipeg the settlement of labor troubles awaits the settlement of the trouble in the United States. The belief in labor circles here is that the strike will be short lived.

OPPOSE SLASH IN WAGES

Sarnia, Ont.—Despite the refusal of officials of the local brotherhood of railway employees to discuss their meeting of Monday night, it was learned definitely that the meeting decided unanimously to oppose the proposed slash in wages ordered by the management of the Grand Trunk to take effect July 16.

INDIAN RAILROAD STRIKE CONTINUES

The strike on the East Indian Railway, affecting the center of the industrial and mining district of India, still continues. It has already greatly reduced coal production and tied up a number of industries for lack of raw materials. The increasingly serious political situation and unsettled labor conditions generally are complicating the strike issue.

PRINTERS' STRIKE IS ENDED

Berlin.—The strike of Berlin printers, which has kept the German capital without most of its daily newspapers for several days has come to an end. Work will be resumed tomorrow under a new wage agreement under which the printers will receive increase in salary from 150 to 200 marks weekly.

HEADS OF THE U S RAILWAYS REFUSE TO PARLEY WITH JEWELL

Chicago.—A flat refusal to meet with R. M. Jewell, head of the striking shogmen, to discuss peace proposals, was the answer of railway executives to a proposal made by Ben W. Hooper, chairman of the United States Railway Labor Board.

In a letter to Mr. Hooper, the executives declared that "the issue raised is not one for consideration, between the carriers and the representatives of the organized crafts on strike, except through the further orderly processes before the United States Railroad Board."

LABOR CONDITIONS ARE ON THE MEND

Marked improvement in the employment situation is reported by the Employment Service of Canada. Employers' reports reflecting conditions at the end of May show a gain of six points in the index number of employment during that month. This is the most pronounced expansion registered during any month of the records of the office and very greatly exceeds the gain during May of last year.

BUILT OWN MAUSOLEUM

Mr. William Rockefeller, brother of Mr. John D. Rockefeller, died recently of pneumonia at his residence at Tarrytown, New York. Five doctors, under the charge of Mr. William Rockefeller's personal physician, were in attendance when the end came, and practically the entire Rockefeller family were at the death bed. Mr. Rockefeller, who was in his 82nd year, had just completed building a mausoleum, constructed at a cost of \$50,000, according to his own plans and under his personal direction, in Sleepy Hollow cemetery. Deceased was some time associated with his brother in the oil business, and was the head of the business of the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey in New York from 1865 until 1911. He was also president of the Standard Oil Company of New York until 1911 and a director of very many other companies. Mr. Rockefeller left a fortune estimated at \$40,000,000.

FIGHTING THE U-BOATS

Graphic stories of the manner in which the U-boats were fought and beaten by the British seaman are contained in "Under the Black Ensign" (Hutchinson, 16c.), by Captain R. S. Gwatkin-Williams, C.M.G., R.N. The writer kept the way open for the supply of Russia during a most critical period of the war. There is the strange story of the barquentine Mary Rose, whose owner-master cruised the Isle of Wight, apparently unarmed, but in reality with two small torpedo tubes and a twelve pounder gun. With these weapons he is supposed to have sunk seven German submarines, and then disappeared to an unknown fate. A queer picture is given of a Russian incapable of doing anything for itself, suspicious and jealous of those whose aid she had implored, with officers steeped in pride and prejudice, incompetent in everything except drinking, women slow as oxen and full of nothing for the sea. An intercepted German wireless message reproduced is singularly instructive. It runs: "One of our humane U-boats, having the surface to see what assistance she could render to the crew (the assistance was the shelling of an apparently helpless ship at point-blank range), not knowing the dangerous state of her cargo. At that moment, unfortunately, the vessel, which was loaded with munitions, blew up, and so damaged our submarine that she sank, leaving her crew struggling in the water. The matter, with their revolvers in their mouths, swim to the steamer's boats and implored to be taken in. But the brutal Englishmen, fit competitors of their countrymen of the Barington, refused to do so, and our gallant seaman perished as a man."

SOLDIERS' FRIEND DEAD

The other afternoon a tribute of affection was paid at the Baptist Church, Shepherd's Bush-road, to the Rev. William Carnes, who died in London, Eng., in his 84th year.

:: Items of Interest from Overseas ::

"NO MORE WAR" DEMONSTRATION

Labor and liberal organizations throughout the countries of Europe are planning huge "No More War" demonstrations to be held simultaneously in their respective countries on Saturday, July 29th, and continuing to August 4. Meetings will be held in parks and streets, with parades in the larger cities. The movement is gaining support from eminent men and women of all classes. The rector of a prominent English church recently endorsed it, stating that if the churches are not prepared to be crucified for peace, they had better write over their doors "Gone out of business."

GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP FAVORED

Complete nationalization of the railroads and "their co-ordination with the canal, post office, road, motor, aerial, postal and steam transportation undertakings as a great national system of transportation service," is demanded by the annual conference of the English Railway Clerks' Association in session at Southport.

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ROUMANIAN LABOR COMPELS AMNESTY

In response to the demands of organized labor in Rumania, the authorities of that country have granted complete amnesty to all political prisoners incarcerated since the war. The occasion for this "royal favor" was the celebration of the marriage of Princess Marie of that country to the king of Yugoslavia. Full amnesty was granted shortly after the armistice to all political prisoners jailed during the war.

TWENTY-FOUR HOUR GENERAL STRIKE

The Federation of Workmen's Syndicates of Czechoslovakia declared a twenty-four hour general strike throughout Prague on May 17th as a manifestation of sympathy with the striking metal workers and protest against the high cost of living. The day was practically tied up during the twenty-four hours, the only workers remaining on duty being those employed in hospitals, on railroads, and in the gas, electricity and water services.

GERMAN WORKERS WIN DEMANDS

The workers in the Bavarian textile industry of South Germany have won their fight to maintain the 48-hour week. The Employees' Federation demanded a 48-hour week, but in the face of a strike they signed an agreement to continue the 46-hour week for the coming year, and to raise normal wages for men from 9.7 marks to 16.5 marks per hour, and for women from 7 to 12.5 marks.

AUSTRALIAN RAILWAYMEN REJECT

Railway employees of the Commonwealth of Australia have voted to reject the government arbitration as a means of securing agreements on wages and working conditions, and have decided to rely on round table conferences by which they can deal directly with the railway executives. This action culminates a long period of dissatisfaction with the government arbitration courts.

BALKAN RAILWAYMEN HOLD CONGRESS

The Federation of Railwaymen of Yugoslavia comprising the kingdoms of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, held a congress at Zagreb on May 14th and 15th. The sixty delegates present represented all branches of railroad workers from various sections of the country. The most important action of the Congress was to demand an increased wage in view of the high cost of living. It also decided to demand a voice in the formulation of all legislation affecting

MEXICAN WORKERS STRIKE

During the past week a serious strike movement has been spreading throughout Mexico city and Vera Cruz and the provinces of Tlaxcala. The strikers include street car men, bakers, telephone operators and some factory employees, who are demanding wage adjustments and better conditions of labor. The city of Vera Cruz is reported to be virtually tied up by the strike.