

Labor News From Coast to Coast

Overseas News

International Labor News

BRAZIL

Concessions to Workmen's Demands.—Article 1 of Law 1,467, of September 25, 1925, provides that exemption will be granted for twenty years from all existing imposts, excepting the paving and cleaning taxes, and those which may be created, for workmen's dwellings constructed in accordance with plans approved by the Prefecture and in groups of a minimum of ten houses.

CANADA

Quebec Shoe Strike.—Eighteen hundred people were directly affected and 38,000 indirectly by a strike which began November 16, 1925, in 14 of the 30 shoe factories of the City of Quebec.

DENMARK

Unemployment.—During the month of October, 1925, unemployment increased greatly in Denmark, the unemployment total at the close of the month having been 25,124, as compared with 23,412 at the close of September, 1925.

Increase of Membership in Germany

According to the quarterly statistical increase of membership in Germany published by the General German Trade Union Federation, there has been a very satisfactory increase in membership during the first half of 1925. The 40 unions affiliated to the Federation had in all 4,152,957 members at the end of March, and 4,194,574 at the end of June, of which 77,230 were women. From the end of the previous year to June 1925 there was a total increase of 219,572 members. In view of the latest economic crisis, this recruitment of new members to the trade unions is

a noteworthy success, and justifies hope for a further rise in the membership.

Red Flag Is Taken Down

London, Eng.—For the first time in six years the people of Battersea, in the southwest of London, saw the national flag floating from the flag-staff of their town hall. Battersea which is represented in Parliament by Shapurji Saklatvala, Communist, has a municipal council made up mostly of Socialists and Communists.

This body has steadily refused to fly the Union Jack since it has held power. Their plea is that it is a party flag and that they substituting for it the tri-colored municipal ensign which alone was hoisted on occasions when the national flag was flown elsewhere.

Early Sunday morning members of a society calling itself the National Fascist succeeded in running up the Union Jack and then cut the lanyard, so that it cannot be lowered without difficulty. The Fascists fixed a notice to the town hall door warning the council to the effect to fly the national flag, and, above all, not to attempt to hoist "the foul red flag."

Irish "Specials" Are Demobilized

Belfast, Ire.—Demobilization of the special constabulary began recently, several hundred men proceeding from all parts of the six counties to their homes with two months pay and leave. The demobilization is being carried out without incident, though the men have hope of getting better terms now that the trouble is over.

Pulp and Paper Mill Is Planned

Quebec.—It is learned that a final agreement has been reached between the Clarke interests and the Quebec Government regarding the construction of a pulp and paper mill in the bay formed by the St. Charles and the St. Lawrence Rivers, right at Quebec, and that work will be started early next Spring.

English interests are interested in the mills. At least one thousand men will find employment. The output will be shipped to England, and utilized by papers controlled by Lord Rothermere. The latter visited here a few weeks ago. Forecasts are that the new mills will be in operation in the Spring of 1927.

Plan More Vigorous Immigration Policy

Winnipeg, Man.—Plans are under

way for the carrying out of a vigorous immigration policy—covering the United States, the British Isles and European countries—and Canada can absorb 200,000 agrarian settlers per year, declared Hon. Charles Stewart, acting Minister of Immigration, interviewed here to-day. This is taken to mean that the Dominion Government will aim to bring in 200,000 settlers during the next year.

Mr. Stewart, while stating that the complete immigration policy would not be made public until the Parliament meets, intimated that railway and steamship companies would co-operate both in the Old Country and on the Continent; and that officials of the Immigration Department will interest themselves in securing United States settlers.

The Government's aim, he said, was to settle 90 per cent. of the newcomers on the land as compared with 25 per cent. so settled in the days of heavy immigration.



DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR

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Minimum Budget Is \$2,600

A minimum budget of \$2,000 a year for a family of five is what Miss Sarah Gould puts forward as absolutely necessary for "decency and health." Miss Gould is a cost-of-living expert, who is employed by the Canadian Brotherhood of Railway Employees.

Speaking at the Toronto Labor Temple, she said that figure included food, clothing, insurance, help in the home, car fare, newspapers, charities, church and labor union dues. There is no allowance made for savings, nor is there allowance made for unemployment.

Miss Gould's survey of wages in Canada gave the following range: Building trades, \$44-\$115.90; metal trades, \$45-\$51; printing trades, \$41-\$52; electrical trades, \$43-\$52; textile trades, \$32-\$113; clothing trades, \$42-\$115; meat-packing industry, \$25-\$35.

The Darkness That Heralds the Dawn

Though Mussolini has not yet succeeded in suppressing the sun and immersing the whole kingdom of black-shirts in darkness, at any rate it has grown so dark in Italy that every conceivable crime can be perpetrated. All those who have no weapons—that is, those who are not Fascists—have to creep about like birds in the night, to save themselves from the Fascist weasels. The last nests of liberty have been robbed. The relief funds, co-operative societies, chambers of labor and local union offices have been seized by the Fascists, and all the trade unions with international connections, i. e. all the "free" trade unions, have been dissolved. The pact which was recently concluded between the Fascist unions and the employers has been given the status of law, and the workers are being forced to join the Fascist unions. The Prefect of Milan has even closed down the popular libraries, and, in an age when even negro children learn two languages, has decreed that children in Italian elementary schools shall learn only the Italian language. But the more the Fascist Government suppresses political news from the outside world and gags the whole non-Fascist press (adversary or neutral), the keener is the interest taken in other lands in present events in Italy. As the news trickles through, the whole civilized world shivers with abhorrence of the Fascists and their ways, and with sympathy for the victims. It has grown so dark in Italy that surely dawn cannot be far off. And on laws or decrees, not even Mussolini's can avail to prevent the dawn of a new day.

England's biggest shoemaker to-day is a woman. She is Mrs. B. W. Pigott, of Thorplands, Moulton, appointed chairman of Manfield and Sons, to succeed her father, James Manfield. The firm has chain stores throughout the empire and on the continent.

Beauty Parlors Are Only Barber Shops

Ottawa, Ont.—Officials of the local barbers' union are protesting to civic authorities against beauty parlors being allowed to remain open after 7 o'clock. They urge that beauty parlors are "barber shops" and should be closed according to the civic by-law which provides that all barber shops close at 7 o'clock, except on Saturdays and the nights before holidays, when they are allowed to remain open an hour later.

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