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Communists in Western Strike Says Hon. Murdock

ALBERT THOMAS TO CANADIAN CLUB

Toronto Club Hears of the Aims of The International Bureau.

Toronto.—Albert Thomas, director of the International Labor Bureau of the League of Nations, and former minister of munitions in the French government, addressed the Canadian Club of this city on the aims of the International Labor Bureau, established as a component part of the league. The workers did not accept unreservedly the reforms which the department offered as a result of representative conferences, M. Thomas said. For example, in Montreal he had been well received, but certain socialists and communists did not see eye to eye with him. The workers must be convinced of the bona fide of the organization, M. Thomas said, if success were to be fully realized. Resolutions that have been issued by the International Labor Bureau have yet to be ratified by the various governments to which they have been submitted, M. Thomas said, and in visits to the various friendly countries concerned were being made for the purpose of explaining anything that is obscure in the interpretation of these treaties.

TO CREATE COUNCIL NATIONAL DEFENCE

Militia, Navy and Air Force Co-ordinated as One Department.

A defence council to advise the minister of national defence on all matters including or relating to the naval, military and air service of Canada, will be created with the coming into effect of the National Defence Act, on January 1st, next. This act amalgamates the department of militia, naval service and air board, under the administration of Hon. George P. Graham, who, on that date, takes the new title of minister of national defence. The deputy minister of the new department is Major-General Sir Eugene Fiast, C.M.G., D.S.O., who is present absent on sick leave pending his retirement on account of ill health. In accordance with the provisions of the National Defence Act, the present deputy minister of the naval service, G. J. Desbarats, C.M.G., continues to act as deputy minister of the naval service for a period of two months after the coming into being of the new department, and, at the expiration of that period, he will assume the duties of controller of the department. Mr. Desbarats has also been appointed acting deputy minister of the department.

TO PROVIDE WORK FOR UNEMPLOYED

Quebec Minister of Public Works Says Everything Possible to be Done.

Quebec.—Hon. A. Galipeault, minister of public works, announced in the Quebec legislative assembly that the government would neglect nothing to provide all the work possible for the unemployed. A further feature of the session was the defence of the Public Charities Act by Premier Taschereau. The motion presented by Arthur Sauve, leader of the opposition, to invite the bishops of the province of Quebec to come personally or by proxy before the public bills committee of the legislative assembly to expose their objections to the act and to have amendments made in accordance with such objections, was defeated by a solid government vote against the five votes of the opposition.

WILL NOT PERMIT STRIKE DISORDER

Premier Herbert Greenfield has announced that the attitude of the Alberta government in the miners' strike in the Edmonton field remains precisely the same as when he issued a statement on December 6, which in effect is "neutrality as between the mine owners and mine workers in respect to the questions at issue, but a strict enforcement of law and order in any further development in the strike situation."

WHY NOT MOVIE SHOT ON SCREEN?

John B. Hammond, chief of police of Des Moines, Ia., announced that every drunken man who is brought into police headquarters hereafter will have his picture taken. When the offender has become sober again he will be presented with a picture of himself, so that he may know just how he looked when he was brought to the jail. Hammond hopes this "picture cure" will be a potent weapon against drunkenness. A woman who set out to reduce by walking from Boston to Los Angeles has given up the trip to new Mexico on account of blistered feet. Does anybody ever seriously hope to make such a long trip without tire troubles?

G. N. AND N. P. SHOPS OUSTING FAITHFUL ONES

Union Men Who "Struck" Being Discharged; No Recourse.

Everett.—A bulletin from the St. Paul headquarters of the Joint Federation of Shop Crafts, which receives daily reports from all points along the lines of the Great Northern and Northern Pacific, states that scabs are being released from service in large numbers, and that the majority are men who have deserted from the ranks of the strikers since July 1. At the Jackson St. shops on the Great Northern in St. Paul, 57 carmen were laid off, all of these being old men with four exceptions. "Surely this should be a lesson to some of our impatient members who are influenced by railroad propaganda," says the bulletin. "Men now employed by the company have no recourse whatever in event they are unjustly treated, as no committees are in existence among present employes to take up grievances or adjust matters with company officials. Seniority amounts to nothing so far as concerns men who are laid off, discharged or promoted. Foremen who turned traitor and decided to fight against their old shopmates are receiving their bonuses, which range from \$350 to \$650. According to newspaper reports, the foreman at Hilliard received an aggregate of between \$11,500 and \$17,250. They are getting the money but have lost their honor among men and will be forever disgraced and stung."

TO CALIFORNIA VIA CANADIAN NATIONAL ROUTE.

At this season of the year many Canadians are planning to visit California. Of course there are many routes, each with their special scenic interest but, treating travel as a fundamental of education, why not travel one way through Canada. It will give you an opportunity of knowing your own country better, a chance to view the finest mountain scenery in America, and to visit our own all-year-round resorts on the Pacific Coast.

THE MEANEST MAN.

The meanest man on record is said to live in Shrewsbury, Mass. He sold his son-in-law one half of a cow, and then refused to divide the milk, maintaining that he sold only the front half. The buyer was also requested to feed the cow and carry water to her three times a day. Recently the cow looked the old man, and now he is suing his son-in-law for damages.

NATIONALISTS AND LABOR EACH HAVE 28 MEMBERS

General Elections In Australia Leave No Party with Majority

Melbourne, Aus.—Latest returns Saturday's general elections indicate that the Nationalists (the party of Premier Hughes) and the Laborites have each elected 28 members of the federal house of representatives. Reports from Sydney are to the effect that negotiations are proceeding between the Nationalists and the country party for co-operation, the Farmers, however, stipulating that the Nationalists drop Premier Hughes. Premier Hughes maintained control of the last Australian house through the preponderance of Nationalist deputies, of whom there were 35, as compared with 24 Laborites and 13 belonging to the Country and Liberal Parties.

CHARGE MISREPRESENTATION.

A night letter to the minister signed by Joseph A. Clarke, a former mayor of Edmonton, and by Geo. Latham, A. Farmilo, Bickerton Peatt and Elmer E. Roper, was handed out at the department of labor last evening. It charged "gross misrepresentations on the part of the mine operators' publicity committee," and sets forth at some length the claims of the men, who state that acts of violence have been grossly exaggerated and misrepresented and urge the minister to take immediate action "to force operators to recognize the right of the miners to negotiate with them through their union, recognized by the minister of labor two years ago, and peacefully persuade their fellow-workers to stand by them in their demands in order to prevent regrettable incidents caused by excessive demands on the part of the miners from your failure to recognize their rights."

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HON. JAMES MURDOCK SO STATES IN TELEGRAMS TO PRES. LEWIS OF U.M.W. AND EDMONTON STRIKERS' COMMITTEE

Misrepresentation Against Operators. No Real Friends of Organized Labor Are Behind the Strike.

That he cannot believe that any real friends of organized labor are behind the Edmonton strike as the entire situation seems to have been handled in a manner characteristic of the Workers' Party or the so-called Communist Party, is the declaration of Hon. James Murdock, minister of labor, in telegrams to a committee of the strikers and also to President Lewis, of the United Mine Workers of America, dealing with the latest phase of the Edmonton situation. In his telegram to Mr. Lewis, the minister of labor says: "I am personally convinced with some knowledge of the intent of properly conducted labor organizations that certain of the prime movers behind this strike situation at Edmonton are really attempting to further the efforts of the so-called Workers' Party or the sometimes called Communist Party." He asked Mr. Lewis whether the Edmonton strike is to be regarded by the U.M.W. executive as legal and properly authorized.

PERMANENT FUEL BOARD APPOINTED

Body of Experts to Continue Inquiry Into all Phases of the Problem.

A permanent body of government experts to be known as the Dominion Fuel Board, has been created by an order-in-council just passed. Its members are: Charles Camsell, deputy minister of mines; John MeLosh, director of the mines branch; B. P. Hannel, chief of the fuel testing division; D. B. Dowling, geologist; J. B. Challies, director of the water power branch, and F. C. C. Lynch, superintendent of natural resources intelligence. The fuel shortage this fall and winter has led to considerable investigation already, and it is proposed to extend and supplement the inquiries. The board is authorized "to secure all available data, and to consult and co-operate with such individuals and bodies as they may deem specially qualified to advise upon any particular phase of the work."

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INCREASE SHOWN IN PRINTERS' WAGES

Over \$12,000,000 Spent in Fight For 44 Hour Week.

Fairly accurate estimates of the prosperity prevalent in the United States may be based on the amount of activity in the printing trades. Figures given out by the International Typographical Union of North America, show an unusual gain in the earnings by members over last year and also progressive gains from month to month. In September, earnings of members totalled \$9,744,281; in October, \$10,060,904, and in November, \$10,454,911. Since May 1, 1921, the Typographical Union has collected for expenditure in the struggle for the 44 hour week, \$12,493,504.53, and in the same period has expended \$12,247,912.15. This struggle has had to do with members employed in commercial printing establishments not on newspapers.

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BANK OWNED BY WORKERS IN N. Y. PLAN

Unions Pledge Hearty Support In Reply to Questionnaires.

New York.—A workers' bank, controlled by New York City labor unions will be established here before next spring if the plans of a special banking committee of the Central Trades and Labor Council are successful. Three hundred of 600 unions to which questionnaires were sent recently, asking if they would co-operate in a union bank, have sent replies pledging hearty support to the project, according to William F. Kehoe, secretary of the central body and of the banking committee. The committee is maturing the plans, which it expects to present at the next regular meeting of the council. It is considering two definite proposals, one of which is to link up with the proposed branch here of the Co-operative National Bank of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, and the other is to accept an offer which has been made by an established banking institution here to turn over its business to the proposed union bank. One of the unions which has signified its desire to co-operate in the bank project is said to be ready to transfer an account of \$50,000 to the new bank as soon as it opens its doors. "If all the unions deposit their money with us, and the individual members do likewise," Mr. Kehoe said, "it can readily be seen that our deposits will run up into high figures almost immediately."

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IN UNITED STATES EMPLOYMENT GOOD

Official Returns Show Much Better Prospects.

The employment situation is encouraging and prospects are bright for the remainder of the winter, according to a survey just completed by the employment service of the United States Department of Labor. Nearly all the states reported a condition much better than at this time last year, and the situation was described as fair to good in most sections. Building operations throughout the country were reported holding a pace almost unprecedented, only a few states in the north showing a slowing up because of the weather. The manufacturing states almost without exception, reported shortages of skilled mechanics. Textile mills were running full blast, and needed labor. The automobile industry was also running 100 per cent, but the labor supply about equaled the demand. The steel industry showed a general expansion, with a demand for all kinds of labor and the call for metal workers generally exceeding the supply.

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