

INTERNATIONAL LABOR NEWS

France. Reports indicate that an endeavour for united action in defense of the Eight-Hour Law on the part of Communist, Unitary, and Christian Syndicates of Lyons has completely failed, the three parties finally reverting to private and separate action.

Germany. Berlin press announcements from shadowy many d'ambassa from the staff of the German National Railways before March 31st next. It is said that 11,679 laborers and minor employees and 12,239 officials, or two and one-half per cent. of the total railway personnel will be affected by this dismissal order.

In order to prevent deterioration of real estate on account of the enormous depreciation of the purchasing power of German currency during the past three months, the City Council of Dresden has decided to raise the legal rental rates, beginning with this month.

Netherlands. During the past year the unemployment situation has remained so serious, threatening a depletion of the relief funds which accrue under the system of unemployment insurance, that the Government has increased its grant, in special cases, to 150 per cent of the contributions of the insurance system.

Sweden. Investigation of wages of certain groups of personnel in the employment of the Government, as compared with the wages of persons in private employment, disclosed a considerably higher wage level for the government workers, whose pay exceeded that of private employees by 80 to 2,000 crowns a year.

ORDER WORKERS STAGE WALKOUT

Affects Dress and Waist Makers' Unions

NEW YORK.—Thirty thousand members of the Dress and the Waist Makers' Unions were ordered to go on strike by the general strike committee of the joint board of the two organizations. The strike, which will affect 2,000 shops in New York city, employing mostly women, was called because the manufacturers refused to meet the union demand for a weekly salary basis of pay instead of the present piecework system.

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Lusanne, seat of the Near East Conference, has also been excited over the state confiscation of fortunes, which was defeated in recent referendum. Here is a hand-wagon parading the streets.

WHEN THE BOSS IS A REGULAR GUY

Recently I visited a great industrial plant where the president is making a supreme effort to get on rapport with his men, and, according to the testimony of the roughnecks, is failing conspicuously.

Outside, walking arm in arm, not as pompous plenipotentiaries, but as a couple of "regular guys" Kitchener and Smuts fixed up the piece.

Mr. Chung of the United States Rubber Company is one of the pio-neers in humanizing corporations (though he would not thank me for remarking on the fact). Mr. Chung says: "There is no mystery about industrial relations. Some boards of directors thinking so have allowed quacks to fool them with patent nostrums. No, there's no mystery about it; it is just a matter of satisfactory contact between employer and employee."

Mutual confidence is the foundation of successful enterprise. This can only be secured by satisfactory contact between those who work and those who direct the work.

Great corporations need at their head not merely keen minds, but warmhearted human beings. Heart power rather than head power gives cohesion in an organization. The evolution of industry has been, first, the training of the hand; second, the training of the head; the next and logical step should be the training of the heart.

A wise, far-seeing business leader at this time will do well to give thought to the cultivation of the human side of his nature, the side so often neglected. This factor was borne home to me during the steel strike.

I went to Youngstown representing what was styled the "capitalistic

started to dig in his heels. General Botha likewise. Things were beginning to look hopeless, when Lord Kitchener, who was haunted by the nightmare of prolonged guerilla warfare, slapped one of the Boers on the shoulder, exclaiming: "Come outside a minute, Smuts!"

Outside, walking arm in arm, not as pompous plenipotentiaries, but as a couple of "regular guys" Kitchener and Smuts fixed up the piece.

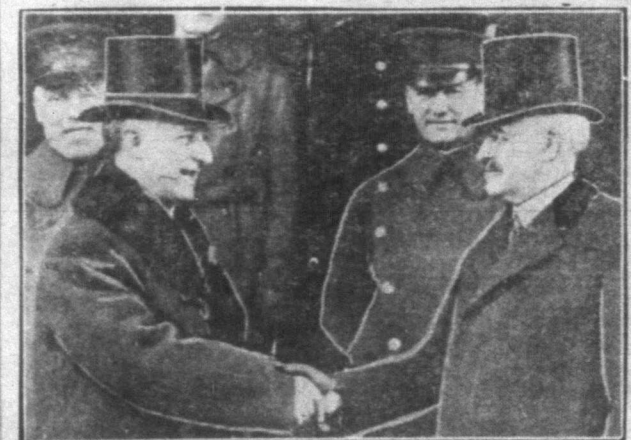
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Governor Alfred Smith (left) and ex-Governor Miller of New York state shake hands as the former takes over office.

toilers by dictaphone. In this efficiency age some people have been speeding up so fast that they have long since forgotten how to be human beings. I must confess sympathy with the old foreman in his yearning days ago when folks were neighbors.

There is a railroad up in Maine, the Bangor & Aroostook; they call it the "Potato Road." Mr. Percy Todd, the president of that road, is one of the warm-hearted type left over in a mechanical, impersonal age. He knows by name, every switchman, trackman, and boy in his employ. It is a tonic to see how popular Mr. Todd is with trainmen and shippers throughout the country.

They've got something on that little road up there in Maine that the New York Central, and the Pennsylvania, might envy. Perhaps some one objects: "The spirit of Percy Todd is all right on a jerkwater potato line, but it won't go in a big concern."

I admit that to humanize our mighty corporations is a problem still before us. But I notice Sir Henry Thornton (American born by the way) never got so far up but that he was still "Hen" Thornton with the boys.

Mr. Seth Hunt, a vice-president of the Standard Oil Company, was working in a refinery twenty years ago. Today he is aloft in 26 Broadway, and No. 26 is richer because up there the heart of Seth Hunt remains akin to his brothers down at the works. When I talk to the foreman at Bayonne, I like to hear the way they refer to Mr. Hunt; it proves that the potency of the personal touch lives on.

An evidence of what may be accomplished by establishing the right contact was afforded at the end of the Door War. The peace sitting had come to a deadlock. Led Miner had

press, and biased in its favor. In Youngstown was a union leader against whom I had written with ranor. I had pictured him as a dangerous agitator, a self-seeker creating discontent merely for the feathering of his own nest.

It's Old-Fashioned, but— One night a friend took me down to see this union leader. Instead of the expected self-seeker, what did I find? A poor man living in a humble cottage with every sign of thrift and toil. He was seated that night in the little kitchen with the little kiddies playing about on the floor, while he himself held a cooling, prattling baby on his knee. The sight of that hard-fisted iron worker fondling that little child at once disarmed me. I came to see "a dirty agitator." I found instead a poor, kindly-loving father, who was giving himself to spend his life in the cause of labor.

I visited for an hour in that kitchen and smoked a pipe which was a pipe of peace. When I left we still disagreed intellectually as much as formerly; he was for collectivism, I for co-operative individualism. But what were mere intellectual differences when we had come to oneness on the common platform of the human heart?

Talking about "contact," not as hot air for college study, but as a working fact for the foundry floor, would it not be a fine sight to see Judge Gary dropping in some night to have a chat with Mr. Fitzpatrick of the United Iron Workers, to see the judge light his pipe, put his feet on the kitchen stove, till back his chair, and give to us a picture of a corporation leader and a union leader together as "just folks?" That's the kind of old-fashioned contact that never can be superseded.

MORE THAN HALF OF THE POOR ARE FOREIGN BORN

Views of Director of Public Health Service on Our Immigration Policy

MONTREAL, QUE.—"More than half of the inmates of charitable institutions in this city are foreign born," declared Dr. Scraphin Boucher, Director of Public Health Service, in discussing the need of a more rigid immigration policy from the standpoint of public health.

It would seem that the precautions taken by the immigration officers are not adequate to fully control the entrance of undesirables, averred the doctor, pointing to the ever-increasing number of indigents of foreign birth who find their way to our charitable institutions.

Among the indigents placed in charitable institutions the proportion of the foreign born may be evaluated at over 50 per cent; deportation of cases brought to the attention of the authorities is very slow of execution and is very often not carried out at all.

"We realize that part of the evil is unavoidable," continued the doctor, "but the present situation ought to be remedied to some extent and certain measures will have to be adopted, otherwise the city institutions and the city itself will find it impossible to support an insupportable burden."

Undesirables. Another fact worthy of attention is the large number of immigrants who must be helped as soon as they enter the country because they are incapable of earning their own living, or because of certain irregularities in their mode of life. Too often, the doctor maintained, the father or the mother among these emigrants, sometimes both, abandon their family, throwing the responsibility of caring for their members upon public charity.

"This shows how important it is," said the doctor, "to prevent the entrance into this country of undesirable. The Quebec Government and the City of Montreal should jointly bear upon the Federal authorities in order to secure more stringent measures than are now in force."

"Immigrants coming into this country," continued the doctor, "should be of high standard, and care should be taken to see that all applicants for admission are mentally and physically fit. Of course, such precautions are taken at present, but there is room for improvement. Every new arrival should be capable of proving his worth not only to himself but to the country as well. In England we see posters which read, 'Come to Canada; Living is Easy; Good Wages; Short Hours; Plenty of Work.' But what we should say to prospective immigrants is, 'Come to Canada; It offers you unlimited opportunities for development. It is Young, Fresh, and Vigorous. But Don't Expect Canada to Give You Anything More Than You are Worth.'"

It is a mistake, the doctor stated, to give people the impression that success can be achieved merely by a change of country. Emphasis should be given to the personal qualities that spell success, good conduct, industrious habits, self-control—these are the essentials of good citizenship and our immigrants should be imbued with

this thought as much as with the opportunities that await them in a foreign land. The immigration question has given rise to speculation on an every-hand, and the doctor, as to the best course to pursue to effect an increase. In all these speculations, however, the personal equation should never be out of sight. "Greater immigration will undoubtedly lead to greater activity in every line, but in time, if the immigrants have not been well chosen, or wrongly distributed, a reaction is sure to occur which will result in widespread depression. To permit the entrance of the feeble-minded, the weak-willed, the loose and criminal types, is the surest way to open the door to such depression. And not alone that—the present heavy burden on our charitable institutions will be increased with consequent responsibility on the part of our citizens to care for the foreign born. It is a vicious circle which should be carefully watched. On the contrary, if the new arrivals are wrongfully distributed, there will result congestion and conflict in certain lines of endeavor, a condition which is always serious for any community."

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is apparent rather than real, according to a statement of the Census Bureau, since it was due primarily to a change in the census date from April, in 1920, to January. In farm work and certain other seasonal occupations far fewer children are employed in winter than in spring. Besides this, the Children's Bureau pamphlet says, a census taken at the present time would doubtless show a notably larger number of employed children than that of January, 1920, since the latter was taken at the beginning of a period of industrial depression as well as during the time the Federal child labor law was in effect and tending to discourage the employment of children.

The cover map compares the general standards of the States with those set up by the two Federal child labor laws, and reveals the fact that only if states have as high requirements with respect to children's employment as factories, mills, canneries, and workshops as had the two Federal laws, now declared unconstitutional. Maps in the text show the widely varying standards in force in the States with respect to the minimum



Harry Chin, 25, is the first Chinese to pass the rigid test for a flying license in the U.S.A.

FEDERAL BUREAU ANSWERS QUESTIONS ON CHILD LABOR

In response to many requests for information regarding the present status of child labor in the United States the U. S. Department of Labor, through the Children's Bureau, has just issued a brief pamphlet on this subject. Illustrated with numerous maps and charts. The text of the pamphlet takes the form of answers to ten questions: "How many children in the United States are at work?" "In what occupations are children engaged?" "In what sections of the country are the largest numbers of children at work?" "Is the number of children at work decreasing?" "Is the decrease between 1910 and 1920 real or apparent?" "What progress has been made in legal regulation during this period?" "Is child labor regulated by the Federal Government at the present time?" "How is child labor regulated by the States at the present time?" "What are the minimum standards for children entering employment?" "What is the United States Children's Bureau publishing on the subject of child labor?"

1910, but a large part of the decrease in factories and stores, the educational minimum for children entering employment, the requirements of physical examinations for such children, the minimum age for boys' work in mines, the daily and weekly hours permitted for children under 14 in factories and stores, the legal prohibition of night work for children, the regulation of boys' work in street trades, compulsory day-school attendance, and compulsory attendance at continuation schools. The minimum age for example, at which children may be employed in factories is shown to vary from 16 years in two States and 15 years in five others, to 12 years for boys in one State and no age minimum at all in two others.

Single copies of this pamphlet, "Child Labor in the United States: Ten Questions Answered," may be obtained free of charge from the Children's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor, Washington, D.C.

Serious Tea Shortage. It is estimated that the world's production of tea last year only amounted to 620,000,000 lbs, and as the normal annual consumption is approximately 700,000,000 lbs, this tremendous shortage has caused quite a panic in tea circles. All indications point, tea men feel, to higher retail prices in the near future.

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DOMINION WIDE SOLIDARITY OF LABOR URGED

J. S. Woods with P. D. ... Both Old Parties Dominat'd by Interests

MONTREAL.—That the two old political parties were just sculptor's clay in the fingers of the big business interests to the resultant detriment of the workingman's welfare, that the people should disregard them and unite in forming a Dominion-wide solidarity of labor as a separate political entity, was the opinion expressed by J. S. Woodworth, M.P. for Winnipeg centre, and leader of the Labour party in the House of Commons, at a meeting held here in the interests of Adolphe Laurendeau, Labor candidate in the forthcoming election.

Labor should not support one or the other of the old political parties, said Mr. Woodworth. They were both tarred with the same brush and were actuated by the same motive impulse. A small group controlled the industry, which would not be so bad if it stopped there, but they also controlled the press and the provincial, federal, and municipal governments. There was a lot of unemployment, but in a vast country such as Canada, with its immense natural resources there should be no excuse for its existence. More over the federal government had done nothing to relieve the situation, no defensive measures such as unemployment insurance adopted by the other countries. The Quebec government had large surpluses. Why could they not have given a few thousands to the unemployed?

U. S. RAILWAY CONTROL PROVES VERY COSTLY

Almost Two Billion Dollars Lost In the Deal.

WASHINGTON.—Losses sustained by the United States Government from war-time operation of railroads, and its aftermath of earnings, guarantees, and damage settlements will total approximately \$1,900,000,000, according to data made available for the first time in a report by James C. Davis, Director general of railroads, transmitted to Congress by President Harding.

Mr. Davis' estimates are based on the showing made actually on liquidation of accounts between the Government and corporate owners of 89 per cent. of the railroad mileage which the Government took over.

Losses in direct operation of the roads and in the later settlement of capital investment and other claims are expected to reach a total of \$1,250,000,000. To this is added a sum of between \$525,000,000 and \$600,000,000 which has been or will be paid by the commission to short line railroads and to class one carriers. This amount includes payment under the guarantee given the roads by Congress of earnings during the six months of 1920 just after the Government liquidated the properties.

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