

REPORTS FROM FIVE CONCILIATION BOARDS

Labour Department also
Received Requests for
Six Additional.

During the month of December the Department of Labour received reports from five Boards of Conciliation and Investigation appointed to inquire into disputes affecting: (1) various Toronto firms and their patternmakers; (2) the Temiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway Commission and its clerks, station baggagemen and freight handlers; (3) the Administrative Commission of the City of Montreal and its engineers, firemen and oilers, engaged in the Waterworks Department; (4) the Niagara, St. Catharines and Toronto Railway Company and its electric railway employees; and (5) the H. Mueller Manufacturing Company, Limited, Sarnia, Ont., and its machinists. A report was also received from the Labour Appeal Board, to which was referred the dispute between the Canadian Northern Railway Company and its clerks, station employees, etc.

Six applications were received for the establishment of Boards. Two cases were referred to the Labour Appeal Board, namely: the dispute between various Toronto firms and their patternmakers; and between the Polson Iron Works, Toronto Shipbuilding Company and Dominion Shipbuilding Company, Toronto, and their ship carpenters. A Board which was established during the preceding month was completed by the appointment of a chairman; and five Boards were established in connection with applications which had been received during the preceding month.

FLATFISH, ECONOMICAL, IS BECOMING POPULAR

Estimated by Food Board
that 3,500,000 Sold in
Six Months.

Pacific flatfish has come into general favour in the last six months, during which, it is estimated, three and a half million pounds have been sold, according to a statement of Captain F. W. Wallace, of the Fishery Section of the Canada Food Board. Flatfish, previous to the campaign inaugurated by the Canada Food Board, was practically unknown and unused in Canada and lacked a market. Thousands of pounds were wasted every year by the fishermen on the Pacific Coast.

"My attention has been drawn to a statement in the press warning the public not to be deceived into buying flatfish in the name of whitefish, as flatfish is cheaper in price," said Capt. Wallace. "Flatfish, however, it is but fair to add, would not be cheaper than whitefish had the prices and profits to fishermen and distributors of flatfish not been fixed by the Canada Food Board on such a scale that a market might be created for them, and in order to introduce them to the Canadian public as a substitute for higher-priced fish such as halibut, salmon, and whitefish. Flatfish are considered a great delicacy in Great Britain, where the sole is especially esteemed, being regarded as the most finely flavoured of salt-water fish. In Europe, sole, brill, plaice, and flounder are much higher in price than cod and haddock, or even halibut. In Canada, flatfish sell, at the present time, for the same price as cod and haddock, but this is due to the fact that they have hitherto been overlooked in Canada and the Food Board have only recently succeeded in placing them on the market here."

Dominion Sugar Exports.

In 1916 Canada imported \$32,109,079 worth of sugar and molasses, in 1917, \$38,889,894 worth, and in 1918, \$35,311,589 worth of those commodities, as shown in a summary of Canadian trade for the past three years, issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

ALL TROOPS SHOULD BE IN CANADA BY AUGUST

During Spring and Summer Months Number of Soldiers
Being Returned to Dominion will Reach 45,000
Monthly.

It is stated by the Department of Militia that the end of August next will see the return to Canada of the last units of the military forces of Canada now serving overseas in Europe.

For the present there will be no speeding up in the return of troops beyond the numbers already arranged for—20,000 in January, increasing to 30,000 in February; but in the spring and summer months the number returning to Canada will rise to 45,000 monthly.

Several factors enter into the considerations governing the return of these troops to Canada, such as transportation afloat and ashore, the undesirability of returning too many men during the winter months, and the difficulties of securing the smooth and expeditious return to civil occupations of these men without overtaxing the limits of the organizations arranged for that latter purpose.

During the winter it is possible to land troops only at two Canadian ports, Halifax and St. John, and at the latter port it is impossible to berth ships of the largest tonnage. From each port the railroad lines have a limited capacity, and must provide for the regular services, pas-

senger and freight, in addition to the additional tax on the services by the extra troop trains.

Furthermore, there is the question of facilities and motive power, facilities which will be increased at the end of the current month, and the most important one of the factor of safety. These lines cannot be crowded beyond a certain point, and it is not intended to take unnecessary risks. In the matter of equipment, it must be remembered that the great majority of the returning soldiers must be provided with proper sleeping accommodation, and must also be given facilities for securing meals while travelling, two conditions which reduce considerably the number carried on any one train.

With the opening of navigation in the St. Lawrence there will at once be available additional ports at which transports can dock and considerably increased railroad facilities, both as to routes and equipment. For instance, it will then be possible to secure day coaches for the shorter hauls.

In arranging for the return of troops to Canada each transport has carried men for every military district so that the demands of each section may be dealt with fairly and proportionately.

ADDS TO POWERS OF THE PENSIONS COMMISSIONERS

Claims of Prospective Dependents Have Now Been
Officially Recognized and Other Changes Made by
Order in Council.

[Continued from page 4.]

materially maintained by a member of the forces at the time of his death but who at a subsequent time falls into a dependent condition may be awarded a pension provided he or she is incapacitated either mentally or physically from earning a livelihood and the Commission is of opinion that the member of the forces would wholly or to a material extent have maintained such parent or person had such member of the forces not died.

19. That in accordance with recommendation No. 26 of the report of the said Parliamentary Committee the following section be added, to be known as Section 22C to Order in Council (P.C. 1834) of June 3rd, 1916:

22C. A parent or person in the place of a parent shall not be entitled to pension when the widow or any children of a member of the forces are alive and entitled to a pension or allowances provided that when a widow of a member of the forces is not alive or is not entitled to a pension and his children have been living with and in the care of his parents or the person who has been in the place of a parent to him, and such parent or person has been acting in the place of a parent with respect to such children, such parent or person shall be entitled to a pension provided the conditions contained in Section 22 of these regulations have been fulfilled. So long as the relationship between such children and such parent or person continues the children shall

only be entitled to the allowance prescribed for children who are not orphans.

20. That in accordance with recommendation No. 27 of the report of the said Parliamentary Committee the following section be added, to be known as Section 22D to Order in Council (P.C. 1834) of June 3rd, 1916:

22D. The Commission shall have discretion to apportion a pension among several applicants of the same relationship to the deceased member of the forces.

21. That the provisions of this Order in Council be deemed to have come into force on the first day of January, 1919, and that they be retroactive only to confirm decisions given and action taken by the Commission. That all cases affected by the provisions of this Order in Council be reviewed and future payments made at the rates and in accordance with the provisions set forth therein.

22. That the following additional section be added to be known as Section 32A to Order in Council (P.C. 1834) of June 3rd, 1916:

32A. In special cases of hardship which are not covered by the Pension Regulations and in cases in which special relief should be given, the Commissioners shall have exclusive authority to make a recommendation to the Governor in Council and the Governor in Council shall have authority upon such recommendation to award a pension or to afford relief.

RODOLPHE BOUDREAU,
Clerk of the Privy Council.

SUMMARY OF LABOUR CONDITIONS FOR MONTH

Skilled Mechanics had Little
Difficulty in Getting
New Work.

Of the hundreds of munition workers released during December, skilled mechanics in most cases had little difficulty in securing other work, but there was a considerable number of semi-skilled and unskilled workers, more particularly in the large centres, without employment at the end of the month, according to statistics given by the "Labour Gazette." The mining industry absorbed a great number of men, so that in the case of coal mining there was sufficient labour at the end of the month for present requirements. The lumber camps also took on many hands, but there was still some shortage of skilled lumbermen at the end of the month. In civic employment there was a decrease in the number of workers, and a slightly greater decrease in the wages paid in comparison with November.

The time loss on account of industrial disputes during December was much greater than during November and greater than during December, 1917. There were in existence during the month seventeen strikes involving approximately 5,384 workpeople and resulting in a time loss of 64,079 working days.

The cost of the weekly family budget of staple foods averaged \$13.63 at the middle of December, as compared with \$13.49 in November, \$12.24 in December, 1917, and \$7.95 in December, 1914. The index number of wholesale prices stood at 288.8 for December, as compared with 290.9 for November, 253.5 in December, 1917, and 137.6 in December, 1914.

TIME LOST THROUGH STRIKES IN DECEMBER

The loss of time on account of industrial disputes during December was much greater than during November, and greater than during December, 1917, according to Labour Gazette figures. There were in existence at some time or other during the month 17 strikes involving approximately 5,384 workpeople and resulting in a time loss of 64,079 working days, compared with 23 strikes, 4,330 workpeople and 36,843 working days in November; and 9 strikes, 3,224 workpeople and 33,540 working days in December, 1917. On December 1, there were on record 11 strikes, affecting 1,358 workpeople. Five strikes were reported as having commenced during December, as compared with eleven in November; six of the strikes commencing prior to December, and three of those commencing during December were reported terminated, leaving eight unreported strikes, affecting approximately 762 workpeople, on record at the end of December.

W.S.S. LITERATURE PUBLISHED IN FRENCH

The National War Savings Committee is publishing, in French, War Savings certificates, Thrift cards, and all explanatory literature issued in connection with the same. It is also conducting an extensive advertising campaign in the French press of the Dominion. A splendid measure of support is being accorded the War Savings and Thrift Stamp movement by prominent French-Canadians, several of whom have granted interviews evidencing their co-operation.

Canada Rubber Imports.

Figures compiled by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics show the immense quantities of rubber and gutta-percha imported into Canada for home consumption. In 1916 the value of these imports was \$10,270,887; in 1917, \$14,139,702; and in 1918, \$11,979,764.