Labor News From Coast to Coast

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CO-ORDINATING LABOR LEGISLATION

Provincial Governments Are Urged to Fordize Their Appointments For Conference.

Some few weeks ago we made mention of the fact that the province of Saskatchewan had taken the lead in appointing its representatives to attend a conference at Ottawa with a view to co-ordinating the Labor laws of the various provinces, as was pointed out in the Mathers Commission's report and the subsequent National Industrial Conference. Since that time considerable space has been devoted to the subject in the daily press.

The only sane way to bring about the uniformity of Labor legislation is by a conference of this kind. If the Dominion Government has no jurisdiction over the eight-hour workday a very unsatisfactory state of affairs would confront Canada in that one province might adopt the legislation and another might throw it out. The Canadian Labor Press is not under the impression for a moment that there will be any question about the adoption of a shorter workday, in view of the fact that Canada has ratified the Peace Treaty and the Labor chapter therein contained, but there is always a possibility of politicians "putting one over." This no one desires, nor do we wish to have industries in one province put at a disadvantage over those of other provinces. Workers, too, do not contemplate working nine hours in the province of Ontario while workers in the province of Quebec might be working eight. Unless there is uniformity of Labor laws these things will take place.

However, the provinces of Saskatchewan and Nova Scotia have appointed their representatives, and the provinces of Ontario, Manitoba and Quebec have committed themselves to the scheme. It is apparent that the time is not far distant when the conference will become a reality, and following this the Canadian workers expect the provisions of the Labor chapter in the Peace Treaty to become truly effective so that there will be full justice for the workers who for so long have been denied justice.

Labor has issued many warnings to "the powers that be" and the time for action has arrived. We have been tolerant for a long, long time. We have watched governments come and go. We have listened to their promises but the much desired legislation has been conspicuous by its absence. The Dominion Trades and Labor Congress through its chief, President Tom Moore, at the International Labor Conference at Washington, stated that it was willing to co-operate with the Dominion oGvernment, no matter of which political faith, it might be—Unionist, Liberal, Farmer, or Labor—in having the provisions of the International Labor Conference carried into full force and effect. The Interprovincial Conference will pave the way, but we wish to state that all of the Labor legislation should be enacted with the least possible delay. "Fordize" the legislators. The Interprovincial conference is of primary importance and it is hoped that in the provinces where appointments have not already been made that they will do so in the very near future, so that the conference may be held early in February, and the Labor legislation enacted by the various governments at the ensuing sessions. The Minister of Labor, too, should keep the various provincial governments "checked up" and urge that the appointments be made with despatch.

A BIG CAMPAIGN TO BE STAGED IN NEW YORK.

A trade union organization campaign that includes the entire City of New York, is being conducted by the International Union of Retail Clerks. Thousands of clerks are enrolling in the movement to improve working conditions.

President Moore Off to Paris

President Tom Moore of the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress left on Tuesday for Paris, where he will attend the first meeting of the International Labor Office, established under the provisions of the Peace Treaty and the Labor chapter contained therein. President Moore will sail from New York on the Kaiserin Gustav Victoria, a Cunarder, on Saturday, and expects to be absent from Canada about six weeks.

On the boat with him will be Mr. F. C. Acland, Deputy Minister of Labor, who is representing the Dominion Government.

Secretary P. M. Draper of the Dominion Trades Congress is the duly elected member of the Governing Body of the International Labor Office, the office having been conferred upon him at the International Labor Conference at Washington some few months ago. Secretary Draper was unable to attend the meeting in Paris, and President Moore is substituting for him. The Dominion Government is also a representative of the Governing Body and is entitled to one delegate.

The agenda of the meeting is published in another column of this issue.

CANADIAN GOVERNMENT MERCHANT SERVICE PROFITABLE.

Hon. C. C. Ballantyne, Minister of Marine, announced last week at the annual dinner of the Dominion Marine Association held at the Windsor Hotel, that the Government has under consideration the building of passenger steamers of 15,000 gross tons in connection with the Canadian National Railways.

Mr. Ballantyne briefly reviewed the operations of the Canadian Government merchant marine and stated that the net profit on the steamship service had been a very handsome one.

NEW ZEALAND TO REMAIN "WET."

By reason of the failure of the prohibitionists to secure a majority of the votes in the recent "no license" referendum, New Zealand will remain wet and the present license system will continue.

The official vote was made public on Saturday and showed that for continuance of the licensing system 240,998 votes were cast, for state purchase and control of liquors 32,448, and for prohibition, 270,178. The prohibitionists, therefore, were 2,968 votes short of the absolute majority required to carry any issue. The votes of 508 soldiers who are returning on troop ships cannot affect the result.

ONTARIO MOULDERS' WAGE INCREASE.

Business Agent William J. Lucas, of Hamilton, a member of the Ontario Conference Board of Moulders and Coremakers, stated at last Wednesday's meeting of the local union in Hamilton, that at a conference meeting with the Ontario Stove Manufacturers' Association in Toronto recently, it was agreed that, effective January 1, 1920, the Ontario Stove Moulders and Coremakers would receive $6.10 per day instead of $5.40 per day as previously, while piece work rates would be advanced from 75 to 95 per cent. above present prices. Commencing February 1, 1920, the men would work eight hours a day instead of nine as at present. Furthermore, what is known as the free-shaking out of moulding flasks has been conceded.

The settlement will undoubtedly have an important bearing on the moulders' strike at Hamilton, which has been on since May 4 last.

CONGRESS ASKED FOR SUGGESTIONS

Revision of Industrial Disputes Act to Receive Early Consideration By Government.

Revision of the Canadian Industrial Disputes Act, or the Lemieux Act, as it is more commonly called, is to receive early consideration. In the ranks of the legitimate trade union movement today there are quite a number who dislike this act, and desire its repeal, and there are equally as many who approve of the act and are desirous of having its scope enlarged.

In submitting its demands to the Dominion Cabinet last week the representatives of the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress stated:

"During the past years the Trades and Labor Congress has requested the repeal of this act. The compulsory clauses in this act have been shown time and again to be generally impossible of enforcement and the Government, whilst refusing to repeal them, have nevertheless refrained from enforcing them. This attitude brings about a disrespect for the law and is undesirable. The other sections of the act owing largely to the growing industrial importance of widely scattered sections of Canada are becoming more difficult to administer promptly and effectively. Some provinces are also instituting machinery for the settlement of industrial disputes, and in view of all these circumstances, we suggest that the time has arrived for an entire revision of the machinery of investigation and arbitration. The congress stands ready to participate in a conference to undertake this work in order that legislation may be devised to provide for quick and satisfactory settlement of disputes."

Secretary P. M. Draper, of the Congress, who was also one of three representatives of the organized workers who agreed to the act at its inception, presented the case for Labor. One of the chief issues in dispute is the application of the act insofar as public utilities owned by the public is concerned. At the present time the act is not applicable to these. This is fittingly illustrated in the case of the employes of the waterworks department of the City of Montreal. In this case the employes were in negotiation with the Administration Commission of Montreal for over five months. The men were willing to arbitrate but the Commission would have none of it. The Industrial Disputes Act could, or would, not be applied and the result is Montreal has a serious strike on its hands. It is to avoid trouble such as this that amendments to the act are not only suggested, but are demanded.

Before Secretary Draper had proceeded very far with his presentation, Hon. Gideon Robertson, Minister of Labor, asked the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress to submit amendments to the act. As the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress has announced its policy it is altogether probable that the workers' executive body will at the very earliest date co-operate with the Labor Department and the Justice Department, and have new legislation enacted that will make the act as effective as it is possible to make voluntary arbitration.

OPERATORS AND MINERS AGREE TO ACCEPT AWARD.

Mine operators in the central competitive field on Tuesday told the commission named to settle the bituminous coal strike that they would accept with a single reservation any award the commission might make.

The miners' representatives on Monday pledged the unions to accept without reservation the findings of the commission appointed by the Government to settle the dispute.

NEED OF IMMEDIATE ACTION ON MOTHERS' PENSIONS.

Immediate and definite action by the Ontario Government in the matter of mothers' pensions and other relief measures was demanded recently by a strong and representative deputation, which waited on Premier Drury, Hon. Walter Rollo, Minister of Labor, and other members of the Provincial Cabinet.

Members of the Government expressed their entire sympathy with the movement for mothers' pensions and intimated that early action would be taken along this line.

It was pointed out by some members of the deputation that the inauguration quickly of some such measure was absolutely necessary in order to save numbers of Ontario families from positive tragedy.

The deputation asked that a conference be called by the executive council of social workers of the province to consider contentious points likely to arise in connection with the bill, such as the participation in the benefits by deserted wives, wives of incapacitated husbands, wives whose husbands are imprisoned for lengthy terms, unmarried mothers, and foreign-born widowed mothers.

In order to impress the need of mothers' allowance legislation, the figures obtained through a survey in the province were quoted. Over 16,000 widows with children were found in Ontario, the children numbering more than 31,000. It was estimated through visits in the homes that 3,200 widows were in need and nearly 9,000 children, the mothers in these cases helping to support their families.

A. F. OF L. ADVANCING RAPIDLY.

The good standing membership of the American Federation of Labor for the month of November was 4,056,768. The average membership from May, 1919, to and including November, 1919, was 2,912,878. This is an average gain of 652,807 over the last membership statistics reported to the convention of the A. F. of L., held last June in Atlantic City. The November figure, 4,056,768, makes a new record. The three million mark of a few years ago has been reached. The four million mark has been passed, and now the slogan is the five million mark.

THE FALSE GOD.

—Westerman, in Journal.

Before Drastic Action Montreal Labor Will Exhaust All Peaceful Efforts

At a special and extraordinary meeting of the Montreal Trades and Labor Council, held Sunday afternoon, at which over 300 delegates from the different unions were present, the question of the strike of the waterworks employes was fully gone into and discussed on its merits from the labor viewpoint.

After Delegate Maguire, president of the Stationary Engineers and Aqueduct Workers; Delegate Hamelin, of the Stationary Engineers' Union; J. Hebert, one of the strikers, and Frank Healy, general international organizer for Canada, had spoken, the matter at issue was discussed from all its angles, and, finally, after some objections of the radical element, which wished that sterner and quicker measures should be adopted, had been heard, a resolution of the executive of the Montreal Trades and Labor Council was unanimously adopted. The resolution embodied that the Montreal Trades and Labor Council, after listening to its executive committee, and after making a full and complete investigation with the different classes of civic employes, protest energetically against the line of conduct adopted by the Administrative Commission of the City of Montreal; that the Montreal Trades and Labor Council requests the Provincial Prime Minister to replace the present Administrative Commission by a body elected by the people; that a board of arbitration composed of an equal number of members appointed immediately by the city administrators and the city employes be appointed with the object of making a complete investigation into the working conditions of all civic employes, establish a progressive scale of wages and settle all the difficulties now pending; that the Provincial Prime Minister should exert all his influence towards the Administrative Commission to have them accept a board of arbitration; that, if the Provincial Prime Minister and the Provincial Government refuse or cannot grant the council's requests, this council should address itself to the Lieutenant-Governor requesting him to immediately appoint a Royal Commission, whose duty shall be to make a complete investigation of the administration of the City of Montreal by the present Administrative Commission in order to discover what are the real reasons of the discontent which actually prevails among municipal employes.

That if all these several legal and conciliatory means are refused, this Trades and Labor Council orders its executive committee to immediately take a referendum vote of all the labor unions of Montreal, whether affiliated with the Trades and Labor Council or not, on the opportunity of decreeing complete cessation of work until such time as the rights of the labor people are recognized, and that if by a two-thirds vote the unions pronounce themselves in favor of the cessation of work, that such cessation be ordered within the briefest possible delay, and that its direction be left entirely to the executive committee; that a copy of this resolution be addressed immediately to the Lieutenant-Governor, to the Provincial Prime Minister, the leader of the Opposition, Mayor Martin, the Administrative Commission to all the labor unions, and to the newspapers; that if the executive committee deems it fit that a delegation be sent to Quebec to transmit this resolution to the Provincial Cabinet and obtain satisfaction.

Some of the delegates, among them Delegates Julien, Alfred Mathieu and Thompson wished to have no delay whatsoever, and suggested that a delegation should leave Sunday night, interview Sir Lomer Gouin Monday morning, and report within a day or two as to their progress, and then if nothing satisfactory to the workers had been done that the referendum vote be taken at once as to the opportunity of calling a general cessation of work, but better counsels prevailed after Delegates Gustave Francq, Secretary Mathieu, Delegates J. C. Tardif, Kerrigan, Bourbonniere, Baugh, and Sam Maguire himself, had urged their fellow delegates to accept the resolution, and leave the executive committee to deal with the matter.

The gist of their speeches was that all legal and peaceful means should be taken to obtain satisfaction, and Montreal labor men should not fall into radicalism, which would endanger the success of their cause.

The meeting lasted from 2 until 5.30 p.m., and among those in attendance, besides all the members of the council's executive were Arthur Laurendeau, Labor M.L.A. for Maisonneuve, and Aurele Lacombe, Labor M.L.A. for St. Denis division.

AGENDA FOR GOVERNING BODY OF INT. LABOR OFFICE.

The Department of Labor is in receipt of a cable from Albert Thomas, director of the International Labor Office, setting forth the agenda to be taken up at the meeting of the governing body in Paris, on the 26th of this month.

This meeting will be attended by Mr. F. A. Acland, Deputy Minister of Labor, as Canadian Government representative, and by Mr. Tom Moore, president of the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress, as workers' delegate, substituting for P. M. Draper, the duly elected member of the International Labor Office, who is unable to attend.

The following matters are on the agenda for consideration at the meeting: Measures to make effective the Washington decisions; appointment of a director; organization of the Labor Office; fourth seamen's conference; second annual general conference; governing body; vacancies and substitutes; protests relating to the constitution. Labor—Conferences on etc.

FIRST CANADIAN VICE-PRESIDENT OF STEEL WORKERS.

Ernest Curtis, of Sydney, is the first Canadian vice-president of the International Steel Workers' Union, according to an official statement from union headquarters at Pittsburg. The Louisville (Ky.) convention of the steel workers provided for the creation of this office and an election was held, the result of which has just become known. Mr. Curtis is leaving Sydney on a tour, during which he will visit all the Canadian branches of the Steel Workers' Union.

U. F. O.-I. L. P. GOVERNMENT DETERMINED TO ABOLISH PATRONAGE.

Premier E. C. Drury, who with Hon. F. C. Biggs, minister of public works, asserts that the giving of an order for motor trucks to cost $100,000 for the provincial works department, to Len Parkin, a Dundas automobile dealer, was not patronage, said on Monday, in an interview that a purchasing agent would soon be appointed by the Government.

This purchasing agent will buy all Government supplies in the open market or by tender, at the best prices possible. The Premier said the new Government was sincere in its determination to abolish patronage. Not only would a purchasing agent be appointed, but the appointment of all civil servants would be by a Civil Service Commission, after competitive examinations.

RAILWAYMEN ATTEMPT TO LOWER LIVING COSTS.

As a move to lower the cost of living among its members the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employes and Railway Shop laborers, the third largest of the railroad brotherhoods, last week announced the purchase of four clothing factories from which goods will be sold at price reductions ranging from 25 to 60 per cent. Negotiations are under way, it was said, for the purchase of two other mills.

The factories taken over are two underwear companies at Ypsilanti, Mich., a glove factory at Williamston, Mich., and a New York factory making tubing used in gloves. The transactions announced represent an initial investment of approximately $1,000,000.

FORTY-FOUR HOUR WEEK DEMANDED

Annual Labor Delegation Waits on Dominion Cabinet and Frankly Discusses Problems.

On Thursday of last week, as was announced in the last issue of the Canadian Labor Press, the executive of the Canadian Trades and Labor Congress and other Canadian labor officials had a three-hour conference with members of the Cabinet, during which an argument was presented asking that legislation be enacted along the lines which Labor in Canada is seeking. The delegation was given a sympathetic hearing and the various questions brought up were freely discussed by both sides. At the close of the conference, Mr. Tom Moore, president of the Trades and Labor Congress, said their suggestions had been given a friendly reception and that they had beenu promised that careful consideration would be given to the demands. Labor's ideas had been fairly placed before the Government as a basis for future action.

Chief Demand.

The eight-hour day and 44-hour week for Canada was one of the chief reforms urged upon the Government by the delegation, who asked also a minimum wage adequate to ensure a fair standard of living. Labor's memorandum urged that the eight-hour day was recognized by the Mathers Commission and by the International Labor Conference at Washington. Canada, it was stated, was better able to carry out this desire than some of the other countries, and, therefore, Labor in this country asked for the weekly half-holiday, giving a 44-hour week.

The Labor men pointed out that now that peace was finally signed, Labor would look forward to the carrying out of many improvements which had been deferred until the end of the war.

Members of the Cabinet, seen after the conference, stated that there had been a frank round-table discussion of all the questio s presented to them by the Labor delegation and that the whole matter would be given every consideration.

The full text of the demands were published in these columns last week. When these were placed before the Cabinet a short statement was made by the various members of the Labor delegation.

Sir George Foster, acting Premier, and other members of the Cabinet, including Senator G. Robertson, Minister of Labor, received the delegation which was composed of President Tom Moore, Secretary-Treasurer P. M. Draper and Vice-Presidents H. J. Halford and A. McAndrews, of the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress; John Bruce, organizer of the International Union of Plumbers and Steamfitters; John Noble, of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers; Fred Bush, of the United Garment Workers of America; Tom Izzard, fourth vice-president Bricklayers' Stonemasons and Plasters International Union; J. Webster, International Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners; Pat Green, president Ottawa Trades and Labor Association; William Lodge, secretary Ottawa Trades and Labor Association; J. A. P. Haydon, M.C., editor The Canadian Labor Press; A. R. Mosher, grand president Canadian Brotherhood of Railroad Employes; Louis Beuloin, general vice-president Brotherhood Railway Carmen of America; T. Smith, Pattern Makers' League of America; J. Sullivan, Cigar Makers International Union; E. W. O'Dell, Boot and Shoe Makers International Union; John Flett, Canadian general organizer of the American Federation of Labor; Gull Lodge, president of the Rural Mail Carriers' Union; and Joseph T. Walsh, organizer Bakery and Confectionery International Union.

CAPE BRETON I. L. P. OUTLINES NEW PLATFORM.

The Independent Labor party of Cape Breton has a new platform under consideration, in which are several new planks. Among these are the abolition of the Senate and Legislative Council; abolition of property qualifications for public offices; minimum pay for teachers, and salaries to be paid by the Provincial Government; Normal School students at Truro to be boarded at public expense; equal pensions to private soldiers and officers; public ownership of all utilities; exclusion of Asiatics and aliens.

Other noteworthy planks are:

Eight-hour day from bank to bank and from whistle to whistle, except for farmers, fishermen and lumbermen.

Amendment to the Workmen's Compensation Act, giving 75 per cent. for all time lost; maximum of $1,500 per year, with free medical attendance and supplies, including employes of the Crown, providing there is not already an act dealing with them.

Enforcement of the law regarding children attending school, and also in regard to children employed in factories.

Recognition of labor unions by all employers of all industries.

The establishment by the Pro- already endorsed by the local farm- vincial Government of vocational training schools in all industrial centres.

The Cape Breton Labor party is making a strong bid for the support of the War Veterans, and is ers' organization.

CONFERENCES ON TECHNICAL EDUCATION TO BE HELD IN WEST.

Professor L. W. Gill, director of technical education under the Federal Department of Labor, left on Wednesday on a trip which will take him to the Pacific coast. Conferences on technical education will be held with all the western provincial Governments, and it is hoped that agreements tending to the promotion of this form of instruction may be consummated. The Federal Government has set aside the sum of ten million dollars for the promotion of technical education in Canada, which is designed to cover a period of ten years. Agreements provide that the provinces shall expend an equal amount to that which they receive from the Dominion Government.

U. S. Steel Strike Over

The strike in the American steel mills and furnaces called Sept. 22, and which at its inception involved 367,000 men, was officially called off last week by the national committee.

Announcement that the national committee had decided to proceed no further was contained in a telegram sent to the headquarters of the American Federation of Labor in Washington, to the head of all international unions interested, and to the organizers and field men in all strike districts.

"The Steel Corporation," the telegram said, "with the active assistance of the press, the courts, the federal troops, state police and many public officials, have denied steel workers their right of free speech, free assemblage, and the right to organize, and by this arbitrary and ruthless misuse of power have brought about a condition which has compelled the national committee for organizing steel and iron workers to vote today that the active strike phase of the steel campaign is now at an end. A vigorous campaign of education and reorganization will be immediately begun, and will not cease until industrial justice in the steel industry has been achieved. All steel workers now are at liberty to return to work, pending preparations for the next big organization movement."

W. Z. Foster later announced his resignation as secretary-treasurer of the strike committee, and said he would be succeeded by J. G. Brown, of Everett, Washington, former president of the Timber Workers' International Union, and one of his chief assistants during the strike. Brown is to assume office February 1.

CIVIL SERVANTS' DEDUCTIONS TO BEAR 5 PER CENT.

Under authority of an order-in-council that has just been passed, all the money that is deducted from the pay of the permanent civil servants in the inside service of the Dominion Government employ to be held as a retiring allowance will in future bear interest at the rate of five per cent. per annum.

Heretofore this money has been bearing only four per cent., but the Government authorities, realizing that in these days every other investment is paying a higher rate of interest than four per cent., have decided that the money they hold for the civil servants, which is the actual money of the latter, as it is deducted from the monthly pay checks on the basis of five per cent., should be worth more to the investors, for such they really are.

This additional one per cent. will mean quite an increase to some of the old employes of the Government as some of them with many years' service have substantial sums, amounting to a few thousand dollars to the credit of their retiring allowance.

LABOR MEN KEPT UNWRITTEN POINT OF HONOR.

At the recent conference of the Council of Agriculture held at Winnipeg, J. J. Morrison, one of the officials of the United Farmers of Ontario, in speaking of Labor and Ontario politics, said:

"It was an unwritten law in the recent Ontario elections that, where the rural population of a constituency was greater than the urban population, a Farmer candidate should be nominated to contest the seat against the old parties, and that where the urban population was greater, choice should fall on the Labor man," said J. J. Morrison, Ontario delegate. "We found that Labor men kept this unwritten point of honor very well."

BANK CLERKS IN FORWARD MOVE

Much Opposition From Banking Institutions to Employes Organizing Into Unions.

Despite the determined efforts of many of the leading Canadian banking institutions to prevent their employes organizing into legitimate labor organizations, the Bank Clerks' International Union is rapidly growing and each day brings requests from this class of men and women to organize. Toronto and Montreal have already taken the plunge and the membership of these organizations is growing more rapidly than even the promoters had anticipated. Organizer John Flett of the American Federation of Labor in speaking to the Canadian Labor Press during the past week said it was increditable to think that in the day and generation in a free British country that institutions such as the banks should take such a stand and deprive their employes as free men from becoming members of legitimate Labor organizations. The manager of one of the banks in Toronto on instructions from head office called all his employes into his office and told them individually that they had either to quit their union or get out of the bank. However, many of the men and women employed in the banks are paying no attention to the warning and the forward movement goes on and it will be a question of a few months only until the bank clerks of Canada are a united body allied with the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress and the American Federation of Labor.

Herbert Lewis, of the organizing committee of the Toronto Trades and Labor Council, who has been connected with the forming of the Bank Employes' Association, in that city, made the following statement recently:

"Since the bank clerks have been organizing and have got away to a good start, the head offices of the various banks have begun to realize that the organization will soon become a factor in banking circles, and they are opposed to such organization on the part of their employes. There have been discriminations against some of the active spirits in the new union, one of whom, I am given to understand, has been dismissed in spite of the fact that the banks advertise they do not dismiss their employes. This, however, has had an entirely opposite effect from that which head offices desire, because it is putting a fighting spirit into the members of the union and the employes generally. It seems strange that in this day and generation any commercial institution should endeavor to prevent its employes from organizing, while they themselves claim the right and use it.

"As chairman of the organizing committee of the Toronto Trades and Labor Council, I have received several visits lately from bank employes and also from employes of several of the large insurance houses asking for assistance in organization work. They seem to recognize that the man with the salaried position is being left behind in the race with the high cost of living. When they see that the wage worker, through his organization, can obtain anything from 75 cents to $1.20 per hour, they are rapidly coming to the conclusion that even if they do get a salary instead of a wage, they have only a 'job' after all."

LARGE SUMS ASKED TO COMBAT "REDS."

New appropriations aggregating $1,150,000 have been asked of Congress by the Department of Labor for use in furthering the Government's campaign to cleanse the United States of violent radicalism.

With 3,500 members of the communist and communist labor parties now awaiting deportation proceedings, the department stated addition.l funds will be needed to offset the stubborn legal resistance which the radicals are expected to set up.

All Provinces Urged to Adopt Law Similar to Industrial Disputes Act

Minister of Labor Has Bad Quarter of An Hour When He Addresses McGill Canadian Club at Montreal—Lots of Work If Men Accept What Is Offered.

The advisability of all provinces adopting a law along the lines of the Canadian Industrial Disputes Act was urged by Hon. Gideon Robertson, Minister of Labor, in an address before the McGill Canadian Club at Montreal last week on "The Labor Situation in Canada."

The "Red" tendencies of the McGill students gave the minister a bad quarter of an hour when questioning time arrived. The questioners developed into stump-speakers representing every phase of redness from common or garden socialism to the Soviet system as worked out by Lenine, and finally the meeting was brought to an abrupt end by C. H. Adair, president of the club, to enable Senator Robertson to catch his train for Ottawa.

During his main address the Minister of Labor was given a good hearing, though it was evident that there was an active minority in the audience whose views ran rather to socialistic theories than to trades unionism. It was when the minister sat down and an invitation was extended to those who wished to ask questions that the deluge began. In his talk, Senator Robertson had set out to show the difference between the trades union movement in Canada and the revolutionary Socialist element, and this appeared to have the effect of a red rag to the radicals. After a number had set forth their views on various phases of radicalism, the speaker said that he was prepared to answer questions, not to engage in a debate, and that was the end of it.

The minister gave what he termed a "quiet talk" on the general labor situation in the Dominion, covering the past few years, and indicating present day tendencies. Strikes, he said, had declined greatly. In 1911 two million days were lost through labor trouble, twice as many as in three years of war. The process of assimilation of 300,000 returned soldiers had succeeded wonderfully. Today there were more jobs than men to fill them, if only men would accept what offered. During the war labor troubles waned because of the patriotic spirit of all classes. Later on increased cost of living and the fear that returned soldiers would oust many from their positions, led to uneasiness.

Increased cost of living had preceded increased wage schedules by several years, and so, the speaker argued, reduced wages would follow, not precede, reduced cost of living. The minister paid a warm tribute to firms such as the C. P. R. which gave employment to returned men who had been with them before. Aliens who were released for this purpose were resentful, however, and this gave rise to the revolutionary socialist movement, aimed at employers and all constituted authority. This was encouraged by Socialists in Europe and fed by the foreign element in Canada, particularly Russians and Austrians. After-war conditions, including high prices, added to the problem.

Dealing with the situation as it stands, Senator Robertson said that reactionary employers who looked upon their employes as part of their investment, to be used up and then scrapped, must be eliminated, as well as the reactionary press. If the old reactionary policies of employers survived today, the Russian situation would develop in Canada within a year, and the reactionary press would be largely responsible.

Railroaders' Gigantic Scheme to Reduce the High Cost of Everything

Co-Operative Stores To Be Opened Throughout Entire Continent To Provide Railroad Workers With Necessities Of Life At Cost.

The gigantic scheme of the great International Brotherhoods of Railroaders throughout the North American continent to provide railway workers with the necessities of life is a reality. In the United States portions of the scheme are already in operation and it will not be long before the scheme will be carried into Canada for plans are already under way for the establishment of stores in the distribution centres of Montreal, Toronto, Ottawa, London, Winnipeg, Calgary and Vancouver.

Will Robson, grand vice-president of the United Brotherhood of Maintenance-of-Way Employes and Railway Shop Laborers, informed the Canadian Labor Press recently that when the scheme was perfected it will provide the workingmen and women with everything they need from provisions and shoes to homes.

"This movement," he declared, "is being backed by European labor. Co-operative distributing centres such as planned here in Canada are working in Europe now. The organization is entirely independent. They have their own factories and even go so far as to have their own tea plantations in Ceylon.

"In North America a similar plan is being worked out. Factories are being bought by the railroad men which manufacture articles they need. These articles are being supplied railroad men at cost which greatly reduces the high cost of living. It is being planned to operate coal mines and control great lumber mills, which will provide fuel and material for the construction of homes.

"And so the list might be extended to incorporate woollen mills and plants manufacturing all lines of clothing, and farms which will produce provisions used by every household, etc."

As explained by Mr. Robson, the co-operative scheme is at first for the railroad men, but as it grows it will be extended to all labor men. To show the complete independence of the organization the system of purchasing was dwelt upon.

"In the first place, the labor men grow, produce and manufacture everything they need. When the commodities are ready they are sent to the distributing centres, where the workingmen can purchase with currency. With each purchase he is given a metal or some other kind of 'coin,' which he keeps in his possession until he has a reasonable corresponding value in the currency of the country. With these 'coins' supplied by the organization he can purchase supplies."

In this way, it is pointed out, the "coins" given with each purchase in accordance with the amount of the purchase made, in legitimate currency constitute a dividend.

The opinion is also advanced that if the organization is going to do business on such a huge scale, an appeal might be made to the Dominion Government to have plants manufacturing war supplies turned over for the benefit of labor. Goods which were being manufactured for war purposes could then be turned into the paths of peace. An example of this is a plant used to manufacture gloves for the soldiers or foundries could be utilized to build machinery for the laboring man's factories.

When the representatives of organized labor were laying their demands before the Dominion Cabinet last week they did not neglect to mention co-operative legislation and asked that provision be made for a co-operative company to obtain more easily a Dominion charter.