

Labor Men Back from International Conference

VERDICT RESERVED IN SINGLE TAX CASE

Matter in Dispute Was Genuineness of Signatures.

Toronto.—The assessment reform association of Toronto made an application to Justice Lennox, through ex-Alderman Richard Honeyford, solicitor, for an order to compel the Toronto City Council to submit to the ratepayers on January first, a bylaw to reduce the assessment on buildings, income, and business, ten per cent a year until it is wiped out, and the taxes be derived from land values only. The matter in dispute is the question as to the genuineness of signatures to a petition containing sixteen thousand names. Judgment was reserved.

On behalf of the city, corporation counsel Geary contended that so many duplications were found in the list of petitioners that there was a margin of only 700 names over the requisite ten per cent. of the ratepayers, and as the scrutinizing of the names had not yet been completed there was a doubt if there would be enough genuine signatures found on the petition to justify the submission of the wish for a bylaw.

ALBERTA DECLINES GOVERNMENT OFFER

On Natural Resources. Claims Is Justly Entitled to Compensation.

Alberta does not find the Dominion government's offer on natural resources satisfactory and will not accept it as a settlement of the question. The decision was reached at a meeting of the cabinet Tuesday when Premier Greenfield reported the results of the recent conference at Ottawa. The other members of the government concurred in the dissatisfaction with the offer expressed by the premier and attorney general at the conference and were all agreed that it could not be accepted.

The stand taken by the government is that Alberta is justly entitled to compensation for such of its resources as have been alienated for federal purposes, its claim being based particularly upon the 6,400,000 acres disposed of shortly prior to the creation of the province, for federal purposes. This land, capitalized at the rate of \$1.50 per acre and repaid in annual installments for a term of years would approximately equal the present cash subsidy for ten years, instead of the three years offered by Hon. Mackenzie King.

Premier Greenfield is at once communicating with Premier King, informing him of the action taken by the legislative council and its feeling that further negotiations should be conducted along the lines marked out in the conference of last April, the main features of which is compensation for alienated resources. The natural resources of the province are common to the Saskatchewan and Manitoba governments, will await an offer from Ottawa.

RAILWAY SHOPMEN TO PRIVATE CONFERENCE

Montreal, Dec. 6.—Railway shopmen went into private conference this morning following negotiations yesterday afternoon with representatives of Canadiana railways on the question of rates of pay. They meet the companies again this afternoon.

According to a statement this morning by C. P. Riddell, secretary of the Railway Association of Canada, relations between both sides are most cordial and the negotiations are proceeding smoothly, although at this stage it is impossible to say whether or not they will be protracted.

CANADA SHOE INDUSTRY THRIVES

Existing Conditions Hold Out Little Encouragement For Revival of American Export Trade in Footwear in Dominion.

Washington.—The progress which the Canadian shoe industry has made in meeting the competition of U. S. manufacturers is reflected in a report received by the Department of Commerce from Jesse de Oliveira, U. S. Consul in Hamilton.

The consul, after reviewing conditions in the shoe industry in this district, which he declares "from the dealer's and consumer's viewpoint, is, in general, satisfactory," continued: "Existing conditions seem to hold out little encouragement for a revival of American export trade in boots and shoes in Canada. The consensus of the opinion of close observers of the situation is to the effect that during recent years, when the abnormal depreciation of Canadian currency proved so great an obstacle to continued trade with the United States, the production of Canadian factories has grown so much in public favor as to preclude the necessity of resuming the importation of many American lines of footwear which were formerly regarded as staples in the Canadian market."

"Added to this are the effects of the long and persistent campaign on the part of the Canadian Government and numerous commercial organizations throughout the Dominion in favor of made in Canada products, including boots and shoes, and the existing high duty on the importation of American products. In many instances retail boot and shoe dealers have entirely eliminated American made footwear from their stocks, while others carry only a few of the higher priced lines imported from the United States to supply certain established demands."

NEWSPRINT PLANT IN NEWFOUNDLAND

Will be Built by Imperial Government. Total Cost About \$18,000,000.

Sir Richard Squires, prime minister of Newfoundland, who is on his way home from England, announced this morning that a plan will be laid before the government of that place early in the new year for the construction of a mammoth newsprint plant, capable of producing approximately 400 tons of newsprint daily in perpetuity, which will cost about \$18,000,000. Should this scheme be adopted, declared Sir Richard, it will revolutionize the industrial life of Newfoundland.

He explained that half the capital necessary for the construction of the mills had been promised by the Imperial Government. The balance is to be raised by two issues of 25-year bonds either in Great Britain or the United States. At present, he said, 250,000 horse power is lying idle in the water resources. Of this it is planned to utilize 80,000 to 100,000 for the newsprint plant, while the remainder will be devoted to other industries, one of which will be ore smelting.

MINING INDUSTRY. FUTURE OF COBALT

Cobalt, Ont.—The silver mining industry of Ontario has lived another half century. That is the view expressed by Mr. C. H. Hitchcock, the well-known engineer of Sudbury, who recently completed a visit to the silver and gold mining areas of Northern Ontario.

Mr. Hitchcock stated that the riches of the district of Temiskaming are far greater than most people appear to realize. The district contains vast wealth in precious metals, salted water power, great areas of excellent agricultural lands and enormous wealth in pulp, timber and lumber.

Mr. Hitchcock said the nickel mining industry would also, in due course, resume its place as one of the main pillars of the mining industry of Canada.

GOMPERS TO VISIT MONTREAL DEC. 18

Will Inaugurate Organization Campaign of All the Building Trades.

Montreal.—Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor is coming to Montreal, December 18, to inaugurate an organization campaign of all local building trades. Executives of all trades affiliated with the building trades department of the American Federation of Labor will journey from their various headquarters throughout Canada and the United States to participate in the campaign, which will also be attended by Tom Moore, president of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada. The campaign will open on the evening of December 18, with a mass meeting in L'Assistance Publique Hall, which will be under the auspices of District No. 5, of the Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers of America. There are approximately 20,000 members of different trade unions in Montreal, but there are also a large number of unorganized workers, and the campaign aims to bring them into the unions.

Officers of the Allied Trades and Labor Association state that delegates to attend the organization campaign will likely be selected at the next meeting of that body, to co-operate with President Tom Moore of the Trades and Labor Congress. There is at present in the city a Building Trades Council embracing all crafts engaged in the building industry, representatives from which will take part in the campaign.

IF JOBS INTERFERE HE WILL QUIT ONE.

"If the work as a director of the Canadian National Railways interferes with my position as president of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, I shall have to retire from one position or the other," said Mr. Tom Moore on his return from Geneva.

"As a director I will endeavor to harmonize the interests of the country with the interests of the workers on the railway. How nearly that ideal may be attained time will show."

"I am a firm believer in public ownership. I have full confidence that every enterprise that may be profitably under private ownership, may be run efficiently from every standpoint under public ownership."

UNLIMITED NUMBER FARMERS WILL COME

Tom Moore's Views on Canada's Immigration Problems.

"Emigration is the paramount question in European countries," said Tom Moore, president of the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress, in an interview on his return from the fourth annual International Labor Conference at Geneva. Mr. Moore was vice-chairman, and acting chairman, on account of the Italian chairman having to return to his country, of the committee on emigration and immigration which will seek to standardize statistics of all countries in the League of Nations.

"Emigration was the biggest subject before the conference. The two places to which these countries look as an outlet for their surplus population are Canada and Brazil.

"All countries showed anxiety to get the good will of Canada in this respect.

Qualified Farmers.

"There is undoubtedly a possibility of getting almost an unlimited number of qualified farmers if conditions can be made suitable to receive them. The desirability of increasing our population can be met by legitimate farmers, without attempting to offer inducement in any shape to industrial workers. Countries like Holland, Switzerland, Italy, Poland, Scandinavia, are making it a matter of state importance to devise schemes to aid suitable emigrants to re-establish themselves in other countries. The desire of all these countries is to reach an agreement whereby the surplus population can emigrate, and they are willing to go a long way in looking after their people. In return they want to be assured of reasonable opportunities and proper care."

Speaking of the Labor Party in England, Mr. Moore thought they had been as successful as they expected to be. While some sections thought Mr. Clynes should have been leader, in recognition of his services, it was generally realized that Ramsay MacDonald had great ability.

I look for rapid changes in Great Britain. Bonar Law's policy of tranquility is a joke that reminds them of Harding's attempt to bring the country back to normalcy.

State of Flux.

"Europe is in a state of flux. There is a reaction against what might be called the socialist or the general trend of democracy. This has become pronounced in Italy and Germany. It is the first attempt to supersede the old form of political government by industrial political government."

Comment was made upon the great army of unemployed in England. Four years after the war unemployment does were no way to deal with such a situation. "They will have to consider something more radical than unemployment insurance."

Mr. Moore commended highly the stand of Hon. Ernest Lapointe in opposing an amendment which left Canada out of the reduced number of nations being re-elected to the governing body. In winning out against the amendment, Mr. Lapointe had brought about the result that Canada had received fifth place in industrial importance among the nations.

GRANTS INJUNCTION AGAINST OFFICIALS

Heads of Miners' Body Ordered to Cease Activities.

Edmonton, Alta.—Late Tuesday afternoon, Chief Justice Harvey granted an injunction restraining officials of the United Mine Workers of America from further strike organization activities in the Edmonton field.

The application was made by J. F. Lymburn on behalf of the Great West Coal Company, Limited, versus the United Mine Workers of America. William Sherman and William Ryan, president and vice-president respectively, of District 18, U.M.W.A. It recited that miners at the Black Diamond mine held a meeting on Nov. 29, at which they decided against joining the union, but that defendants conspired with others to watch and beset the mine, approach, spur track, boarding house, and other places used by the miners in going about their work, in order to induce these men to leave their employment.

Says Murdoch Mistaken.

Calgary, Alta.—Officials of District 18 United Mine Workers of America did not violate the law when they called a strike in the Edmonton field, but called the strike because the operators refused to agree to the majority award of the Fisher conciliation board of February, 1920, according to Robert Livett, district representative of the union.

Mr. Livett said last night when shown a copy of Hon. James Murdoch's reply to the miners' wire that the officials had been a little too hasty in believing reports that Dominion police were engaged in checking strikers in the Edmonton field, as it had later developed that only Alberta provincial police were so engaged.

"Mr. Murdoch evidently did not consult his records closely enough or he would not have made such a hasty reply to our wire, pointing out that we had called a strike under conditions contrary to the law," said Mr. Livett.

BRITISH COLUMBIA LUMBER ACTIVITY

New Westminster, B.C.—Lumbering operations are active in all parts of the province at the present time, according to report received here. The Bucklin Lumber Company is entering on a logging operation, tapping a stand of 80,000,000 feet in the Upper Pitt Valley. The company hope to have an output of 75,000 feet a day.

Items of Interest From Overseas

LABOR DEPUTIES IN IRISH PARLIAMENT ATTACK SECRECY

Speaker Contends That Executions, as Carried Out, Are Lynch Law Without a Mob.

Dublin.—The Labor deputies in the Irish parliament have been making severe attacks on the government policy and the secrecy of the military trials and executions. Deputy Johnson, alluding to three executions today said: "This is not law but anarchy—lynch law once removed, lynch law without mob violence."

"Why all this secrecy? What is the difference between the military announcement in this case and the bit of paper pinned to the body of a man found in the gutter, stating that he was a spy executed by the Irish republican army?"

They had been asked to trust the military, military necessity had been pleaded, but military necessity had not availed, civil necessity came first. While men were being tried for their lives, their fellow citizens should know all the circumstances. He asked the ministry to change its policy and substitute publicity for secrecy. Secrecy suggested fear, and fear led to brutality and barbarism. Among the other Labor speakers, Deputy O'Connell warned the government that its policy of executions would bring it down and declared that no phrase was so misused as "the will of the people."

PARIS BAKERIES STAGE A STRIKE

Close Shops and Cease Production as Protest Against Official Refusal to Increase the Price of Bread.

Paris.—The majority of the bakeries in Paris and the suburbs promptly closed at noon today in compliance with the decision of the Master Bakers to cease the production of bread as a protest against the official refusal to increase the price two sous per kilo to one franc fifteen centimes. The government immediately took up the challenge and ordered a judicial enquiry with a view to the prosecution of the association.

BARBERS GET EGGS INSTEAD OF MONEY.

Berlin.—The Barbers' Union at Ochsenfurt (Bavaria) has decided that customers shall pay with eggs instead of money the charges agreed upon being: A shave, two eggs; a haircut, four eggs. The supply of quails thus received are to be pooled and sold at market.

LABOR LACKED ELECTION FUNDS

London, Eng.—In an article in the December number of the Labor Magazine, Arthur Henderson, the Labor leader, who was defeated in the recent general elections, says it is perfectly certain that had the Labor headquarters entered into the elections with £100,000 at its disposal, it would have secured an even greater success than it did. The attacks by the press on the proposed capital levy greatly helped the Labor candidates in the urban constituencies, he says, but in the rural constituencies, the press frightened away many votes that would otherwise have been given to the Labor candidates.

Despite the widespread campaign against Labor, its program was approved by 4,300,000 electors, and even this large vote, Mr. Henderson says, was not in his opinion, the high water mark of Labor's strength in the country.

The Sultan of Turkey is away from home and his 300 wives are running up bills on him.

Privileged.

Little Harry—"I wish I were you, uncle." Uncle (who has been invited to dinner)—"Why do you wish that, sonny?" Little Harry—"Because they don't punish you when you eat with your hands."

MINERS DECIDE CASE IS HOPELESS

British Federation Look For No Hope From the Bonar Law Government.

London.—The keynote of the deliberations of the meeting today of the Miners' Federation which considered the statement of Premier Bonar Law, December 2, to a deputation of miners, that the government was unable to take any action regarding their grievances, was one of absolute hopelessness in the situation. The majority of the federation voted that the government was unable to afford assistance and that the miners should not expect to greatly improve their lot by terminating the existing agreement. Termination of the agreement was possible as a last resort if the earnings did not improve. The deliberations of the federation have not concluded.

EMIGRANTS LEAVE STATES AND TAKE CAPITAL.

An interesting labor situation is developing in America. Owing to the immigration laws, which severely restrict the entrance of foreigners into the country, and to the confirmed habit of Italians and others leaving America and returning to their native land when they have made sufficient money for their purposes, labor is becoming very short. Wages are rising in consequence, and employers are reviewing the future with grave apprehensions.

NEW PRESIDENT OF CANADIAN NATIONAL MAKES STIRRING APPEAL FOR UNITY

Sir Henry Thornton Says "No Political Influence." All Pull Together and the National Railways Will Vie With Canadian Pacific.

In the course of a speech delivered at a banquet given in honor by the Montreal Board of Trade, Sir Henry Thornton, President of the Canadian National Railways, made a strong plea for unity of purpose and, in unmistakable language, disposed of the theory that there was to be political influence brought to bear on Railway administration. Salient points in Sir Henry's speech were:

It is with a feeling of gratitude that I rise, first, to thank Mr. Beatty for the generous and kindly words he has spoken with respect to the Canadian National Railways and myself, and, secondly, to thank you all for the cordial way in which you have received his statements. The fact that the president of the Canadian Pacific Railway has done me the honor of proposing my health is in itself a compliment which any railway man would appreciate, for we in the transportation industry regard the Canadian Pacific Railway as one of the best managed and most efficient railways.

If those of us who are charged with the responsibility of organizing into one entity and working as one unit the Canadian National Railways succeed in approaching the enviable record of the Canadian Pacific Railway, we shall have more than met our responsibilities.

We shall undoubtedly be rivals, and it is good that it should be so, but I feel certain that our rivalry will only reflect itself in an effort to furnish to the people of Canada adequate and efficient transportation at a reasonable cost.

The amalgamation of constituent railways now known as the Canadian National Railways has for the last two years shown an improving financial position, although the position is not today what any one of us would wish. The fact, however, that the position is improving shows that it will yield to treatment, and reflects much credit on those who, until the appointment of the present administration of the constituent properties.

I am not concerned with the events and circumstances which brought the Government of Canada to take over the National railway system. We are confronted by a condition, not a theory, and I must accept things as I find them.

There is a distinction, if not a difference between the Government railways of Canada and Government owned and operated railways elsewhere in Canada, as I understand the position, the Government is the only shareholder in these various properties, or at least sufficiently controls the voting power to appear as the single shareholder; and the Government has elected to administer the National railways in substantially the same way as though they were privately owned.

Much has been said about the dangers of political influence with our railways and this is at least one subject upon which I can speak with emphasis and authority. The existence of politicians seems to be the price which is paid for democratic forms of government; and generally speaking, there are two things in every country which, in the minds of at least 50 per cent. of the population, afford reasonable ground for complaint. One is the weather, and the other is the Government.

However all this may be, we all recognize that politicians do exist, and presumably because they exist they are essentially in our scheme of government, but let us emphatically understand now and for once and for all that there is to be no political interference, direct or indirect in the administration and working of the Canadian National Railways.

The Prime Minister has solemnly assured me that there is to be no political interference, and it was with this distinct understanding that I accepted the post which the Government has done me the honor to offer. And while I am on the subject let me go one step further. Constructive criticism, born of a desire to improve conditions, is helpful and will be welcomed. Other varieties which are intended to be destructive, may be ignored. Any individual who can tell

me how I can do my job better will be regarded as a friend. Every opportunity will be given for a full discussion before decisions are made, but made they must be with firmness, courage, and no undue waste of time. When once made, they must be maintained. Any other policy will reduce your railways to a spineless nuisance with no body to kick and soul to damn. Therefore the railway administration must be master in its own house, and in the interest of efficient management no interference of any sort can be tolerated. Decisions which will be disastrous to certain sections of the Dominion. I only hope that it will be possible to reduce decisions of this character to a negligible minimum. It must be obvious to anyone that, while recognizing in full sympathy the requirements of all sections of the Dominion, the National railways as a whole cannot be sacrificed to meet the wishes of any part of the Dominion. There are four factors which constitute the sum of successful railway administration: First, adequate net receipts. Second, the development of the property to meet the burdens of future traffic. Third, the relations between the railways and its men. Fourth, the relations between the railway and its clientele. The activity of any railway may be classified under one or the other of these heads. The first two are largely technical. Satisfactory net receipts involve a proper organization, capable and loyal officers, together with intelligent and enlightened administration. Given these things and barring accidents, satisfactory net earnings will almost surely result. The preparation of the property to meet the development of the country involves wisdom and forethought. Any railway which finds itself unable adequately to meet its traffic responsibilities is hindering the progress of the community which it serves. The relations between the company and its men involve chiefly the handling of labor, and in this respect government-worked railways have always been particularly vulnerable. I believe that every employe of every industry, irrespective of its character, should receive that minimum wage which will enable him to live in decency, in comfort, and under proper sanitary conditions, and to educate and bring up his children as self-respecting members of society. Any other policy makes for unrest, and if carried on long enough is likely to create political upheavals. The wage I have indicated represents the minimum to be received. How much greater the wage may be depends upon the condition of the industry, the value of the service rendered and other similar factors. Labor troubles usually disappear if they are caught when they are young; that is to say, when they are in a plastic condition. The prompt and just settlement of complaints is an effective guarantee of tranquility. If, on the other hand, attention is not given to such matters until they become festering sores, and both sides have delivered ultimatums, the solution becomes correspondingly difficult. It is my desire that all officers of the Canadian National Railways in their respective capacities should be easily accessible to their men, and should promptly deal with complaints. With respect to the public the same policy will be pursued as with respect to the men. Everything that is asked, of course, cannot be granted, but our most pressing problem is one of development and every effort will be made to meet the demands of the public in the promotion of increased traffic. It must, of course, be abundantly evident to all that your railways will be an increasing burden upon your pockets if freight rates are continuously lowered and wages continuously raised; and I take it that it is the desire of the people of Canada that the Canadian National Railways if the railways are to be regarded as a Christmas tree, and the chairman as a sort of disguised Santa Claus, however much I might personally like to play that role. We shall soon have to