

**TABLOID OF INTERNATIONAL LABOR NEWS**

**AUSTRALIA.**  
**Round Table Conference.**—H. H. Gregory is expressed by managers of industrial interests, as well as by certain representatives of labor, at the failure of the Round Table Conference of Capital and Labor at Sydney.

**ENGLAND.**  
**House Developments.**—The housing problem of London has led to the development of flat houses as in New York and Paris. Whereas, twenty years ago there were practically no flats in London, by 1911 there were 15,800 flat houses, with 122,500 separate families and a population of 470,000.

**INDIA.**  
**Factory Act.**—It is asserted that the Indian Factories Act, which has been in effect since 1911, is the direct cause of the decrease in accidents to factory workers, to safeguard whom more comprehensive precautions are now being taken under the Act, than ever before. The yearly average of 63 accidents, in 1911, had been reduced to 27 in 1920.

**NORWAY.**  
**Apartments for Employees.**—Certain vacant property in Christiania, belonging to the Norwegian Government, will be used by it for the erection of an apartment house for government employees. The building will comprise 53 three-to-four-room apartments.

**Arbitration Court Decisions.**—Norwegian employers state that the Compulsory Arbitration Court, by granting high scales of wages to workmen, in 1920, has made it prac-

tically impossible for Norwegian industries to compete with the industries of other countries.  
**Increase in Work Hours.**—In order to avoid discharging workmen, and in order to decrease unemployment in general, a number of concerns have decided to decrease the number of work hours per week.

**SCOTLAND.**  
**Engineers' Lockout.**—As a result of the engineers' lockout, which became effective from March 11, 1922, 35 per cent. of the engineers in the Federation shops of Edinburgh and Leith are totally unemployed, while 10 per cent. are working on short time varying from 30 hours per week to 5 days per fortnight.

**SOUTH AFRICA.**  
**Unemployment Committee.**—The Natal press is lauding the work of the Unemployment Committee which has now been active for more than four months but which is now facing dissolution, for want of funds. This committee has provided work, clothing and financial aid for the relief of the unemployed persons in the Durban district, and apprehension is expressed on account of the gravity of the conditions that will arise if the committee is forced to close down at the end of April.

**SPAIN.**  
**Housing at Madrid.**—In accordance with the Royal Decree of December 10, 1921, providing for governmental aid to societies formed for the purpose of building workmen's homes, one of the workmen's societies so formed has proposed that capital be raised among its members, and that

the government be asked to aid it in building societies in the building of substantial wooden dwellings for the housing of workmen.  
**SWITZERLAND.**  
**Unemployment.**—Federal, Cantonal and Municipal authorities are taking energetic steps in the way of making money allotments, stimulating building activities, substituting the use of Swiss materials, extending credit to the Federal Council for Federal enterprises, and establishing additional courses, in a united effort to relieve the conditions resulting from the unemployment of 150,550 persons, the approximate total at this time.

**MANITOBA LABOR MEMBERS ANGER THE TRADES COUNCIL**

Sweeping censure was passed upon members comprising the Labor group in the Manitoba legislature for the stand adopted during the past session of the house, in a lengthy report of the legislative committee of the Winnipeg Trades and Labor Council endorsed by the delegates recently.

"We regret to have to report that with the exception of George Palmer, M.L.A. for Dauphin, the Labor group appears to have considered the defeat of the Norris government of more importance to the workers than the championing of Labor legislation," the report stated. "With a little common sense management the passage of legislation of prime importance to labor could have been effected. They failed, however, because an attitude was adopted similar to that of an ordinary opposition—to defeat the government in disregard of the possible consequences. The groups which joined in the defeat of the government apparently had no idea as to what course they should pursue after expressing the adverse vote, and they are still at sea."

**No Doubt of Success.**  
 "No doubt all of these measures would have been passed and money provided for housing loans and rural credits had the government remained in power a little longer. The past session offered every opportunity to the Labor members to achieve results of great importance to the people they represented," the report

stated, adding that there had been as much thought and time devoted by the Labor members in planning how to obtain the adoption of Labor legislation as was given by C. A. Tanner, Kidean, in preparation of his speech of criticism of the provincial hydro-electric scheme, labor could have enjoyed the benefits of much better legislation.

The report concluded by expressing regret that practically no co-operation was manifest between representatives in the legislature and organization of labor. To remedy this condition it was recommended that an appeal be directed to the workers to support only men who would pledge themselves to truly represent labor.

In the discussion which followed several delegates maintained that the Labor group could have adopted no other attitude on the vote of non-confidence in the Norris administration.

**TORONTO LABOR SPEAKER ATTACKS PRESENT SYSTEM**

Winnipeg.—"The present system of capitalist society has been a complete failure. It is crumbling as the result of its decadence; with poverty, misery and degradation as the chief factors strengthening the indictment of the system," said J. W. Bruce, International union organizer, of Toronto, speaking at the services of the Labor church in Strand theatre Sunday. "Are the forces of Labor prepared to take over the reins of power when the change is brought about?" the speaker asked. "No, the working class is too seriously engaged in petty beekering amongst themselves to give a thought to the future," he said.

**NOTHING 'IMPOSSIBLE.'**  
 Twenty-five years ago there were no automobiles on the streets; a traction engine had to travel on the road with a man and a red flag in front. Motor travel, they said, was "impossible." Ten years ago flying was "impossible" and aviators were said to be mad. Now we have air service for mail and passengers. We are told that economic justice is also "impossible," that human nature has to be changed. Old fogies are always using the word "impossible." The word "impossible" has no meaning at all—in fact, there is no such word.—The International Steam Engineer.

**BIG BUILDING BOOM IS SHOWN IN MARCH FIGURES**

"On every side are indications that there will be a second volume of new construction for the year 1922. The volume of contemplated new work reported in Canada during March," according to McLean Building Reports, Limited, "amounted to \$23,773,100. Construction contracts awarded throughout the Dominion amounted to \$12,465,000, compared with \$10,718,300 in February and \$10,256,700 in March, 1921. Residential building accounted for 44.6 per cent. of the March total and amounted to \$5,500,800. Business buildings amounted to \$5,267,200, or 22 per cent. of the total; industrial buildings, \$2,600,000, or 11 per cent.; while public works and utilities \$2,007,000, or 8.5 per cent. A significant feature of the March construction record is the increase in business buildings over February.

"The construction industry has just passed through two extremely uncertain years, and ought to be hailed with satisfaction by those engaged in the industry, because of the fact that it holds promise of laying low the uncertainty of the past two years particularly, and in varying degrees the past seven years.

"The ending of this period of freaky markets and scattered demands points the way to a substantial resumption of activity throughout the industry. During the years of and immediately following the war, construction costs advanced tremendously, and much divergence in the cost basis of the various commodities and materials existed, but these costs are now approaching a new average level, higher than in 1914, but evidently constituting a new normal on which business may be soundly transacted. This new normal will likely gradually recede during the next decade or more and there will undoubtedly be frequent fluctuations during that period."

"While the level of construction costs will probably recede for ten or more years, this recession will not be sufficiently great to pay prospective owners to postpone contemplated projects in anticipation of this reduction in costs. In fact, the price level today is economically sound, and it will pay owners to proceed with construction."

**FAMILY BUDGET PLACED AT \$18.65**

Calgary, Alta.—The first sitting of the board of calculation appointed by the Federal Government to enquire into the coal strike in District 18, comprising the south-eastern British Columbia and Alberta fields, commenced here.

W. E. Knowles, K.C., of Moose Jaw, is chairman of the board, R. G. Drinnan, of Edmonton, represents the operators, and H. Ostlund, K.C., of Lethbridge, is acting for the miners.

Robert Levitt, the miners' president opened his case by a preliminary statement, during which he said if the miners accepted the operators' proposed new wage scale which calls for a general reduction of about 35 per cent., it would mean that their standard of living would be reduced much below that of 1915. He presented a budget amounting to \$1,865.61, which, he said, had been corroborated by Prof. Osbourne, of Columbia University, as necessary for a miners' average family consisting of himself, his wife, and three children.

"In asking for a wage scale that will enable us to purchase this budget," he said, "the mine workers do so in the belief that this is the absolute minimum upon which a man can support himself and his family in decency and health. To receive a lesser wage means a steady deterioration of the health and moral qualities of the family through lack of food and proper housing."

Mr. Levitt declared that no reduction of wages should be made. He contended that their demands were fair.

R. M. Young, commissioner of the Western Canada Coal Operators' Association, gave figures which purported to show that the wages of some of the mine workers had increased as much as 246 per cent. compared with the hourly rate of 1915. The operators, he said, submitted that the miners' demands meant the maintenance of peak, war-time rates, and ignored entirely the economical deflation which had occurred in other industries. The total of the increases since 1915 varied in different occupations from \$4 to \$5 a day for men and from \$2.26 to \$2.75 a day for boys.

**RAILROAD MEN TALK CONDITIONS**

Toronto.—Executives of the Canadian railroads will meet officials of Division No. 4, Railway Department of the American Federation of Labor, on Monday, in Montreal, to negotiate an agreement on hours of work and working conditions, Harry Kerwin, general organizer of the International Association of Machinists, and an official of the division, stated today. Division No. 4 has jurisdiction over all union shop workers on the railroads.

Wages, which are fixed at 77 cents an hour for mechanics, will not be changed, Mr. Kerwin said, explaining that the agreement stipulated that a party to the agreement, if it desired to reopen the agreement must give a 30-day notice of its intention and must state what clauses it desires to amend. The notice of the railroads to the division does not mention wages.

**Matters in Dispute.**  
 "Hours of work, which includes the overtime periods and working conditions, are what the railroads desire to change, and this will be opposed by representatives of the division," said Mr. Kerwin.

"The first agreement with the railroads fixed the working day at eight hours, after which overtime would be paid. The railroads desire now to change this, which, of course, would affect wages, since it would reduce overtime. Recently on account of unemployment we agreed to a working week of 48 hours. At many local points we found that subordinate officials who were forced to call upon mechanics to work a longer period, refused to pay them above the ordinary rates of pay instead of adhering to the principle of the agreement."

**Results of Canadian TYPEWRITING CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Held at Massey Hall April 7 For Championship of Canada

(15 Minutes' Copying)

NAME	Machine	Words	Errors	Net Words Per Minute
Fred Jarrett	Underwood	1738	4	113
Corinne Bourdon Doyle	Underwood	1670	12	103
Irma Wright	Underwood	1625	18	96
Alta Stevens	Underwood	1448	25	80
Bertha Schuman	Underwood	1430	29	76
Geraldine B. Graham	Underwood	1448	36	72
Hazel Wardell	Underwood	1412	34	71
Henri Boutin	Underwood	1340	27	71
Ada M. Davis	Underwood	1423	37	70
Jennie E. Wilson	Underwood	1379	33	70
Margaret Clements	Underwood	1434	40	69
Ada B. Dunk	Underwood	1139	11	68
Clarence Perry	Underwood	1590	58	67
Florence Cornock	Underwood	1277	29	66
Doris Russell	Underwood	1534	55	65
Margaret Robinson	Underwood	1126	18	64
Luella Sheratt	Underwood	1574	64	62
G. Jeanne Black	Underwood	1318	44	58
Leo David	Underwood	1309	34	57
Florence Burden	Remington	1419	56	57
Juanita Hopkins	Underwood	1434	59	56
Loretta Granfield	Underwood	1352	57	52
Persis A. Hebden	Underwood	1459	68	52
Agnes Copleston	Royal	1139	26	52
Vera McMillen	Underwood	1470	70	51
Ruby A. James	Royal	1331	57	50

and ten others.

**One Minute Championship**

NAME	Machine	Words	Errors	Net Words Per Minute
Corinne Doyle	Underwood	130 words,	no errors.	

**Inter-Provincial Championship**

NAME	Machine	Words	Errors	Net Words Per Minute
Alta K. Stevens (Toronto)	Underwood	1448	25	80
Bertha Schuman (Toronto)	Underwood	1430	29	76
Geraldine B. Graham (Toronto)	Underwood	1448	36	72
Hazel Wardell (Toronto)	Underwood	1412	34	71
Henri Boutin (Montreal)	Underwood	1340	27	71

and twenty-one others.

**City Championship**

NAME	Machine	Words	Errors	Net Words Per Minute
Irma Wright	Underwood	1625	18	96
Alta Stevens	Underwood	1448	25	80
Bertha Schuman	Underwood	1430	29	76

and eighteen others.

**Novice Championship**

NAME	Machine	Words	Errors	Net Words Per Minute
Margaret Robinson (Shaw's Riverdale School, Toronto)	Underwood	1126	18	64
Winnifred M. Perry (Shaw's Danforth School, Toronto)	Underwood	1178	33	57
Grace Murray (Park Business College, Hamilton)	Underwood	1381	56	55

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