

# Labor News From Coast to Coast

## Our Overseas Column

### Wages in Germany

About Two-Thirds of What They Were Before the War

American working men, protected by the tariff against cheap foreign labor, may be interested to know that according to Samuel Montagu and Co.'s review of the foreign exchanges, the average weekly wage of skilled workmen in Germany was \$4.55 gold marks, or \$3.29. The July rate was virtually the same as in 1913, when the figure was \$4.35. Unskilled workmen, on an average, earn 27.24 gold marks per week, against 24 gold marks in 1913. As gold has lost about one-third of its purchasing power since 1913, it would appear that present wages in Germany, calculated in gold, are about two-thirds of what they were before the war.

### Australia Sends Back Immigrants

Melbourne, Australia.—The French steamer Cephes recently sailed for Marseilles, France, with 100 Greeks and Jugoslavs, who were brought to Australia, among others, a couple of months ago and were unable to obtain employment. Many of them were destitute and unable to speak English.

The announcement of the Cephes's departure last November for Australia with 1,500 Greeks and Jugoslavs provoked an outcry in the Australian press, and in the House of Assembly on the subject of unrestricted emigration of Southern Europeans. A country-wide agitation against this immigration was aroused and some French and Italian steamship lines were asked to take back numbers of Southern Europeans who had been beguiled to Australia by glowing advertisements.

### 1,000,000 Children Starve in Russia

Berlin, Germany.—Russian Communist newspapers now openly admit that the number of starving children in Southern Russia alone totals more than three-quarters of a million. Further admissions show that the Government is unable to cope with the situation. The Investigating Commission, which submitted its report in the recent convention held at Kharkov on March 12, finds the Government is giving partial aid to more than 90,000. Those who aided receive a plate of thin soup and two slices of black bread as a daily ration.

The Province of Kharkov, which was formerly one of Russia's most fertile grain districts, reports 400,000 starving children, with no hope of relief in sight, since the Moscow Government states that the financial condition of the Soviet Government prevents it aiding the starving Odessa, from which port the So-

### Work on Viaduct to Start Soon

Work on the viaduct will be commenced soon, U. K. Gillen of the Toronto Terminals Company informed A. H. Ben Miller, Chairman of the Unemployment Committee. Engineers and draughtsmen have been at work all winter and a start will be made at Spadina avenue, Mr. Gillen said. Nothing can be done in the way of tearing down buildings on the new right of way until the committee in charge of purchasing the property has completed its work. This would be several weeks at least, Mr. Gillen stated.

### Urges Generosity Toward Aging Men

That many industrial firms would not employ a man if he were over 45 years of age and that consequently there was an urgent need on the part of the Federal Government for a generous attitude toward an old-age pensions scheme, was the opinion expressed by James Stephenson, Secretary of the Old-Age Pensions Committee of the Trades and Labor Council.

### 8-Hour Day at Owen Sound, Ont.

Owen Sound, Ont.—The establishment of an eight-hour day for those employed by the Board of Works for the city is the latest move in civic affairs here. At the same time the minimum rate of wages to be paid to those employed by the Board of Works will be 35 cents an hour, and the minimum rate 25 cents an hour, which is the same rate as that which prevailed last year. The Council appointed Thomas Willoughby as assistant to Road Commissioner M. McDowall. Willoughby resigned his seat on the Council in order to accept the position.

Winnipeg, Man.—The report of the special committee dealing with the Workmen's Compensation Act suggests that the minimum allowance for temporary disability be reduced from \$15 a week to \$12.50, and also that provision be made for vocational training of injured workmen for another occupation.

### German Communist Trial Is Proceeding

Berlin.—Four weeks' proceedings in the Leipzig communist trial constitute a record for Germany, where the judicial authorities work quickly. The trial is not ended yet and the results have been meagre.

One interesting fact brought out is the rivalry existing between Prussian and Wurttemberg police each seeking to obtain the large reward offered for detection and conviction of guilty workers. This rivalry went so far that on one occasion the Prussian police arrested Wurttemberg people in Berlin. They drew their revolvers in the street in front of a Berlin hospital and violence almost resulted.

Another interesting point is that the German prosecutor has definite reason to believe that one of the accused men, Skobelevsky, is the Russian general, Gorietz, but he has not the evidence to prove it.

### Spain Defeated

The armies of Imperialist Spain have now been withdrawn to a strip of the coast of Morocco, and Abd-el-Krim, rebel and leader of the oppressed native tribes, is master of almost the whole of the so-called "Spanish zone."

Even within the narrow line between the Spanish outposts and the sea, revolt has been growing. For over a month the Anjera tribe, who occupy the hills just across the Straits of Gibraltar, have been in revolt against the brutalities of Spanish militarism.

### Soviet May Offer to Pay Czarist Debts

Paris, France.—A report is current in Paris that M. Krassin, Soviet Ambassador, brings an offer by Moscow to recognize the Czarist Russian debts. According to this report the Soviet is willing to take this step in return for loans to the Bolshevik Government. The motive ascribed is the financial difficulty in which the Moscow regime finds itself.

Color is lent to the rumor by the fact that M. Krassin is accompanied by M. Taratouta and M. Brageensky, Soviet financial experts, who are described as not pure Communists, but financiers under the old regime now working for the Soviets.

Such a move by Moscow to obtain credits would be in line with the recommendations M. Krassin is said to have made to the Soviet Government.

### Coal Operators End Agreements

Calgary, Alta.—The Western Canada Coal Operators' Association at a meeting here gave notice to the United Mine Workers of America on March 31 terminating their present agreement on September 30. Since the resumption of operations in October, after the strike, the coal mining industry of the Province had been badly hit, many of the mines working only one or two days. The present cost of production in the union mines it is stated, has been largely responsible for the great falling off in business.

### Oshawa Paid Out

Oshawa, Ont.—Oshawa paid out approximately \$34,000 in relief work this winter, according to a report made recently by the City Treasurer. This work commenced in October and is composed chiefly of sewer work. Last month reached a high total when some \$500 was spent in relief for food and coal for invalids or those unable to work.

### Work Prospects Look Brighter

Tilsonburg.—W. B. Brooks of Toronto, President of the Royal Oil Corporation, made the announcement here that the ground would be broken the middle of April on the 50-acre site adjoining the Wabash and C. P. R. Railways for their big oil refinery. The first two units, costing \$250,000, will be completed in the early fall and it is planned to have a million-dollar plant in operation within two years' time. The crude oil will be transported across Lake Erie from the company's oil fields located in Louisiana.

### N.Y. Dress Goods Strike Is Ended

New York.—Representatives of 30,000 dress goods workers announced that a stoppage of work in 2,000 dress goods establishments had been ended when terms submitted by the industry's jobbers were accepted.

### Discuss Building of Lambton Bridge

Toronto, Ont.—Following the presentation of the report of the Finance Committee in which amongst other things, it was recommended that until the committee is furnished with full costs of the proposed Lambton bridge, including contribution of interested municipalities, and also land damages, they could not report as to the financing of same, considerable discussion took place.

"The council of last year passed a resolution favoring project and instructing the Finance Committee to bring in a report, and that should be done. This matter is no new thing, and this is just a way of side-tracking it, and the need of the bridge is urgent," said Mr. Tier.

As for land damages, Reeve Tier pointed out that, although there would be some, he did not think they would amount to very much.

Deputy Reeve R. Price, of Etobicoke, stated that the proposed bridge would be 48 feet wide, and would cost about \$450,000, of which the county's share would be \$90,000.

The following resolution was passed: "That G. Kellam, chairman of the Finance Committee, together with Reeves Tier and W. M. Graham, be permitted to secure the necessary information relating to the cost of the Lambton high level bridge, and present to the Finance Committee for their consideration, and for them to report at the June session."

### Will Secure Better Sanitary Conditions

Men and women employed in the garment industry are discussing the question of sanitary conditions in workshops. The officers of the union gave out recently that the Toronto Cloak Manufacturers' Association would co-operate with union members in establishing within a very short time a board of control, composed of representatives of these associations, to bring about more sanitary workshops and eliminate fire traps. B. A. Sutin, who is at the head of the movement, is in hopes of making a decided change for the benefit of employees and public alike.

### Must Take Vocational Course

Typographical Union apprentices, according to a new plan, must take a vocational training course, approved by the Typographical Union, in addition to the regular shop apprenticeship.

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### End Unemployment by Buying Locally

Permanent prosperity will perch upon Canada when Canadians become convinced that in buying Canadian products at every opportunity they are not only performing a patriotic service and contributing to good times throughout the country, but that they are getting goods that are as well made, serviceable and attractive as any imported articles of the same nature.

There is still ingrained in the minds of many people covering all sections of the wide Dominion a feeling that imported goods are superior to goods of domestic manufacture.

Canadians in First Place  
This belief is largely a survival from the earliest days when many Canadian products were naturally somewhat crude, and did not measure up in quality with the imported article. But those days are of the past, and Canadians can truthfully lay claim at the present time to being the producers of goods in most lines of manufacture that are equal, if not superior, to anything that can be imported.

To End Unemployment  
If the Canadian consumer will ask for and insist upon getting the Canadian-made article, it will mean that the whole country will reap the benefit. It will mean that the unemployment situation in Canada will cease to exist. It will mean that our own people, who will stay in Canada instead of elsewhere to seek employment, will be more self-supporting and less dependent on other countries. It will mean prosperity for all in the Land of the Maple Leaf.

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