

Labor News From Coast to Coast

"OUR OVERSEAS COLUMN"

AUSTRIA

Unemployment—Since June, 1922, the upward trend in unemployment in Austria, varying from 92,789, at the close of that month, to 126,734, at the beginning of this Spring, has been decidedly unfavorable.

CHILE

Labor Disputes—A strike of the Valparaiso lightermen, stevedores and seamen, and a lockout of 10,000 building trades mechanics, by the building contractors, are examples of a general restlessness of Chilean employers and workers which is largely due, it is said, to the gradual shrinkage in the purchasing power of the peso.

COLUMBIA

Bureau of Labor—Decree No. 537, of April 14, 1924, provides that there shall be created in the Ministry of Industries a section which shall be known as the "Bureau of Labor," which shall be charged with the strict carrying out of the provisions of Law 83 of 1923, and having jurisdiction in all matters related with Labor legislation and with strikes.

COSTA RICA

Skilled Labor Shortage—Increased building activities, due to the replacing of structure destroyed by earthquakes, have caused a scarcity of skilled labor, particularly in the building trades, so that wages have increased within the last two months by about one half.

CUBA

Immigration—Of the total number of immigrants entering the port of Antilla during the quarter ended March 31st, 1924, 5,653, or over ninety-six per cent., were made up of Haitian laborers, recruited in the Republic of Haiti for the Cuban sugar mills.

DENMARK

Unemployment—During March, 1924 the number of unemployed persons in Denmark decreased from 57,600 to 49,954.

Seamen's Wage Agreement—It is reported that an agreement, which will remain effective until April 1st, 1925, has been reached between the shipowners and the mates' and marine engineers' organizations, under which the latter will receive a wage increase of 5 per cent., together with certain advantages regarding termination of service, etc.

ENGLAND

Shipyard Workers' Strike Settled—The shipyard workers of Southampton, who returned to work, and the lockout of the Employers' Federation has been withdrawn. This action terminates a strike disorder, the consequences of which had spread into Scotland.

Lost Working Days—From January 1st to March 31st, 1924, over 2,000,000 working days were lost, as compared with 1,300,000 for the same period of the year 1923.

Packing-case Makers Strike—Demanding 2d. per hour more than the present wages, which employers stated that they could not accede to, 300 packing-case makers declared a strike on May 2nd. Five firms are involved, and shippers to the United States report a slowing up of shipments because of the strike.

Says Big Number Without Jobs Here

Many Come From Lumber Districts Looking for Employment

St. John, N.B.—At the office of the Employment Service of Canada, at 85½ Prince William Street, a large number of able-bodied men were seated on the benches in the waiting room hoping for some word of employment for them.

William J. Ryan, superintendent of the local office, was busy trying to find employment for the hundreds of applicants who wish work. Superintendent Ryan explained that there were at the present time between 700 and 800 men out of employment in the city and said his office was deluged daily with men looking for work. The applicants ranged from the laborer to some real good mechanics, the latter including painters, carpenters and experts in other lines of trade. At present the only work in progress is the erection of the Stella Maria church at East St. John, the building of a wing to the Protestant Orphan Home, on the Manawagonish Road and a few other small jobs. The entire lot would not employ a hundred men. There is a trench job in the County at which country residents are being employed and the employment situation at this date is much worse than it was at the correspond-

FRANCE

Insurance—Under the laws in force in Alsace-Lorraine, laborers are insured, under State supervision, against retirement on account of age. The premiums are paid largely by the employers, although the workers are assessed for a portion thereof.

Increase Dressmakers' Wage Scale—Leading Paris dressmakers have observed the agreement made with their employees last October, by raising the latter's wages in relation to the increased cost of living.

Labor Shortage—The Ministry of Labor reports that at the close of April, 1924, there was a shortage of labor in agriculture, the metal industry, and the building trades.

Strike of Shoe Workers—Demanding increases in wages of from ten to forty per cent., workers in the shoe factories at Romans (Drome) have declared a general strike.

FINLAND

Proposed New Emigration Law—At a recent meeting of the Emigration Committee of Finland, proposals were drafted for a new emigration law, upholding the freedom of leaving the country but containing new restrictions and regulations looking to the general welfare of the emigrants both before and after leaving the fatherland.

GERMANY

Increase of Land Tillage—The high cost of vegetables and fruit has encouraged large numbers of the city population of Frankfurt to grow their own produce, and a notable revival of interest in city gardening and small farming has resulted.

Unemployment—Unemployment is reported as decreasing in the Stuttgart, Baden and Wurttemberg districts. There is an increasing demand for farm hands, and industries, in general, are said to be in need of skilled workers of all kinds.

German-Austrian Unemployment Agreement—Effective March 3rd, 1924 the German-Austrian Reciprocal Unemployment Agreement of 1921 was supplemented by terms which authorize unemployment relief to be granted by each country to unemployed nationals of the other country residing permanently within its boundaries, provided such unemployed persons are entitled to relief under the laws of the country in which they reside.

IRISH FREE STATE

Unemployment—President Cosgrave in a recent speech in the Dail, is quoted as saying that there were 80,000 unemployed persons in the Irish Free State, most of whom belonged to the agricultural labor class.

POLAND

Unemployment—During the first eight days of April, 1924, unemployment in Poland increased from 113,000 to 115,000 persons, but since that time the increase is stated, by the Government, to have been very small.

SWITZERLAND

Labor Treaty With Italy—During the emigration conference, the Swiss delegation discussed with the Italian Government the conclusion of a labor treaty.

ing time last year, he said. There is a new wing to be built to the St. John Infirmary which will give some employment.

The harbor work is almost nil, there are two steamers in port loading cargo as well as a couple of sailing schooners, a steamer is due to load refined sugar and this work will all be completed in the course of a couple of days.

Many Outdoors—Among the hundreds who are seeking employment in the city are many men who journey to St. John from outside points, a large number coming from lumbering districts. They say that they had been informed that there was work to be obtained in St. John. When told that there was no employment here for them, they state that they will leave the city and make their way to Montreal, where they believe there is plenty of employment.

It is pointed out that there would be plenty of city improvements which should employ a large number of men, but until a bond issue is put through by the Common Council this work cannot take place.

Unemployment Cost Workers Huge Sum

Quebec, Que.—At a meeting of unemployed men held recently under the auspices of the National Catholic Unions, the question of unemployment

as it affects this city, was discussed at some length.

Mr. M. O. Gagnon, who presided over the meeting, presented a report of the approaches made to the municipal authorities. He said that the aldermen had manifested their sympathy with the cause of the men but were unable to contribute in a practical manner toward finding a solution for the difficulty.

Mr. J. E. A. Pin, gave surprising figures to show the loss that was sustained by the men out of work and by the commerce of the city because of unemployment. The day laborers had lost \$7,500 a day in wages, or a total amount of \$900,000 since the unemployment situation became acute, while the shoe workers had lost \$250,000.

Several other speakers also delivered addresses, all of them advocating an immediate effort to solve the problem of finding work for the men.

Farmers Finding It Difficult to Get Help

Are Offering Good Wages for Skilled Men, Yet Many Workers are Seeking Jobs in Cities

While hundreds of unemployed are registered for work in the city, scores of farmers are seeking experienced farm help, but very few of those jobs are being filled.

Pay is Good

A recent bulletin dealing with farm wages paid in Ontario contained the information that from \$29 to \$49 a month, according to experience, was the prevailing scale. Board was included. In the rural districts of this section the majority of farmers are offering what the Ontario report terms the maximum, and some are paying as high as \$59 per month for skilled labor. The wage scale, it can readily be seen, is not to blame for the lack of response. The same difficulty in securing help is being experienced again this year, and a serious loss to farmers is threatened.

Fifty on File

At the office of the Dominion immigration inspector it was learned that at the present time there are fifty applications for farm help on file. For some time past it has been impossible to satisfy the demand, even though scores of immigrants have been placed. The present arrangement is that persons emigrating to Canada and who seek farm employment, are advised to get in touch with the immigration inspector upon arrival. Farmers on the other hand are requested to make known their wants to this office, and during the year scores of new arrivals have been sent to the farms. There is a shortage, however at present, and the great majority of those who have flocked to the populated centers appear to be satisfied to remain in the city and be idle rather than work on the farm.

Labor Opposes Return to Old Plan

Allied Trades Council Declares Emphatically Against Garbage Collection by Contract System

Ottawa, Ont.—Organized labor as represented by the Allied Trades and Labor Association is most emphatically opposed to any return by the city to garbage collection by contract, and to the tactics which it was

alleged certain interested parties, including pensioned off, civic employees are adopting to create a public sentiment in favor of a change to the contract system.

A strong resolution to this effect was adopted at a recent meeting of the Allied Trades and Labor Council, on the motion of President Tom Moore of the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress, which will be presented to the Board of Control by the municipal committee at once.

The subject was brought up by Delegate W. P. Jennings, who told of the statement made by Mr. D. Roy Kennedy, on behalf of the garbage contractors, to the Board of Control, to the effect that if they were given the contract, they would be able to save the taxpayers \$20,000 per annum. Delegate Jennings, alleged that the contractors had in mind to effect this saving by putting the rates of wages paid to the garbage collectors, to thirty-five cents, the same rate, as paid to coal drivers. He asserted that ex-civic employees, enjoying pensions from the city, were conducting house to house canvassing in behalf of the contractors, and that it was also apparent certain of the controllers were in favor of returning to the old order of things.

Tom Moore Opposed

President Tom Moore declared that the city would get a better garbage collection under municipal control, than by contract, and he was very much opposed to any change being made.

Delegate P. M. Draper felt that any attempt to effect a saving to the city, by reducing the wage rates of those engaged in such a job as the collection of garbage, should be fought.

"If these men get fifty-eight and sixty cents an hour for this evil smelling job, they earn every cent of it. In fact, \$1.90 per hour wouldn't be too much," said the delegate. "If there are any complaints to be made about the garbage collection the officials should be responsible and not the employees who I know personally are a hard working crew and do their work with commendable promptitude."

Delegate Patrick Green was also opposed to any change from the present system, and said it was unthinkable that the city should consider reverting to the contract system, in view of the conditions, which had prevailed when it was in vogue before. He found it peculiar that it was the old contractors who were after the job again, and that there was much lobbying in their behalf at the city hall. He knew personally a pensioned off civic official who was making himself very active in the matter.

There was considerable discussion by Delegates Draper, McDowell, Lewis, Cain and Cunningham re the employment of civic labor through the government employment bureau, the contention being that regular employees in the summer should be given the preference by the city for work available in the winter, whether it was of the relief variety or not.

CHILDREN ON THE STAGE

Elfen stage acts featuring children below the legal age for employment have been withdrawn as the result of a recent court decision in Pennsylvania. In this case the State Department of Labor and Industry, of which Royal Meeker is secretary, presented a theatrical manager who presented two children in a so-called "singing, dancing and educational act" for violation of the child-labor law. A fine of \$100 and costs was imposed.

Charter Restoration Coming, Says Green

U.S. Official Optimistic Regarding Future in Nova Scotia District

Montreal, Que.—Nova Scotia miners of District 24, will in all probability have their charter and their autonomy restored before the end of the year, in the opinion of William Green, secretary of the United Mine Workers of America, who stopped in Montreal recently to attend the session of the executive council of the American Federation of Labor held last month.

Just as soon as stable conditions are established and the principles of the United Mine Workers of America are accepted and recognized, the autonomy of the district will be restored and it will be given every right of self government, the secretary said. "In my judgement that will be some time this year."

New Chief Chosen for Service Office

W. S. Dobbs Will Have Charge of Canada Employment Bureau

Toronto, Ont.—Vacant for several months, the position of Superintendent of the Toronto office of the Employment Service of Canada has been filled by the Provincial Government. It was announced recently, by the appointment of W. S. Dobbs, formerly on the staff of the Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment, but better known because of his connection with the Amputations Club. Mr. Dobbs will assume his duties at once.

Previous Officials

The position has been vacant since W. E. Meath accepted a place upon the Federal Appeal Board of Pensions. Mr. Meath succeeded Rev. J. A. Miller, and while he held the position he brought the service to a high state of efficiency, rendering satisfaction to employers and workmen generally. Mr. Hudson followed him, performing the duties while the Provincial Government chose a successor from the host of applicants.

In assuming the position, Mr. Dobbs will be faced with an acute unemployment problem for some weeks at least, since there is nothing in the shape of work in sight to meet the demands from hundreds of men for employment. At no time during the past year have conditions been so difficult for the staff of the office and has there been less work in sight.



DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR
SPADINA CRESCENT, TORONTO
Hon. Dr. Forbes Goffrey, Minister
Jas. H. H. Ballantyne
Deputy Minister

THE STATIONARY & HOISTING ENGINEERS' BOARD
J. M. Brown, Chairman
THE FACTORY INSPECTION BRANCH
Jas. T. Burke, Chief Inspector
THE STEAM BOILER BRANCH
D. M. McNeill, Chief Inspector
THE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE OF CANADA

H. C. Hudson, Prov. Superintendent
OTTAWA ZONE OFFICE
129 Queen St. Phone Q. 3700
G. S. Ford, Superintendent

News From the Various Trades

Building Workers

The unification is now being planned of the 115,000 organized workers in the building trade. It is hoped to bring them all into the Building Trades Council of the American Fed-

eration of Labor. At present the building trades workers are divided into two rival central bodies, and many unions have refrained from joining either of these. This centralizing action has been accelerated by the failure of the different unions when negotiating separately to maintain a standardized wage scale for the industry.

CANADA CEMENT COMPANY LIMITED

SALES OFFICES

Montreal
Toronto

Winnipeg
Calgary

Canadian Car and Foundry Co., Limited

Passenger, Freight and General Service Cars of every description.

307 CRAIG STREET W.

MONTREAL

CANADIAN PAPERBOARD CO., Ltd.

Manufacturers of ALL GRADES OF PAPERBOARDS

Head Office: No. 2 Selwyn St., Montreal, P.Q. Main 7182, Private Exchange. Mills at Campbellford, Ont.; Frankford, Ont. and Montreal, P.Q.

DOMINION PAINT WORKS, Limited

Factory, Walkerville, Canada
PAINTS, VARNISHES, ENAMELS

OFFICES: Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg, Regina, Calgary, Edmonton, Quebec, St. John, Halifax, Vancouver.

CONSOLIDATED ASBESTOS LIMITED

Mines at Thetford Mines, Robertsonville and Coleraine, Que. EXECUTIVE OFFICES—Canada Cement Co. Building, Phillips Square MONTREAL—CANADA

ANGLIN NORCROSS, Limited

CONTRACTING ENGINEERS and BUILDERS

Our operations include Banks, Public Buildings, Office Buildings, Re-inforced Concrete Construction, Industrial Plants, Factories, Warehouses, Schools, etc.

65 VICTORIA STREET

MONTREAL

Telephones: Main 1352-2686

CUNNINGHAM and WELLS, Limited

Cartage Contractors
Office: 31 COMMON STREET, MONTREAL.

The MacFARLANE SHOE, Limited

THE FAMILY FRIEND

61 De NORMANVILLE STREET
MONTREAL, Quebec

GRENVILLE CRUSHED ROCK CO. Limited

CRUSHED STONE FOR ROADS AND CONCRETE WORK
MERRICKVILLE ONTARIO

FOR QUALITY NOTHING SURPASSES

BOSWELL'S

ALES AND PORTER

QUEBEC

Made in Canada's First Brewery
Founded 1868.

When Opportunity Comes

How much money have you "put by" at the present time?

Enough to pay a doctor's bill? Enough to make a payment on a home should you be offered a bargain? Enough to take advantage of a sudden business opportunity?

Ordinary opportunities, these, yet how many are ready for tomorrow's big chance—tomorrow's emergency? The man with a good bank balance is always ready for the unexpected.

Keep ever before you the importance to yourself of saving money regularly and persistently.

THE ROYAL BANK OF CANADA

Total Resources Over \$500,000,000
Over 680 Branches