

Maritime Conference Will Decide About Labor Bureaux

Little Sympathy With Proposal to Keep Them in Operation
Shown by Premier Foster but Opposition Members Urge Continuation of Service.

A conference of representatives of the governments of the Maritime Provinces will soon be held to consider the question of continuing the Labor Bureaux, which the Federal Department of Labor have asked the provinces to take over and operate on a basis whereby the provinces and the Dominion will each pay half of the expense. There are six of the bureaux located in New Brunswick, two of which were opened as a temporary measure through representation of the D.S.C.R. on the North Shore.

Mr. Tilley, speaking in Committee on Supply on the item of Labor Bureaux, said he judged from the amount of \$1,000 to be voted that it was not the intention of the government to meet the Dominion half way in the proposition of maintaining the Labor Bureaux on a basis of equal sharing of the expense. The bureaux were of general benefit to the country, and the offer was a generous one on the part of the Dominion.

Mr. King said he did not recognize any great advantage in the Labor Bureaux. In connection with his coal mining operations at Minto he had had occasion to correspond with the Moncton bureau. Twice in February he had communicated with that bureau in an attempt to get miners and did not even get a reply.

Hon. Mr. Murray said he wanted to know what the Department of Labor at Ottawa was for. The Dominion had made this offer merely for the purpose of getting the provinces to assume the burden. The Federal authorities should not try to shoulder off responsibility.

Hon. Mr. Robinson said he had received requests from the City Council, labor organizations and the Board of Trade at Moncton, to the effect that at least the Moncton bureau be continued. He was sorry to hear the member for Queens (King) say what he had, as the Moncton bureau was generally recognized as having competent officials and being of value. All C. N. R. employees were obtained through that bureau, the patronage system having been dispensed with.

Mr. Smith (Carleton) asked if the hon. member was willing the province should bear half the cost.

Hon. Mr. Robinson said that he was.

Carleton County Vacancy

(Continued from page eight.)
ing after recess, wanted to know why the item of Contingencies to the Public Works Department had increased from \$1,000 to \$3,000.

Hon. Mr. Veniot said it was made up on the basis of last year's expenses. Postage stamps alone cost over \$3,000.

Mr. Smith (Carleton) said that it seemed to be gaining ground. He noticed that 13 stenographers were employed, but not all of them whole time.

Hon. Mr. Veniot said that the department was not over-manned, considering the fact that \$2,000,000 was expended last year. Stenographers were paid \$600 and \$700 per year.

Mr. Tilley—"That is not enough."
Hon. Mr. Veniot told Mr. Sutton that the permanent ones were granted a bonus of \$100 each last year.

The School Inspectors.

Hon. Mr. Foster, on the item of \$4,500 for the travelling expenses of school inspectors, said the salaries paid were originally \$1,500, but the Government had increased them to \$2,000. Last year it was pointed out to him that the costs of travelling had greatly increased, and an extra allowance was asked for. He had placed in the estimates \$300 for each of the inspectors for the year 1919 and a like amount for the year 1920. Next session legislation would be considered for increasing the amount.

Mr. Sutton said the allowance to be voted would give the inspectors a salary of \$2,300 each, which was less than brakemen received on the train. He thought the House should vote an extra \$500 instead of \$300. The inspectors were now poorly paid, and they would be seeking employment elsewhere unless given more generous treatment.

Hon. Mr. Foster said he had promised them \$300 extra for the two years, and was hopeful that the amount might be increased next year.

Mr. Sutton urged the committee to add \$1,000 to the item and curtail along other lines.

Mr. Hunter thought the school inspectors should have \$2,500 a year. Mr. Crockett hoped the government could adopt the suggestion of the member for Carleton; otherwise some of the inspectors might leave the service.

Hon. Mr. Robinson said the school inspectors' salaries would be \$2,300, and there were hundreds of men in Moncton who were receiving more than that and had no travelling to do and not as much responsibility. He thought the House might vote an increase.

Mr. Sutton said that in 1919 Woodstock assessed itself \$7,000 for schools while this year the warrant was \$20,000. He would stand for direct taxation to the extent of \$1,600 if it were given to the inspectors.

Hon. Mr. Foster said the item could pass, and if they decided on an increase it could be provided for in the Supplementary Estimates. The inspectors were entitled to generous treatment, but the increases might be made gradually.

Mr. Sutton said he was willing to compromise and have an increase of \$200 for the year 1920 only.

Mr. Sweeney said the inspectors were good men and he believed some of them would be lost to the province unless they were better paid. Their salaries were not as large as he would like to see.

Mr. Baxter, on the item of \$100 for the Text Book Committee, said that, in view of the talk that had been heard concerning Myers' History many would like to know who composed that body, and what were their duties.

Hon. Mr. Foster said that some of the members of the committee reside

in the Department of Labor was considered, it must be shifted with some other department. As in Ontario, Agriculture might be the department. He would like to see another member for Moncton city and that member a Labor man.

Mr. Smith (Albert) endorsed what had been said with regard to the Moncton Bureau. It would be a mistake for the province not to maintain these bureaux. If the hon. member for Moncton (Robinson) were in earnest, he should use his influence to preserve the Moncton Bureau.

Hon. Mr. Robinson said that he did not like the sound of one renegade made by the hon. member for Albert (Smith) and he wanted him to know that he was in earnest and that he did not put forward ideas of this kind except in earnest. He regretted that his influence was not greater than it was.

Hon. Mr. Foster said that the establishment of these labor bureaux had resulted from a conference of Premiers held in Ottawa some two years before.

At that time the Premiers of the three Maritime Provinces had said that they could not guarantee that their province would continue the bureaux. The cost in New Brunswick was \$24,000 per year. Half of that amount would be \$12,000, which would be a considerable item in provincial finances and not easily provided. The cost would increase, for the municipalities were paying the office rent at present, and the province supplying the furniture. It was probable that the municipalities would refuse to continue, and before long the annual cost would go up to \$30,000. The expense was too rich for the blood of this province. He believed that they could be reorganized, but he would not be willing to take them over and assume all responsibility of reorganization and reduction in expenses. If it should be possible to run these bureaux without the lavish expenditure indulged in at present, he would not be unwilling to make the attempt. In that case, he would communicate with the Government of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island with a view toward having a Maritime conference held upon this subject.

The committee reported progress.

In other provinces. He promised to secure the information and submit it to the House.

VICTIM OF ROBBERS.

Braintree, Mass., April 16.—Fred Slater and Morrill Company, died early today at the Quincy Hospital, the second victim of the band of robbers who yesterday stole the \$30,000 payroll of the company. Alessandro Barandelli, a guard, who was with the payroll when the robbers opened fire, was instantly killed.

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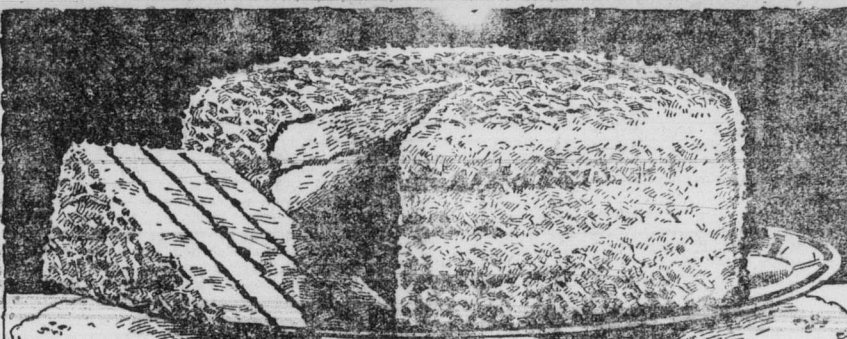
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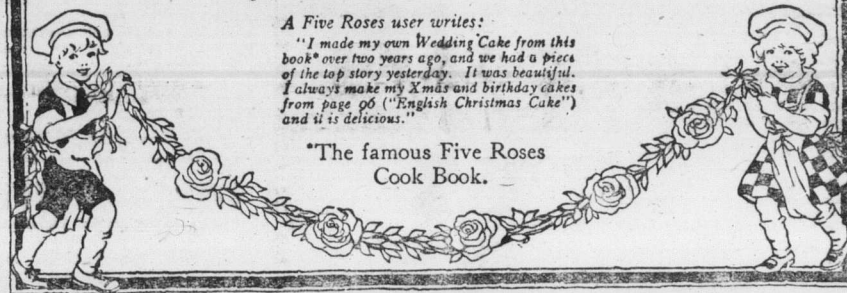
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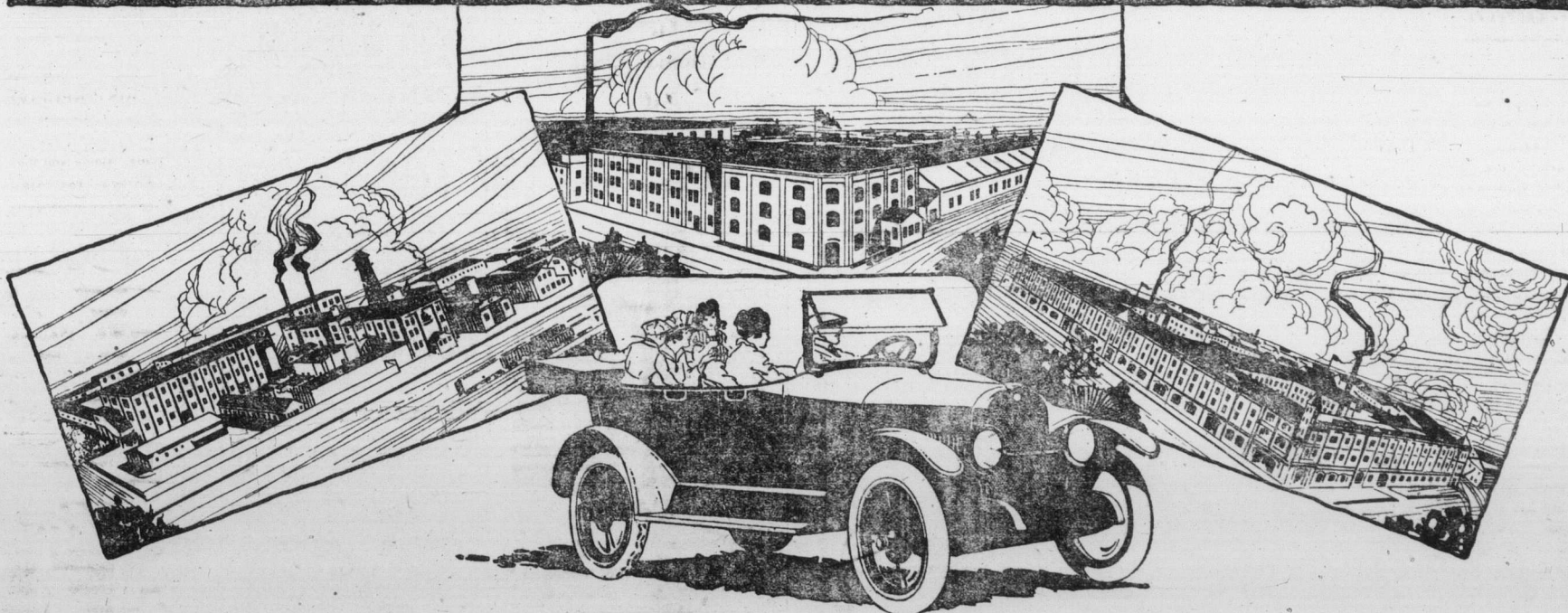
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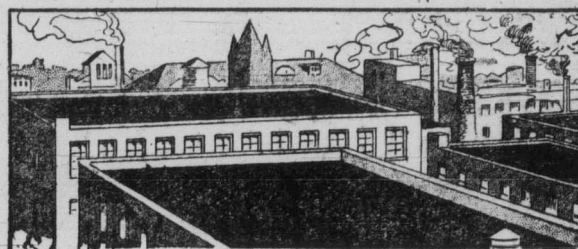
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