

## Miners' Representative Disagrees With Nova Scotia Award

### BIG WAGE REDUCTION IS ORDERED BY RAILWAY BOARD

Chicago.—Over the strong protest of three labor representatives on the U.S. Railroad Labor Board, a new wage cut of seven cents an hour for railway shop mechanics and nine cents for freight carmen, cutting 400,000 shopmen approximately \$60,000,000 a year was ordered by the board.

The new wage reduction brought an estimated saving of \$59,869,347 annually to the railroads, following on the heels of a \$50,000,000 cut in the wages of maintenance of way laborers last week. The shop crafts decision becomes effective July 1, the same date as last week's order.

**No Human Consideration.**  
The minority report of the labor members pointedly stated that the majority decision was made with no consideration of human needs, and charges that it fails to carry out the function of the board to set a "just and reasonable wage."

The reduction for the mechanics averaged a little more than 8 per cent. all machinists, boiler-makers, blacksmiths, sheet metal workers, electrical workers, car men (except freight carmen), moulders, engine tenders and core-makers and the regular and helper apprentices receiving a cut of 7 cents an hour. Freight carmen, commonly known as "car knockers" and the object for some of the heaviest assaults by the roads in their battle for lower wages, were cut 9 cents.

The larger cut was ordered for the "car knockers" because the board said it believed that their work did not require the same skilled service as other branches of railroad work.

Car cleaners were cut 5 cents an hour, or 40 cents a day.

### TAFT'S DECISION ON STRIKE DAMAGE

Washington.—Labor organizations although unincorporated, may be prosecuted for violations of the Sherman Anti-Trust Law, the United States Supreme Court held today in an opinion delivered by Chief Justice Taft. The decision came in the celebrated Coronado coal case, involving strikes in Arkansas in 1919 as a result of which the United Mine Workers of America were found guilty of restraint of interstate commerce and damages of \$200,000 were awarded against the organization by the district court which damages were trebled as provided under the anti-trust law.

The Supreme Court, in a careful analysis of the evidence presented in the case found that the facts incident to the strike were not convincing that its object was to restrain interstate commerce.

### FURTHER PROTEST AGAINST WAGE CUTS

Toronto.—With a feeling uppermost in their mind that the United States railway labor board will make further wage reductions affecting every branch of the railway service which has not as yet been affected by orders already issued, the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen again declared against wage cuts or elimination of time and a half for overtime. It was the opinion of the convention that it could not voice its protest too strongly against the drastic manner in which the labor board had already applied the pruning knife in reducing the payrolls of the various railways.

The following were elected on the committee of appeals, a new addition to the staff of the Grand Lodge:  
Eastern territory—W. S. Ross, Conemaugh, Penna., and U. D. Hartman, Richmond, Ind.  
Southern territory—R. C. Smith, Evansville, Ind., and W. R. Anderson, Tampa, Fla.  
Western territory—E. O. Duggan, Chidron, Neb., and W. E. Pearsall,

### PASS RESOLUTION ON IMMIGRATION

Toronto.—The International Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen adopted a resolution protesting against the encouragement by the governments of Canada and the United States and transportation companies of immigration from foreign countries, particularly the Asiatic countries.

Recommendation that steps be taken looking to amalgamation of the Switchmen's Union and the Brotherhood of Trainmen was adopted. In this connection President Lee was empowered to take the necessary steps to bring about the merger of both organizations, but the convention declared against the restoration of employees who left the service of several railways and the organization during the switchmen's strike two years ago.

The delegates strongly protested against the action of railways in Canada and the United States promoting men during the taking of a strike vote and decided in future that when members of the brotherhood accept official positions pending the taking of a strike ballot, their membership should be cancelled.

**Against U.S. Board Award.**  
Dealing with the recent report of the United States Railway Labor Board, which made an order for a reduction of wages affecting over 400,000 railway employees, the brotherhood by resolution declared itself emphatically against any further reductions in wages or the elimination of time and one half for overtime.

A protest against the refusal of the Central Railroad of New Jersey to comply with the decision of the United States Railway Labor Board, through which it has refused to pay approximately \$75,000 due trainmen under the award, was referred to President Lee with instructions to collect the amount.

A complaint from employees of the Southern Pacific Railway against being compelled to ride on the top of freight trains, was approved and the matter ordered to be brought to the attention of the Interstate Commerce Commission.

Another resolution endorsed favored the adoption by the brotherhood of a broader political policy and a more active participation in political discussion.

With the election of J. H. McQuade, of Milwaukee, as tenth vice-president the grand lodge staff of officers was completed.

### BRICKLAYERS LOCKED OUT

London.—Bricklayers employed by iron and steel concerns a Southport are locked out. The issue at stake is whether the men shall surrender the 2d. an hour "hot and dirty" pay which they have been receiving. They have already lost 2d. an hour under the terms of the Wages and Conditions Council.

### IRISH LABOUR'S AIMS

The Irish Labour Party, in preparation for the election, issues a statement of its aims.

It urges that the taxes on tea and sugar shall be greatly reduced before any reduction takes place in the taxation of the rich.

Other principles include compulsory tillage of 20 per cent. of arable land, a national scheme for the housing of workers, nationalization of railways and canals, and pensions to mothers very without support for children under 16.

Two thousand members of the transport workers' union, meeting in Newbridge, decided to give their first and second preferences to the Labour candidates, and subsequent votes accorded to individual opinions.

### SAYS MADE HONEST EFFORT TO AGREE WITH THE SCOTT BOARD

#### CALLS ATTENTION TO MANY UNDESIRABLE CONDITIONS

"We are of the opinion that the McKinnon award rates, with a reduction of 20 per cent. in the wages of all employees, with a minimum of \$2.00 per day for fatal men over the age of 18 years, should be adopted."

The above is the conclusion in regard to wages of the majority report of the Scott Board of Conciliation which investigated the dispute between the British Empire Steel Corporation, its subsidiaries, the Dominion Coal Company, the Nova Scotia Steel and Coal Company and the Acadia Coal Company, and their employees. The board, which was appointed by Hon. James Murdoch, Minister of Labor, after a policy of "strike on the job" had been declared in some of the Nova Scotia mines, consisted of D'Arcy Scott, Ottawa, chairman; John E. Moore, St. John, N.B., representing the employers, and I. D. Macdougall, of Inverness, N.S., representing the men.

**The Minority Report.**  
In the minority report, Mr. Macdougall says that he made an honest and consistent effort to agree with the other members of the board upon general wage rates.

"I have consistently and, I think, irrefutably, taken the stand that in periods of depression such as we are unfortunately experiencing, dividends should be sacrificed before the worker should be compelled to accept less than living wages. And I think I may be pardoned when in this connection I place a higher valuation upon the standard of living, the happiness, the contentment, of our Nova Scotia miners, than I do upon dividends for the British Empire Corporation."

Mr. Macdougall deals with the matters in dispute under similar headings to those in the majority report. He recommends that a large number of company tenements should be destroyed as obviously unfit for human dwellings. "The domestic surroundings and sanitary conditions of the miners' homes were found, with few exceptions, to be deplorable," he says, and he goes on to state that in certain districts the water supply is inadequate. He draws attention to the fact that some of the miners are required to walk three miles to the working face, and recommends that "riding rakes" be provided to convey the men to and fro. Electric lamps should be introduced in all the collieries. Mr. Macdougall agrees with the majority report in advocating the establishment of cooperative stores by the miners. He recommends that the wage rates in the Sydney mines district conform with the general wage rate, and that the bonus in Pictou county, based on increased cost of living, be continued.

Mr. Macdougall's conclusion is as follows:  
"In respect to the British Empire Corporation it would seem that the people of Nova Scotia, particularly the miners, may well exclaim, 'efficiency, what crimes have been committed in thy name!'"

The majority report was signed by Mr. Scott and Mr. Moore. Mr. Macdougall failed to agree with his associates, mainly in the matter of wages, and submitted a minority report. In the minority report he recommends that the present minimum daily rate be increased from \$2.85 to \$3.45, and that the higher daily rates should be reduced 10 per cent. below what they were under the Montreal agreement. He also recommends that the contract rates at present in force be increased 18 1/2 per cent., making them 13 1/2 per cent. below the contract rates of the Montreal agreement, or 1 per cent. below those of the McKinnon award, to be retroactive to January 1. (Continued on Page 2.)

### TRADE UNIONS TO HAVE CANDIDATES

Winnipeg.—Dissatisfied with the labor representation in the last Manitoba legislature, Winnipeg trade unionists have decided to enter two candidates carrying "union cards" in the forthcoming provincial contest.

At an open meeting of members of the local trade union movement in the Labor Temple, a report of the special agenda committee, recommending political initiative by trade unionists, was adopted. The division on the motion indicated only four individuals in opposition to political participation.

The meeting was featured by some straight talking, and although the debate at times became acrimonious, emanating from persons charged with purposely trying to disrupt the meeting, the discussion in the main was characterized by frank, sincere and constructive opinions.

The various speakers were strong in their condemnation of the past attitude of indifference and apathy by the International movement collectively. The note struck was one of decided political militancy and the importance of re-orientating the industrial and political interests of the workers was generally stressed.

Members of the Labour group in the house were bitterly assailed by J. Winning. The speaker branded these members as "opportunists" and that in considering the defeat of the government of more importance than the initiation of labor legislation, "the alleged working class representatives had betrayed the trust bestowed in them. What you are asked to do," he said, "is select candidates from men who have stood the acid test in the movement and who command your confidence."

G. Reynolds also taxed the Labor group with failure to represent organized workers. "In spite of the 10 Labor men in the legislature," he said, "there had been less beneficial labor legislation passed during the past three years than was sponsored by the old political parties." He charged this state of affairs to apathy shown by the International labor movement in the political field during the past.

A committee of 15 was appointed to carry out details of the resolution with instructions to bring in a report at a meeting to be called shortly for endorsement of the candidates. This committee will meet in the Labor Temple at 8 o'clock tonight.

The candidates for the trade union slate will be selected by a referendum vote of the membership of the International locals supporting the idea of trade union political action.

### RENT ACT PROPOSAL

London.—Glasgow Council agreed yesterday to appoint a Special Committee to consider a Labour proposal to petition the Government to continue the Rent Act for five years from 1923.

### RAILROAD WORKERS PLAN JOINT ACTION ON WAGE CUTS

Cincinnati.—Representatives of 2,000,000 organized railroad workers have gathered for the opening tomorrow of a conference at which plans will be made for joint action in combatting wage reductions—probably providing for the taking of a nationwide strike vote.

Labor chiefs declared this conference would be the beginning of a "finish" fight against wage reductions by the United States Labor Board. They said the support of the American Federation of Labor was assured, and that President Samuel Gompers would attend the meeting.

Added importance was given to the conference by the announcement that John L. Lewis, international president of the United Mine Workers of America, would be present. It is understood that the miners, who are now conducting a nation-wide coal strike, will support any action taken by the railroad leaders, and press their proposal for a railroad and miners' alliance.

The "big four" brotherhoods, representing the 500,000 train service men, will not take part in the conference, but will have observers present.

"We have a big programme and we hope to see it through," said William H. Johnson, president of the International Association of Machinists. "We will probably get down to business tomorrow and discuss the general situation before going into action. The conference will probably last for several days."

R. M. Jewell, president of the Railway Employees' Department of the American Federation of Labor, declined to make any statement other than that a strike vote probably would result from the meeting.

Canvass of the labor leaders showed that the feeling against reductions was intense, and many of them declared they did not believe that a strike could be avoided. They said the time had come for labor's big protest against wage slashing by the labor board.

The vanguard of the delegates to the American Federation of Labor convention began arriving today, and it was announced that the building department of the federation would begin its annual meeting on Wednesday. There is unusual interest in this gathering this year, as the New York and Chicago building trades situations are to be discussed.

### EFFECTIVE MEASURE TO SECURE OBSERVANCE FAIR WAGE POLICY

On the recommendation of the minister of labor, more effective measures have been taken by order-in-council to secure the observance of the fair wage policy. This policy is based on a resolution adopted by the house of commons in 1900 declaring that all government contracts should contain such labor conditions as will prevent abuses through subletting and secure the payment of fair wages.

In conformity with this policy, a fair wage clause has since 1900 been inserted in government forms of contracts. Examination has shown, however, that the labor conditions inserted in various respects. The present order-in-council emphasizes the desirability that the labor provisions in question should be as nearly uniform in terms and administration as possible.

To that end the government has approved two sets of labor conditions for insertion in government contracts. The term "current wages" and the term "hours of labor fixed by the custom of the trade" in the fair wage clause are defined in the order-in-council as meaning respectively the standard rate of wages and the hours of labor either recognized by signed agreements between employers and workmen in the district from which the labor required is necessarily drawn.

### THREE HUNDRED NOW OUT OF WORK

Ottawa's registered unemployed are down to 306. Last week jobs were found for over 200, many of whom went on railway construction on the Canadian Pacific Railway at Timiskaming and on Canadian National Railways in the northern part of the province. The wages were \$2.75 a day, with a charge of \$6.25 a week for board. There is no change in the domestic demand, which far exceeds the supply locally available. This week's prospects of work are reported fair, so that registered unemployed will shrink to an even smaller number.

### GRANT BOARD TO INVERNESS MINERS

Halifax, N.S.—A board of conciliation has been granted the employees of the coal mines of Inverness County, Cape Breton, to examine into wage and working conditions, by the department of labor, according to articles here.

The company interests have appointed Gordon McGregor Mitchell, Halifax, as their representative, and Isaac MacDougall, Inverness, has been named by the miners. Mr. MacDougall represented the miners of the British Empire Steel Corporation on the Scott Board of Conciliation, which heard the differences between the corporation and its coal mine employees. The miners of Inverness recently applied for a conciliation board following a decrease in their wages.

## Items of Interest from Overseas

### STRENGTHENS EXTREMISTS

London.—Arthur Henderson, M.P., Labor leader, says the extremists among employers in the United Kingdom may think this an opportune time to curb the power of the trade unions and teach the workers their place, but their success in this direction will only have the effect of strengthening the influence of the extremists in the working class movement.

J. R. Clynes, M.P., president of the National Union of General Workers, in a speech recently said: "I do not plead for forgiveness, but merely for justice, when I ask all to remember that in the great disputes in recent years the workers have been on the defensive, resisting lower wage and conditions for the worse. I do not say that alterations should not be made, but I think they might best be made if we had the necessary national organization."

### PROTEST HONOR

London.—The King's birthday knighthood conferred on Hon. H. N. Barwell, premier of South Australia, has exasperated the South Australian state labor conference in consequence of Premier Barwell's recent advocacy of the introduction of colored labor

### FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AUSTRALIAN RESOURCES.

The labor conference today passed a resolution to protest at the honor, which is described as an "insult to white Australia."

### REDUCTION IN WAGES OR TAMPERING WITH HARDLY WON STANDARD CONDITIONS.

Bulwell branch of the N.U.R. warns the head office that no reduction of the basic rates will be tolerated.

### NEARLY STARVING

Nuneaton.—Acute distress prevails in the Warwickshire coalfield consequent upon big reductions in wages and short time.

### RAILWAYMEN'S WARNING

London.—The projected attack on the basic wages of the railwaymen is evoking protests from the union branches.

### RENT ACT PROPOSAL

London.—Glasgow Council agreed yesterday to appoint a Special Committee to consider a Labour proposal to petition the Government to continue the Rent Act for five years from 1923.

### THREE HUNDRED NOW OUT OF WORK

Ottawa's registered unemployed are down to 306. Last week jobs were found for over 200, many of whom went on railway construction on the Canadian Pacific Railway at Timiskaming and on Canadian National Railways in the northern part of the province. The wages were \$2.75 a day, with a charge of \$6.25 a week for board. There is no change in the domestic demand, which far exceeds the supply locally available. This week's prospects of work are reported fair, so that registered unemployed will shrink to an even smaller number.

### GRANT BOARD TO INVERNESS MINERS

Halifax, N.S.—A board of conciliation has been granted the employees of the coal mines of Inverness County, Cape Breton, to examine into wage and working conditions, by the department of labor, according to articles here.

### RAILROAD WORKERS PLAN JOINT ACTION ON WAGE CUTS

Cincinnati.—Representatives of 2,000,000 organized railroad workers have gathered for the opening tomorrow of a conference at which plans will be made for joint action in combatting wage reductions—probably providing for the taking of a nationwide strike vote.