

# Labor News From Coast to Coast

## Overseas News

### International Labor News

#### CANADA

**Toronto Construction Projects**—The value of building permits issued in Toronto during the first eight months of this year, was \$23,107,262, as compared with \$14,476,548 during the first eight months of the year.

#### CHILE

**Nitrate Workers Scare**—The nitrate industry has been experiencing considerable difficulty of late in obtaining a sufficient labor supply to maintain capacity production.

#### CZECHO-SLOVAKIA

**Trade Unions**—In a special bulletin on the Czecho-Slovak trade unions, issued by the State Statistical Office, it is stated that in 1924 the Czecho-Slovak unions reached a total of 467, with 1,113,425 members in unions of Czech and Slovak organizations, 345,429 members in the German unions, and 210,611 in the Communistic trade unions—a total membership of 1,669,465.

**Unemployment**—Unplaced applicants for work are reported as steadily increasing, the last monthly total having advanced, in thirty days, from 42,036 to 45,402.

#### DENMARK

**New Dairy Wage Agreement**—Denmark's two existing dairy workers' associations and the Danish Mutual Dairy Association's organization (the owners) have entered into a new agreement regarding wages and working conditions affecting dairy workers.

**Unemployment**—Increased unemployment is being noted in Denmark, with the tobacco trade, earth and cement industries, masons, builders and textile workers suffering the greatest unemployment hardships.

#### ENGLAND

**Strike Efforts Fail**—The recent efforts of British seamen in various ports of the British Empire to bring about a general strike were generally unsuccessful.

#### PERU

**Chinese Immigration**—A significant immigration of Chinese is reported to be taking place in Peru, with rejected immigrants of previous landings being permitted to return for further consideration as to entry.

#### SOUTH AFRICA

**Wage and Economic Commission**—The wage and economic commission, which has recently been formed, has started taking evidence at Pretoria and will continue to do so at various industrial centres in the Union.

### Election Is Lesson to Laborites

Melbourne, Australia.—All the Ministers of the Bruce Government have been re-elected with the exception of Senator R. V. Wilson, whose fate is doubtful at present.

It is estimated that 90 per cent. of the electors voted. This leaves 300,000 electors whose votes were not polled and who are liable to prosecution under the new compulsory voting law.

It is thought that as a result of the election the Labor Party will endeavor to sever all connection with the extremists in the party at the next Federal Labor Conference.

### Quebec Shoe Workers on Strike

Quebec.—The Catholic National Union of Shoe Workers declared a strike and fifteen factories are affected.

On November 1, the Shoe Manufacturers' Association of Quebec gave notice to their employees that new rules were to be put in effect after November 15. These included the absolute right of the manufacturers to exercise control on every workman, ten-hour days and new conditions of work in all factories.

The decision of the unions came as a surprise, and the reason for the strike is said to be that the workmen were ready to agree to the new regulations on the sole condition that their unions would be recognized. To this the manufacturers refused to agree.

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### International Congress of Bakers

The following resolutions, submitted by the Russian Union of Workers in the Food and Drink Trades, were under consideration at the International Congress of Journeymen Bakers which was opened at Copenhagen on September 20th. Though supported by Denmark, Russia and Sweden, they were finally turned down.

"After due investigation into Sunday and Night work in the Bakery Trade, the Third congress states that during the time which has elapsed since the Second congress, no improvement has taken place in that direction. On the contrary, in several countries the capitalists have been successful in forcing Sunday and night work upon more upon the Bakery workers."

The Congress declares that the International Labor Office of the League of Nations, whose object is to obscure the class consciousness of the workers, is unable to settle the dispute regarding night and Sunday work in bakeries, or to secure improvement in the lot of the Bakery workers."

Another proposal, also submitted by the Russian union in which the congress calls upon "all organizations to watch carefully any attempts on the part of the capitalists to introduce Sunday or night work into bakeries again, and to combat with all its power all the efforts which may be made to fix working hours before 6 a. m. or after 10 p. m." was carried unanimously.

The Convention which was accepted at the Seventh International Labor Conference at Geneva concerning work in bakeries and which is to be submitted shortly to the Governments of the Member States, was considered. A resolution was passed stating that the convention does not satisfy the bakers' claims in every respect.

"The Convention provides for seven hours' rest and the beginning of work at 5 a. m. in special exceptional cases at 4 a. m. The Congress has, nevertheless, decided to call upon the organizations of the journeymen bakers to demand the ratification of the Convention. The delegates were guided by the consideration that the convention allows the chief claims of the journeymen bakers, i. e. the abolition of the accursed night work, and that according to the statutes of the International Labor organization there shall be no change for the worse in the present legislation when the convention is ratified."

The congress urgently appeals to all the journeymen bakers organizations to do their utmost for the ratification.

This resolution was carried unanimously (including the votes of the Russians).

### Compulsory Voting Law Disregarded

Melbourne, Australia.—In the general election recently, when compulsory voting was in force for the first time in an Australian Federal election, there were 224,000 electors who did not record their votes. There were 3,229,000 voters registered prior to the election and the total number polled was 3,005,000.

Under the compulsory voting act, which was passed by the Australian Parliament at its last session, any elector who fails to record his vote in an election is liable to a fine of £2 unless a valid reason for not voting can be given.

### Australian Seamen Are Arrested

Sydney, N. S.—A sensation was created here recently with the arrest of Tom Walsh, president, and Jacob Johanneson, secretary of the Australian Seamen's Union, following a finding of the Deportation Board appointed by the Commonwealth Government. Both men are now held at Carden Island naval depot in Sydney harbor, pending their shipment out of the country. Counsel for the two men



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has applied to the Supreme Court for a writ of habeas corpus.

Arrest of Walsh and Johanneson was made at their homes recently by Commonwealth police. Both men were prominently associated with the recent strike of British seamen and have been tormenting industrial trouble for many years. Their deportation was the most prominent question before the country in the recent Federal elections. As a result of the vote Prime Minister Bruce has acted. Destination of the deportees is unknown. The Government offers passages to the wives and children of Walsh and Johanneson, and sustenance. Walsh married Adella Pankhurst and has a family of six children.

### Labor to Contest 'Peg' Mayoralty

Winnipeg, Man.—Jubilant over winning two of four seats in Winnipeg in the Federal election, Labor has placed P. G. Tipping in the mayoralty field against Colonel Webb, present incumbent. But an analysis of the ballots cast in the city last month show that but twenty-eight per cent of the total votes cast went to Labor. These four Winnipeg constituencies take in considerable suburban territory. On the basis of but twenty-eight per cent. of the city vote, it is conceded that Labor cannot hope to elect a mayor of Winnipeg this year, but the fight will be hot.

### Strike a Snag Jap Negotiations

Tokio, Japan.—The negotiations in Moscow between representatives of Japan and the Soviet for a commercial agreement and regarding the concessions to be granted Japan in Saghalien have struck a snag. Indications are the negotiations will be strung out indefinitely.

### New Machinery for the Farms

Labor saving machinery has been displacing farm workers at a rapid rate in the last generation. A study of power on farms by C. D. Kinsman, agricultural engineer attached to the U. S. department of agriculture shows that about 19,000,000 more workers would be required on the present farms if only the tool power of 1850 were available. These millions have been turned into the great pool of undifferentiated labor from which the employing class draws its working forces.

Agriculture in the United States now uses practically as much primary power as all manufacturing and central station plants combined. Kinsman estimates the amount of power used annually on farms as close to 16,000,000,000 horse power hours. The cost of this power under 1924 conditions is about \$3,000,000,000.

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