

# LABOR NEWS

## Weekly News Letter

### CANADIAN GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES AFFILIATE WITH ORGANIZED LABOR

New Association Will be Conducted on Similar Lines to National Federation of Civil Servants in the United States—Charter Has Been Issued.

Civil servants at Ottawa have at last taken the plunge. Last week, following a series of meetings and conferences, a representative group of civil servants made application to the Canadian Trades and Labor Congress for a trade union charter. On Tuesday a charter was issued and the new trade union will be known as the "Association of Federal Employees of Ottawa and Labor Movement."

It does not interfere with the Civil Service Federation, said Mr. Moore, and does not carry any obligations for sympathetic action in industrial disputes.

In the United States some years ago the Federal civil servants organized themselves into a trade union with affiliation to the American Federation of Labor and the new organization in Canada is along the same lines, except that it is not a purely national organization with affiliation to the Canadian Trades and Labor Congress.

A central office will undoubtedly be established as a headquarters for the federated civil servants of Canada.

The only bar to membership otherwise will be in the case of heads of departments or deputy ministers in whose power lies the hiring or the semi-confidential relationship which the Civil Service enjoys at present with the Government.

The new and somewhat unexpected move is the outcome of the strong sentiment which was voiced by a large number of the delegates at the Civil Service Federation Convention held last August, which was favorable to at once joining up the Civil Service with the organized labor movement.

### AGRICULTURE TO BE CONSIDERED AT NEXT CONFERENCE.

Unless anything unforeseen occurs, the 1921 conference of the International Labor Office will be held in Geneva. The most important question dealt with at the conference will be agriculture, which will be considered from various points of view, i.e. hours of work, unemployment, employment of women and children, and so on. Other questions which will be considered are: the prohibition of white lead in painting, the prevention of anthrax, and emigration. The governing body may perhaps add still other subjects later on.

### ONTARIO'S MINISTER OF MINES GETS ACCLAMATION.

Hon. Harry Mills, Ontario Minister of Mines, was declared elected by acclamation to a seat in the Provincial House for the constituency of Fort William, rendered vacant by his elevation to Cabinet rank. There was no opposition, and returning Chairman of the Ontario Mining Association, Hon. J. A. P. Haydon, declared Mills elected by acclamation.

### FARMERS ARE FACING SHORTAGE OF LABOR.

With the haying season close at hand, the farmers are facing a shortage of farm labor. J. R. Johnson, of the Ontario Employment Bureau for Carleton, Russell and Lanark counties, says that the applications for work on farms is above the average, but that the number who sign up for this work is below normal. He attributes the cause to the unsettled conditions. He stated to The Labor Press representative that they were sending away about 15 men each week, and that many men sign up and later change their mind and do not go to the farm, leaving the farmer short-handed. The average run of wages is from \$10 to \$15 per month with board, and in some cases \$3 a day has been offered.

### ELECTRICAL WORKERS SEEK BETTER WAGES.

In the hope of obtaining uniform wages and working conditions throughout Ontario, a conference of local unions in the Province of Ontario of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers was held at Toronto on Saturday, when it was decided to place two organizers in the province. At present the average rate for 40 cents an hour in Ottawa to \$1.25 an hour in Windsor.

### Congress Head Has Always Consistently Advocated Public Ownership Public Utilities

President Tom Moore, the official head of the organized workers in Canada, in taking a stand on the side of public ownership, is being criticized not only by those outside the ranks of the movement, of which he is the head, but also by a certain group of individuals inside the trade union movement, who, apparently, are unimpressed by the policies the organized workers themselves formulate.

### PAINTERS' CAMPAIGN IN ONTARIO.

The Painters and Decorators are perfecting plans for a widespread organization throughout the Province of Ontario. John M. Hopkins is travelling over Ontario organizing new locals in the cities and larger towns.

### ANOTHER INDEPENDENT UNION JOINS INTERNATIONAL

Fish handlers at Halifax, who have been operating an independent local union in that city have, thrown in their lot with the International trade union movement and have joined the International Longshoremen's Association of America. This action was decided at a mass meeting on Saturday last. After listening to an address by the A. F. of L. organizer, Wm. Varley, who had been in the city for some time, the local has a membership of about two hundred.

### SUGAR PRICES WILL GO HIGHER.

As a result of the lapsing of the restrictions upon the export of refined sugar from Canada, hundreds of tons are being shipped to the United States, with the consequence that higher prices are almost certain to obtain in the near future, it is said.

### Russell Appeal To Privy Council Is Dismissed

In the appeal of the Winnipeg strike leaders to the Privy Council, the petition of Russell was dismissed without the respondents being called on Wednesday.

### STEEL MERGER ATTEMPTING TO CRUSH LABOR

The new steel merger, known as the British Empire Steel Trust, despite all announcements to the effect that Labor would be given a voice in its administration, is waging war on the organized workers in many parts of Canada.

### Winnipeg Defence Committee to Assist O. B. U.

All doubts as to the close affiliation of the One Big Union and the Winnipeg Defence Committee are dispelled by unity during the past week at Winnipeg.

### Why Flirt?

"The Independent Labor Party is committed to the cause of electric radial development under public ownership, and will stand for that principle unflinchingly. Hence we support Premier Drury in his efforts to secure information of the fullest facts in carrying out the projects contemplated."

### DRURY'S HYDRO PROPOSAL DELIBERATE STOPPAGE AND RETARDING OF WORK OF HYDRO ELECTRIC COMMISSION

President Tom Moore, of Canadian Trades and Labor Congress, Delineates Organized Labor's Stand on the Hydro Radial Development—No "Stalling" Commission Wanted.

A delineation by President Tom Moore of the Canadian Trades and Labor Congress, of his attitude in taking issue with the Ontario Government's action, in withholding sanction for the Hydro-Electric Commission to proceed with the purchase and development of Hydro radials throughout Ontario, occupied the major portion of the meeting of Ottawa Allied Trades and Labor Council, last Friday night.

Those who see in this conflict of opinion between the organized labor movement and Premier Drury and his Government, a possible disruption of the solidarity of the work of Farmer and Labor in progressive government are doomed to disappointment. Both members of this progressive party are big enough to state clearly and fearlessly their own views and yet maintain a solid front on the general programme of social advancement.

### ANTI-LOADING LAW OPPOSED BY LABOR

Ottawa Central Labor Body Voices Strenuous Objection.

Any attempt to reintroduce the war-time anti-loading law will be strenuously opposed by Labor. This was amply illustrated at the last meeting of the Ottawa Allied Trades and Labor Association, when a resolution was unanimously adopted protesting against the proposal to reintroduce the law by the Chief Constable of the Dominion of Canada.

### W. S. MINERS' LEADER CREATES SENSATION

Claims N. S. Gov't Backed Worthless Mine.

Strong denunciation of the Murray government formed the chief features of the labor meeting held at Gloucester Bay last week, addressed by the labor candidate, and Sibby Barrett and J. R. MacLachlan. Barrett sprung a sensation when he exposed the Fenwick mine scandal, by which Hon. Mr. Armstrong pulled over to Hance Logan, the well-known Liberal, \$200,000 to operate a mine, which both Robert Baxter and Barrett had inspected and declared to be a regular gold brick.

### WORK NOT RESUMING ON WELAND CANAL

A report was sent out by one of the press associations this week from St. Catharines stating that work on the Welland Canal was to be resumed on the eight-hour day basis. As Labor is vitally interested in this project the Canadian Labor Press got in touch with the Labor Department and we were informed that work was absolutely no truth that so far as that department was in the dispatch.

### A. F. OF L. HAS PERMANENT ORGANIZER IN EAST.

Wm. Varley, who has been one of the organizers of the American Federation of Labor in Western Canada since the advent of the One Big Union bubble a year ago, has been named the general organizer of the A. F. of L. for the newly created Province of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. He has already taken charge of the work and is achieving results in the cause of the I. T. U. in Canada, and is very popular in his own union, having been unanimously elected president for six terms.

### CANADIAN ON LAWS COMMITTEE FOR I. T. U. CONVENTION.

President M. G. Scott, of the International Typographical Union, has appointed Mr. Vincent Fusk, president of Quebec Union No. 29, as a member of the laws committee for the coming convention to be held at Albany, N. Y., Aug. 9 to 16. This is the most important committee in the cause of the I. T. U. in Canada, and its selection of Mr. Fusk will meet with the unanimous approval of the Canadian membership.

### LABOR OF QUEENSLAND OPPOSES NEW GOVERNOR.

The appointment of Sir Matthew Nathan as Governor of Queensland, was in opposition to the Labor Government of the State of Queensland, and Premier Theodore on his part, in the appointment of the local men to the position of Great Britain admitted that the labor movement's opinion was against the present system but a majority of the other states must be favorable before making a change. Premier Theodore will now endeavor to bring the other five Australian states to Queensland's view.

### ADJUSTING N. S. MINERS' DISPUTE.

Sir Wm. Staver, Messrs Hutchinson and McQueen members of the Royal Commission which is now into the mining industry in Nova Scotia, held their first conference on Thursday last with H. J. McConn, assistant general manager of the Dominion Coal Company. The members purpose to meet miners and operators in informal discussions, and thereby pave the way to an adjustment of differences.

### G. T. R. TRAINMEN GET FIRST PART BACK PAY.

G. T. R. trainmen, members of the International Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen of America, last week received the first instalment of back pay which was included in the revised agreement accepted by the Grand Trunk Railway some time ago.

### 152 PER CENT INCREASE IN COST OF LIVING.

The Ministry of Labor statistics show an increased cost of living in the British Isles of 152 per cent, above the level of 1914.

### THE VICIOUS CIRCLE AGAIN AND AGAIN.

All railroads of Canada have filed application with the Board of Railway Commissioners for a general increase in freight rates. Increase in the workers' wages is the cause. Another case of the vicious circle. What good will increase in wages be to the workers if they must pay it back in increased cost of commodities, which must follow an increase in freight rates. It is certain that the common sense of the workers is to demand that the burden will have to bear the burden.

### TAKE STRIKE VOTE BY WIRELESS.

For the first time in the history of the labor movement, strike votes will be taken by wireless operators within the next day or so, when members of the United Radio Telegraphers' Association will be called on to decide whether refusal of United States owners to deal with them is to result in a strike.

### SECOND NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL CONFERENCE LIKELY IN OCTOBER.

Canada's second great industrial conference, to cover the expenses of which an appropriation was voted by Parliament at the recent session, will not be held before October, and perhaps not until November. General plans for the conference based upon the experience gained at the first conference held in the autumn of 1918, have so far been considered, but it is likely that the second conference will be marked by some new features which will make it even more representative in character than the first get-together, rather than appointing the proposed strike commission, for that is just what it is," he said.

### Labor Not Changing Attitude on Prohibition—Demands Moderate Beer

Mr. Dr. Ernest Thomas, of the Methodist Department of Evangelism and Social Service, who recently returned from a seven-week tour of the Western Provinces, is reported in the Toronto Globe to have stated that he had been surprised to find that organized Labor in the West, particularly in British Columbia, had come out strongly in favor of prohibition. He declared, according to the Globe, that "one of the International Union's had changed its attitude and were giving their support to the temperance forces."

The Canadian Labor Press would not be surprised to find that had it not been made by a prominent gentleman of Dr. Thomas stamp. Labor has not, nor will it ever change its attitude in respect to the liquor traffic. Labor has never gone on record in favor of total prohibition nor has it gone on record for its continuance under any circumstances. However, Labor leaders may change their minds but the Labor movement stands as it has always for beer.



# LABORERS FROM COAST TO COAST

## OTTAWA.

**TAILORS OPEN CAMPAIGN.**  
An organization campaign on behalf of the Journeymen Tailors International Union was inaugurated in Ottawa on Monday, when a mass meeting of the tailors and tailor-fitters, including dress-making establishments, and bushelemmen working by ready-made stores, was held in the Metropolitan Hotel. The address in English was given by President Tom Moore of the Canadian Trades and Labor Congress, and in French by President of the Ottawa Trades Council.

Mr. Moore called for applicants for the union and about two dozen responded. Mr. Sangster, president of the union, and L. Leclerc, secretary, acted in his capacity as secretary. About 100 people were present.

Mr. Sangster, president of the Journeymen Tailors' Union of America, Local 143, reported the conditions of the workers as very favorable. Last May a piece work was abolished and wages are reasonably good.

## TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL.

While the delegates to the Allied Trades and Labor Council, very pleased at the attitude of the largest bakery firm in the city, in reducing the price of bread by one cent a loaf, they cast some doubt on the motive behind this move. And they voiced this doubt by endorsing the resolution of the executive board that the price be reduced to one cent a loaf.

"Reduction in cost of commodities to the consumer is bound to find hearty approval," he welcomed more than in a Trades Council, as the representatives of the workers, carrying the high cost burden, at such an effort.

"In this particular we desire to point out that the largest firm of bakers in the city have reduced the price of bread. Press reports have stated, quoting this firm, that the reduction was made to help fight the present strike. It is like looking a gift horse in the teeth to question such a move, or to even suggest a motive for same, but we must be carried away by a cent a loaf bargain, as much as the underlying principle involved.

## HAMILTON.

**MT. HAMILTON L. P.**  
Under the auspices of the Mount Hamilton L.P., the first series of open air meetings was held recently at the corner of Concession and 23rd streets. A. Crockett, M.L.A. for South Westworth County, was introduced there was a large and enthusiastic audience, including many women. The speaker urged that the labor group had accomplished during the last session of the Legislature. Mr. Crockett dealt with the Mothers' Pension Act, and the speaker urged that the measure would be thoroughly administered. The many questions submitted to the speaker were promptly answered.

## LABOR DAY DEMONSTRATION.

General Secretary Henry G. Foster, Hamilton Trades and Labor Council Labor Day demonstration committee, in much elated tones over the enthusiasm manifested by members of the committee. He said the officers and members are putting their shoulders to the wheel and all anticipate this year's affair will be the banner one. Henry Hardie has been named as treasurer, to take the place of William Cassady, resigned on account of illness. Chairman H. McKee, machinist union delegate, is filling the chairman's bill. Patrick J. Jones has been assigned to the chairmanship in connection with the ball games.

Secretary Foster says that the manufacturers, merchants, banks and legal fraternity are generously responding, with prizes and cash donations, for which the Trades and Labor Council is thankful. Prizes for this year's grand charity prize drawing will exceed past contests and over 100 valuable prizes will be drawn. It is expected that every one of the 20,000 draw tickets will be sold. Dundurn and Harvey parks will again be the scene of all attractions.

## PLUMBERS' NEW OFFICERS.

The members of Local No. 47, Plumbers, Steamfitters and Helpers' Union, recently elected the following officers for the ensuing term: President, A. J. Parker; vice-president, R. Hardison; financial secretary, and business agent, Alec Bonner; recording secretary, R. Lamb; treasurer, A. L. Smith. The installation will take place shortly. Business Agent Bonner is meeting with great success in organizing the non-union element. At the last meeting three candidates were initiated. During the past few weeks initiatives have averaged several per cent. Preparations are being made for the Journeymen's annual picnic. It was originally scheduled for the 20th, but owing to the weather the picnic has been postponed. The picnic has been abandoned. The tinmiths were eager for Toronto Center Island, but the plumber members were averse to the boat trip this summer. So Controller Thomas O'Hair and George G. Halpern, M.L.A. for East Hamilton—both members of Local No. 47—have named the committee to go ahead and make picnic arrangements.

## PRINTERS' CONVENTION.

The annual convention of the International Typographical Union will be held in Albany, N.Y., on August 2. Local No. 119 will be represented by President W. J. Mountjoy.

## FEW HAMILTON ENGINEERS NOW IDELE.

Local No. 740 Steam and Operating Engineers' Union, will meet next Thursday night in the C.O.P. hall, John and Main streets. Business Agent Howard Larivière, president-elect of the Hamilton

# AMHERST MOULDERS STRIKE OVER.

The moulders' strike at the Robb Engineering plant, Amherst, N.S., was brought to a close last week by a satisfactory agreement being reached between the men and management. The new terms being an hourly wage of 72, 75 and 78 cents respectively.

# ST. THOMAS BOILERMAKERS HOLD SUCCESSFUL PICNIC.

Although it was cloudy most of the day Wednesday and very unsettled until late in the afternoon, the fact did not mar the day for the St. Thomas Boilermakers' picnic. Early in the afternoon the picknickers started on their street railway trip and by the time that the sports were in full swing over five hundred persons were assembled.

# WINDSOR CARMEN ACCEPT WAGE OFFER OF BOARD.

The Windsor Carmen Board, at a meeting last week, accepted an offer of the Ontario Commission, now in charge of operating the Windsor street railway, to increase their wages by five cents an hour, with the understanding that at the end of three months the commission give further consideration to wage demands.

# BROOKVILLE TRADES COUNCIL.

Your correspondent visited the Brookville Trades and Labor Council in Victoria Hall, Brookville, on Friday last. President, Mr. F. Clutterbuck, in the chair; F. E. Boyd, secretary, at his post. The meeting was most representative and enthusiastic, being called for the making of arrangements for the coming celebration of Labor Day, and if one can judge from the energy shown by the members of the various committees, will eclipse anything ever attempted in Brookville.

# INTERNATIONAL UNIONS PROGRESS DESPITE OPPOSITION.

While there is in some parts of Canada and the United States an insidious campaign against the International Trade Union movement still the membership of the various craft organizations continues to grow.

In the current issue of the American Federationist, the official organ of the American Federation of Labor, it is announced that during the month of May charters were issued from that body as follows: Central labor unions, 18; local trade union, 28; federal trade unions, 13; total, 59.

The various international trade unions also show remarkable progress as the following reports will show:

Bricklayers, Masons and Plasterers—One thousand employees of the town of Renfrew, members of Local Union No. 778, International Steam and Operating Engineers' Union, have been expelled from the union, to resign from the union or quit the employ of the municipality. This action was taken on the recommendation of the local union, which has a total membership of 1,000.—Harry L. Morrison.

National Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association—We have sixty-nine locals with a total membership of 20,487. State of employment is improving. Lake situation is in very bad shape; boats can not get sufficient fuel to operate.—Geo. A. Trieb.

Molders—We have 483 local unions with a total membership of 82,444. State of employment is good.—Victor Kleiber.

Paving Cutters, Teachers—We now have 142 locals with a total membership of 19,400.—F. T. Stocker.

# ULTIMATUM FROM RENFREW TOWN FATHERS.

The town fathers of the town of Renfrew, members of Local Union No. 778, International Steam and Operating Engineers' Union, have been expelled from the union, to resign from the union or quit the employ of the municipality. This action was taken on the recommendation of the local union, which has a total membership of 1,000.—Harry L. Morrison.

# MONTREAL BARBERS IMPOSE FINE.

At a meeting of the Montreal branch of the International Journeymen Barbers' Union, held Sunday night, to discuss the situation arising out of the recent strike, a decision was reached to impose a fine of \$10 on all barbers, members of the union, who failed to quit work when ordered to do so, or who returned to work without the permission of the union, who failed to quit work when ordered to do so, or who returned to work without the permission of the union.

# LAMBTON FARMERS AND LLP JOIN HANDS.

It was officially announced at Barnia on Monday that the Independent Labor Party and the United Farmers of West Lambton will join hands in the next federal election. A convention will be held in the early part of September to select a candidate. It was stated that the only difficulty between the two parties at the conference held on Saturday was the eight hour question, and decision on this was left to the Dominion executive of the U. F. O. and the I. L. P. The tariff was not discussed.

# I. L. P. FORMED AT FORT WILLIAM.

Provincial Secretary Joe T. Marks, of the Independent Labor Party, received a telegram Saturday morning from Fort William stating that a branch of the party had been formed there, and asking that a charter be forwarded immediately.

# BRANTFORD I.L.P. WILL CONTEST FEDERAL SEAT.

The Brantford Independent Labor Party will place a candidate in the federal riding of Brantford in the next Dominion election, and it is said Mayor MacRidge may resign from the Legislature to take the nomination.

# MAY BE STRIKE OF N.S. MINERS.

Silly Barratt, district 26, International Mine Workers of America, left Friday night for Indianapolis to attend a meeting of the board of directors of the I.M.W. Various matters affecting the coal mines of the United States and Canada will be discussed, but the suggestion of a general strike which would paralyze the coal industry is not being discussed.

# MONTREAL CIVIC EMPLOYEES FORM FEDERATION.

Election of officers of the Federation of Municipal Employees, of Montreal, held last week, resulted as follows: President Arthur Bouchard; president of the Police Union; vice-president, A. Archambault, of the Engineers' Union; secretary, A. Mathieu, president of the Civic Employees' Union; treasurer, E. C. Cocheau of the Police Union; secretary, A. Bergeron, of the Police Union.

# BRIDGE ENGINEER WANTED.

Applications addressed to the undersigned will be received up to 12 o'clock noon, July 29th, for the position of Assistant Bridge Engineer for the City of Ottawa. Applicants should have had at least five years' experience in bridge design, two years of which must have been devoted to design and supervision of construction of reinforced concrete arch-bridges. Graduate engineer, and member of the Engineering Institute of Canada preferred.

# U. S. RAILWAY LABOR BOARD AWARD GRANTS GENERAL INCREASE OF 21 P. C.

## Decision is For 60 Per Cent. of Men's Demands—Boost in Wages Goes to Nearly 2,000,000 Organized Railway Workers.

The United States Railway Labor Board on Tuesday awarded the nearly 2,000,000 organized railway workers wage increases totalling \$600,000,000.

The increase amounts to approximately 21 per cent. of the present rates of pay.

The board comes as the basis of this decision, the award says, "the continuance in full force and effect of the rules, working conditions and agreements in force under the authority of the United States Railroad Administration. The intent of this decision is that the named increase except as stated, shall be added to the rates of compensation established by the United States Railway Administration."

The award is retroactive to May 1 of the year.

The decision of the board grants to the railroad workers approximately sixty per cent. of the billion dollar increase which they sought.

Presidents of all the leading brotherhoods and representatives of the railroad managers were present when the decision was made public.

## Maintenance and Unskilled.

The following increases were granted maintenance of way and unskilled forces:

Construction foremen, their assistants, section, track and maintenance foremen and assistants, bridge and mechanics in these departments, 15 cents an hour.

Laborers employed in shops and round houses, 10 cents an hour.

Mechanics helpers in bridge and building departments, track laborers, common laborers, brick tenders, hoisting foremen, pumper engineers, crossing watchmen or flagmen and lamp lighters and tenders, 8 1/2 cents an hour.

Train dispatchers are given an increase of 12 cents an hour, and yard masters and assistant yard masters, 15 cents an hour.

## Clerical and Station.

The following increases are added to the established rates for clerical and station forces:

Storekeepers, chief clerks, foremen and other clerical supervisor forces, clerk, with one or more years railroad experience, train and station clerks, 13 cents an hour.

Stationers, elevator and telephone operators, watchmen, employes operating office appliances and similar work, 10 cents an hour.

In the handlers or truckers, 12 cents an hour.

## All common laborers in and around stations, store houses and warehouses, not otherwise provided for, 8 1/2 cents an hour.

Clerks of less than one year's experience, 7 1/2 cents an hour and office boys, messengers and other employes under 18 years of age, five cents an hour.

Stationary engine and boiler room employes, 13 cents an hour.

In the signaller departments, foremen, inspectors, maintainers, signal men and their assistants, 13 cents an hour; helpers, 10 cents an hour.

## U. S. LABOR DEPARTMENT FORCED TO CURTAIL.

The United States Labor Department is one of the executive departments which suffered most heavily at the hands of Congress, when the cutting process was under way. The Bureau of Conciliation had its appropriation cut from \$200,000 to \$100,000, which will necessitate the reduction of its field force and the personnel of the Washington office. Since its formation it is said to have saved industry millions of dollars through adjustments between employers and employes. Last year the bureau handled 1,750 cases, 55 per cent. of which were settled by the Department of Labor's agents.

Another branch impaired through reduction of its appropriation is the Bureau of Labor Statistics, which collected and studied statistics relating to the cost of living and other data used in various governmental compilations.

The employment bureau was allowed so little that it will be able to do almost no work.

# AMAZED AT ATTITUDE OF BRITISH DELEGATES.

## Despite the promises made by the British Government, said Joseph Cotter, of the British Cooks and Stewards' Union, upon his return from the International Seamen's Conference at Genoa, Italy, recently, and incidentally by those shipowners who made the League of Nations plank in their platform at the last election, both showed themselves strenuously opposed to the 48-hour week.

It is interesting to note that the Canadian Government representative and the Canadian seamen's representative voted for the shorter work week, but the representative of the Canadian shipowners voted against it. The same principle prevailed at the International Labor Conference at Washington with the exception that the Canadian employes stood alone amongst the 41 nations represented.

## PRESIDENT WILSON TO SUMMONS LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

President Wilson has accepted the invitation of the League of Nations to call a meeting of the assembly of the league early in November, it was announced in the British House of Commons last week by Cecil B. Harneworth, Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs.

"Much of the art of government consists in taking the sting out of new ideas,"—E. Charteris.

Hell-roaring Hiram is a real sort of American candidate for the Presidency.

## WORKING CONDITIONS GLACE BAY MINES.

The royal commission appointed to investigate Nova Scotia mine working conditions opened its hearing in the town hall, Glace Bay, on Tuesday. Chairman McG. Quirk stated that the inquiry was thorough; Dominion Coal Company officials, including General Manager McCann, and officers of the U.M.W. were present. The first question taken up was that of pushing boxes to which the miners strenuously objected, and some evidence was taken. Lack of power at the colliery resulted in the stoppage of the stoppage of work was discussed just before the adjournment.

## WESTERN CANADA WISNIEG TRADES COUNCIL GETTING INTO FIGHT.

The Trades and Labor Council has appointed a committee of three to meet O.B.U. representatives and arrange details for a debate on the merits of the two organizations as soon as a hall can be obtained. Alderman Ernest Robinson, secretary of the Trades and Labor Council, James Winnick, secretary of the Building Trades Council, and Harry Kempton of the district lodge of machinists make up the committee. A circular letter was sent to the secretary of No. 1 railway union, O.B.U. issued the challenge to the International.

## Motto for the new rich: Accents will happen.—Sunday Times.

Let it not be said of us that they do not believe; they only believe that they believe.

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## A. F. MACALLUM, Commissioner of Works.

Ottawa, July 12th, 1920.

# Increases Awarded to U. S. Railway Men.

## Expected Wage Increase Will Be Granted Canadian.

No immediate benefits will be derived by Canadian railroad workers as a result of the increases in wages awarded by the United States Railway Labor Board to railway employes in that country. Calvin Lawrence, Canadian representative of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, when approached by the Labor Press on Tuesday said that he could not give an opinion as to whether the Canadian railwaymen would regard the increases as awarded to their co-workers in the United States sufficient to ask that the same scale of wages be applied in Canada, or not.

If the award of the Labor Board is accepted across the border a meeting will be called of the Canadian membership of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers of America and kindred organizations to decide if the award would be acceptable to workers in Canada.

Application has already been made to the Canadian Railway Board of Adjustment No. 1 by several of the employes' organizations to have the United States award applied to railway workers in Canada, according to Mr. Lawrence.

Although employes of Canadian railways operating in the United States will be benefited under the award of the Labor Board, the employes resident in Canada, who work takes them into the States will continue to be paid at the same rate as in other parts of Canada.

Efforts will be made by Canadian employes to have the award, which granted in Canada, anti-dated so as to be applicable at the same time as the award in the States.

Among the vice-presidents attending the conference in Cincinnati of the grand officers, Brotherhood of Railway Clerks, in A. C. Hay, Winnipeg, and on Monday he said: "The Canadian Pacific Railway, both the eastern and western lines, have agreed to incorporate the findings of the Railroad Labor Board with our brotherhood agreement."

Mr. Hay also announced that Grand President L. H. Fitzgerald would conduct a first hand investigation into labor conditions in Canada.

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Ottawa, July 12th, 1920.

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INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNIONS SHOW SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES DESPITE ACTIVITY OF THE O. B. U. AND N. C. U.

Ninth Annual Report on Labor Organization in Canada, Issued by the Department of Labor, Contains Valuable Information and Interesting Statistics.

The ninth annual report on labor organization in Canada, containing statistics, etc., for the calendar year 1919 has been issued by the Department of Labor.

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A workman of any kind who earns his livelihood by the sweat of his brow has not done his duty to himself, his fellow workmen, or to those depending upon him, until he has joined the union of his calling and become one of those who strive for the uplift of the masses.

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NEW YORK MERCHANTS FIGHT FOR OPEN SHOP

Can No Longer Camouflage the Issue—Fight is On.

Charges that the Merchants' Association of New York were organizing a fund to fight for the establishment of the open or non-union shop were made at the fortieth annual convention of the A. F. of L.

HOW THE CAPITAL LEVY OPERATES IN ITALY AND SWITZERLAND.

The following facts regarding the capital levy in Italy and Switzerland were recently quoted by Mr. Baldwin in reply to a question by Mr. T. Myers in the British House of Commons.

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Democracy in Industry Without Undue Friction Great Hope of Canadian Labor

Some Industries Showing a More Conciliatory Spirit Than a Year Ago, Notably the Building Industry.

The immediate objective of organized labor in Canada is to raise the standard of living conditions and to obtain through shorter hours and increased wages some of the benefits that should accrue by the introduction and improvement of modern labor saving machinery.

Attitude of Employers. The attitude of Canadian employers today is much the same as enumerated in paragraph 64 of the Maters Industrial Relations Commission report.

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## WEEKLY BUDGET OF STAPLE FOOD TAKES BIG JUMP

Labor Department Reports Retail Food Prices Up and Drop in Wholesale Index.

The present issue of the Labor Gazette contains a report of the Deputy Minister of Labor on his mission to France and England as representative of the Canadian Government on the Governing Body of the International Labor Office, at its meetings in January and March. It also contains a summary of the laws bearing on labor matters which were passed at the recent sessions of the Dominion Parliament and the Legislatures of New Brunswick, Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia, and an account of the proceedings of the 40th annual convention of the American Federation of Labor, which met at Montreal on June 7 to 12.

The cost of the weekly family budget of staple foods averaged \$18.92 at the middle of June, as compared with \$18.66 in May and \$17.85 in June, 1919. The index number of wholesale prices fell considerably, being 356.4 for June, as compared with 356.4 for May, 354.1 for June, 1919, and 353.5 for June, 1918. At the beginning of June the percentage of unemployment among members of trade unions was 2.85, as compared with 2.82 at the beginning of May, and with 3.32 at the beginning of June, 1919. According to returns received from nearly 5,000 firms, the increase in employment reported during May continued for June, with a slight decline toward the end of the month, owing to a shortage of fuel and raw material in some industries.

The time lost due to industrial disputes during June was greater than during June, 1919, but less than during June, 1918. There were in existence during the month 69 strikes, involving about 12,406 workpeople, and resulting in a time lost of 154,192 working days. At the end of the month there were on record 23 strikes, involving about 5,182 workpeople.

## B. C. WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION DURING FIRST HALF OF YEAR.

The half yearly report of the Workmen's Compensation Board of the Province of British Columbia, up to June 30th, has just been issued. It shows that lumbering is not only the leading industry of the province from the standpoint of total payroll, but also leads as the most hazardous from the accident standpoint. No less than 29 workmen lost their lives in lumbering during the half year, and in addition there were 1,595 non-fatal accidents resulting in temporary or permanent disability. Injured workmen receive under the Compensation Act 55 per cent. of their loss of wages through accidents. No payment being made for the first three days of incapacity from work. The time loss alone cost the lumbering industry \$193,774 for the first half of this year. Cash awards for permanent partial disability cost \$26,657 and pensions \$52,774 more.

## CANADIAN MERCANTILE FLEET IS NOW NEARLY COMPLETE.

Such satisfactory progress is being made with the construction of Canada's mercantile marine fleet that it is believed in Government circles that the whole fleet of sixty-three vessels will be in commission by March 31 next, the end of the current fiscal year. Up to the present time thirty-two vessels have been finished and splendid headway is being made with the other half of the fleet. Particularly good headway is being made at the Montreal, St. John, Collingwood and Port Arthur yards. Several vessels of large tonnage being built in inland yards will be utilized in ocean-going services and it will be necessary to bring them through the canals to the St. Lawrence in sections.

## COST OF LIVING INCREASED 21 PER CENT. DURING PAST YEAR.

Many requests have reached this office for information concerning the increase in the cost of living over last year. This week we obtained from the Labor Department a table which shows that the increase has advanced slightly over 21 per cent in the past year. The able assistance of the Labor Department follows:

Increase in average cost in Canada of a weekly family budget by groups of expenditure from May 15, 1919, to May 15, 1920:	
Food	\$15.53
Fuel	3.02
Rent	5.05
Clothing	5.98
Sundries	6.42
Total	\$35.95

Figures for food, fuel, and rent from the Labor Gazette; figures for clothing based upon average increases in men's clothing as shown by prices from several dealers throughout the Dominion; figures for sundries based upon the average increase in the other groups.

## 3,374 STRIKES AND LOCK-OUTS IN U. S. IN 1919.

Strikes and lockouts in the United States in 1919 totaled 3,374 and affected more than 4,000,000 workers, according to a review issued by the Department of Labor. Approximately one-half of the strikes occurred in five states: New York, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Illinois.

WHICH? Editor Canadian Labor Press: Sir—Here are two expressions of the value of human life. One follows the Divine command, while the other expresses the views of the ex-Kaiser: We are prepared to give \$100,000 for the erection of a building for rubber-cular patients.—Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Whitney. Thank God, there are only a few employers in the world of the stamp of Mr. Edwards. CRESTO. Albert street, Ottawa, July 15 1920.

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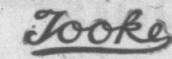
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