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THE 8-HOUR WORKDAY IN GERMANY.

WRITERS for the public press quite frequently state that workers in Germany and other European countries are toiling ten, eleven and twelve hours a day. The facts are to the contrary, notwithstanding the declarations of these writers. The International Labor Office, which is composed of Government representatives and representatives of the employers and workers, in a recent official communication on the adoption of the shorter workday in European countries, stated that outside of Russia and Spain the eight-hour workday generally prevailed, and in most of the countries there was legislation dealing with the matter. So far as Germany is concerned, the workers are toiling eight

hours only, and the annual report of the Federation of Employers' Associations of Germany for 1920 contains the following details concerning the forty-eight-hour week in collective agreements:

ncerning the forty-eight-mour week in collective agreements: "In most collective agreements, the 48 hour week is fixed without any special arrangement for Saturdays. When working hours are shorter on Saturdays, the hours lost on that day are almost always distributed over the other days of the week, without being reckoned as overtime. "In the employers' association for the metal industry, especially in Southern Germany, out of 31 regional associations only 10 have a 64 hour week, the 2 hours lost on Saturday not being made up during the week.

a 64 hour week, the 2 hours lost on Saturday not being made up during the week.
"In the Berlin metal industry, working hours are 46½ per week; in the film industry, hours are 46 per week; in the artificial honey industry, 45; in the Dreaden cigaretic industry, 45; in the Dreaden cigaretic industry, 45; in the breaden cigaretic industry, 45; in the manufacturing group the textile industry is the only one in which working hours are less than 48 per week.
"The collective agreement of 22nd January, 1919 fixing hours of work in the textile industry at 46 per week manufacturing the industry at 46 per week.
"The collective agreement of 22nd January, 1919 fixing hours of work in the textile industry at 46 per week has been denounced by the employers. Negotiations for the infroduction of a 48 hour week are not yet at an end.
"A point which is very much discussed is whether preparatory and complementary work is to be included in the eight hour day. According to the results of an enquiry amongst employers, in most cases the collective agreements for the year 1920 allow this work to be done outside the eight hour day without reckoning it as overtime."

Our Governments are too anxious to grasp at any straw that offers itself in theif anxiety to shelve the adoption of the eight-hour workday as contained in the Labor section of the Treaty of Versailles. The fact of the matter is that the Canadian manufacturers are not in favor of the law. Possibly the fact that the workers in some industries in the United States, and we might mention the steel industry, are working twelve hours a day, seven days a week is the goal sought. Canadian workers will not be tolerant until the eight-hour workday is enacted in this Dominion. The House of Commons has concluded its work for the present year, and there was not one mention of this democracy from an official source.

We have stated on many occasions that Canada is rapidly failing to the rear in the march of progress, and unless we arouse ourselves we will be among the most backward of the nations of the world insofar as advanced social and labor legislation is concerned.

CONGRESS HEAD IN THE WEST.

PRESIDENT TOM MOORE, of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, has spent the past month in Western O Pof Canada, has spent the past month in Western Canada. He has been preaching the gospel of the International Trades Union movement. The Canadian Labor leader has been reaching the great producing masses through the Trades and Labor Councils in various industrial centres, and the employers through the medium of the Canadian Clubs. He has met some opposition from the One Big Union, but outside of Winnipeg the opposition has been very timid. The workers are rapidly learning that only by concentrated action through the International Trades Union movement can they hope for progress. Some tried the O. B. U. and found it wanting. The workers are drifting back to the great Jabor movement that has weathered the storm in periods of depression, as well as in periods of prosperity. Mr. Moore has pointed out the folly of the O. B. U. and of the National Catholic Union. He has made a great impression in Western Canada. Everywhere

Whereas the chief deterring fac-tor which prevents a real substan-tial reduction in cost of living is undoubtedly high rent; and Whereas it is realized by us that only the building of many thou-sands of dwellings can alleviate Canada's deplorable housing eher-age; and Whereas we are as an industry to

Whereas we are as an industry to a slight degree responsible for this situation; and

Whereas it has been conclusively shown in this Conference that build-ing material prices have already-been substantially reduced;

Before the House prorogued or tion. Mr. Ernest Lapointe (Quebec East), the member who made the vicious attack on the International Trades Union Movement some weeks ago in the House, stated that he would like to see a Minister of Labor in the House of Commons. He said it was not in keeping with the Labor democracy that the Min-ister of Labor should sit in the Up-per Chamber. The great producing masses of Canada have not protest-ed very strenuously against the Min-ister being in the Upper Chamber. They would of course prefer that the House of Commons seated men and wome who knew the wants of the workers, but the Minister of the workers, but the Minister of Labor, as we have stated on many occasions, has done many things he ought not to have done and left un-

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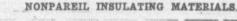
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tres throughout Canada and adjac-ent U.S. points wage adjustments have been reached by mutual agree-ments or arbitration; and Whereas the chief deterring fac-



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ings of the committee on "Existing International Labor Conference at Washington.
International Labor Conference at Washington.
Industrial Conference of the Build-Industrial Conference of the Build-Industrial Conference of the Build-ing and Construction Industries
Which recently met at Ottawa. There has been much misunderstanding to concerning the findings of the committees and for that reason we de-cided to publish the entire reports.
Industrial writers, who are busily the editorial writers, who are busily the editorial writers, which follows:
(a) Facts in Building Cost.
(a) Facts in Building Cost.
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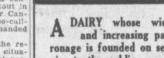
he has been well received, with the exception of the Winnipeg meeting, where the lovers of free speech refused to allow the President of the Trades and Labor Congress the right to express his opinions and the policy of the great Labor movement of which he is the chief executive officer in Canada.

A LABOR DEPARTMENT FOR INDIA.

OTH Houses of the Indian legislature have passed resolutions in favor of the Governor-in-Council giving effect to certain of the recommendations of the Washington Labor Conference of the League of Nations. It is reported that good progress is being made in state organization in connection with Labor prob-'A cable from Bombay announces the definite establishment of a Labor Department, and the appointment as Labor Commis-sioner of Mr. Findlay Shirras, who has been Director of Statistics. Industrialism is more developed in Western India than in any other part of the country, and there has been much unrest in the

Industrialism is more developed in Western India than in any other part of the country, and there has been much unrest in the last two or three years, particularly among the cotton operatives in Bombay, where the housing problem is so acute. The depart-ment now set up, after consultation with Mr. McLeed, of the ment now set up, after consultation with Mr. McLeed, of the ment now set up, after consultation with Mr. McLeed, of the ment now set up, after consultation with Mr. McLeed, of the ment now set up, after consultation with Mr. McLeed, of the ment now set up, after consultation with Mr. McLeed, of the ment now set up, after consultation with Mr. McLeed of the ment now set up and the want out to advise on the subject, exists





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want if, and the very noblest and most perfect form will end in failure if the people are unfit for it."-Robert Blatchford.



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Saturday, June 11, 1921.

CANADIAN LABOR PRESS

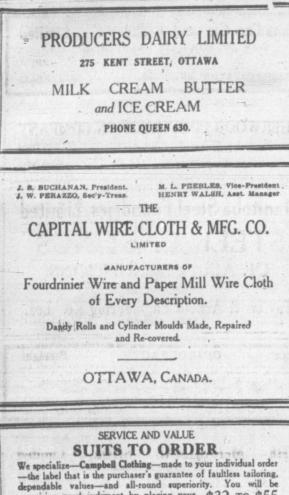
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