

FAIR RENT COURT ESTABLISHED

NEAR TO LOW WHILE BURDEN DEFICIT ON LABOR

Is Government Preparing to Return Railways to Private Ownership?

OTTAWA—Tom Moore, president of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, in commenting upon the statement of Hon. Dr. J. D. Reid in the House of Commons to the effect that railways in Canada were being seriously hampered and the country's development hindered by the high wage paid Canadian railway employees, said: "The serious entry as to the present deficiency in railway accounts seems rather suspicious following the fact that the 'feeling' printed during the past few months in certain newspapers in connection with the returning of now Government owned railways to private ownership. The cost of operation of a railway, as well as its financial management, is a factor in figuring out a railway. It seems to me to be lacking in good sense to lay the blame for the present railway deficit wholly at the door of labor. It seems ill-timed that the Minister of Railways should in his preliminary announcement of the railway estimates for this country attempt to throw the whole burden of the deficit on the workers who receive not more than a modest living wage at the present time. The railway estimates made by Mr. L. Pelletier, legislative representative at Ottawa of the Brotherhood of Railway Conductors, for a full inquiry into the deficit, so that responsibility shall be placed in the proper quarter, seems to me to be a good one."

VICTIM OF HANNA'S "NO POLITICS" ORDER GETS GOVT POSITION.

TORONTO—James Higgins, who was suspended from employment at the Canadian National Railways shops at Leaside, Ont., because of a statement "No Politics" given by President D. B. Hanna, has been appointed to a position in the Ontario Government. Mr. Higgins was appointed to a salary of \$1141 a month. Announcement of this effect was made by Hon. W. R. Rollo, Minister of Labor, in the Legislature this week.

NEW YORK CENTRAL EMPLOYEES REJECT WAGE CUTS.

NEW YORK, N.Y.—Representative of common labor employed by the New York Central railroad, this week promptly rejected wage cuts proposed by the railroad company. The United States Railroad Labor Board to adjust the matter. Thereupon officials of the road notified the men the reductions would become effective April 1, in any event. In flatly rejecting the proposed wage cut amounting to 11-1/2 to 11 per cent, and affecting 18,000 to 40,000 unskilled workers, 29 labor representatives arose one by one and declared they did not believe the reductions justified.

MONTREAL METAL WORKERS STRIKE AGAINST WAGE CUT.

MONTREAL—Over 1,200 workmen of the Canadian Steel Company at Longue Point went out on strike this week in protest against the reduction of 25 per cent in their wages imposed by the company. The cut went into effect on March 7, and the Union of Metal Workers decided to strike at a meeting last Wednesday.

C. B. OF R. E. GET DECISION AGAINST CONGRESS.

TORONTO—Decision has been given by Mr. Justice Ross, of the Supreme Court of Ontario, in the dispute between the Canadian Brotherhood of Railroad Employees and the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada. The decision is in favor of the C. B. of R. E. According to the judgment, the Trades and Labor Congress executive had no authority in reviving the charter of the C. B. of R. E.

SEEK WIDOWS' PENSIONS FOR QUEBEC PROVINCE.

MONTREAL—It was brought out at a representative gathering of social workers at Montreal that measures are being taken up by various bodies to encourage the Quebec Provincial Government to take up a bill which would provide for a pension for widows of men who were killed in the war. The bill is being introduced in the Quebec Legislature and it is hoped that it will be passed in the near future.

Building Costs Show Reduction

TORONTO—L. C. Reynolds, business manager of the Toronto Builders' Exchange and Constructive Industries, is quoted in an interview at Toronto this week as saying that there has been a decrease in the cost of building construction compared with last year's figures of from 20 to 25 per cent.

LABOR DEPT. IS HOPEFUL OF DROPPING LIVING COSTS

Government Statisticians Forecast a Steady Decline From Month to Month.

OTTAWA—Statisticians of the Department of Labor working out the cost of living take a hopeful view of the situation and forecast a steady, if not extensive decline from month to month. As justifying this prediction the wholesale prices in January are compared with those of a year ago. In that month of 1920 the index figure was 323. This year it was down to 281. Varying conditions are noted in different cities. In some there are cuts of 25 per cent, while in others it is not more than five. Ten per cent discounts are common. The cost of the standard family budget of food, retail, is going down about 50 cents a month, but there is no general diminution yet either in rents or in coal. In some furniture stores last month made a 10 per cent cut in wholesale prices. In the retail prices of clothing, as well as in the home furnishings, the statistical office find it difficult to keep a check owing to the wide predominance of the heavy family budget of food, but they are recognized as helping to lead normal prices downwards.

I. T. U. SECRETARY SAYS WAGE QUESTION ONE FOR LOCAL UNIONS.

MONTREAL—J. W. Hays, secretary-treasurer of the International Typographical Union, stated while in Montreal that any modification of the existing scale of wages in the printing industry following the introduction of a 44-hour week depends as far as labor was concerned, on the willingness of the employers to give an assurance when the joint conference convened at Chicago on April 2nd, that the 44-hour week would be in force on May 1. Following such assurance the Labor group would be prepared to leave the settlement of wages in hands of the local unions.

OTTAWA FIRE FIGHTERS WANT BOARD OF CONCILIATION.

OTTAWA—The International Association of Fire Fighters has asked the Ottawa Board of Control to agree to the association appealing to Senator G. D. Robertson, Minister of Labor, regarding the appointment of a Conciliation Board to adjust the grievances of firemen, to whom the Board of Control refused a general increase of 15% when the estimates were recently considered. Mr. Proctor will make a report regarding the usual proceedings in such cases.

OWEN SOUND TRADES COUNCIL WANTS LAW ENFORCED.

OWEN SOUND—At the meeting of the Owen Sound Trades and Labor Council recently, a number of matters were considered including an evil that exists in Owen Sound to a very considerable extent. A resolution was passed to be forwarded to the Board of Police Commissioners drawing attention to the fact that many houses and tenements around the corners and lotted in doorways, and that frequently women were insulted by these persons. The committee was instructed to put a stop to the practice.

BRITISH GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZES THE IMPORTANCE INT. LABOR QUESTIONS

LONDON, England—By the decision of the Cabinet of Great Britain the general responsibility for all British Government business connected with the International Labor Organization has been assigned to the Ministry of Labor, and a Standing Interdepartmental Committee has been constituted by the Ministry of Labor to deal with international labor questions. The committee will be under the chairmanship of Sir Montagu Barlow, K.C.B., M.P., Parliamentary Secretary of the Ministry of Labor, and will include Sir Malcolm Delevingne, K.C.B., Government representative on the Governing Body of the International Labor Office. The departments represented on the committee, in addition to the Ministry of Labor, are the Home Office and Board of Trade, as being directly concerned in the general activities

GOVT. CONTROL WILL ELIMINATE BOOTLEGGING

Woman Member B. C. Legislature Tells of the Effects of Total Prohibition.

VICTORIA, British Columbia.—A woman's views on the character of liquor legislation, now that Government control is to go into force in British Columbia, were voiced by Mrs. Ralph Smith, a member of the Legislature, when speaking on the debate on the address. "The question," she said, "is not whether liquor legislation will be enacted, but whether it will be a real prohibition. It affects the welfare of the whole people of all shades of politics. It affects their families, and should receive the full share of the effort of every member to the end that the very best act may be secured. She held that the big majority given to Government control was not a mandate for the return of the bar or of the treating system. It did mean, she asserted, that the people desired the elimination of a system which fostered hypocrisy, and the elimination of the bootlegger, that element which is proving such a menace to the province. She emphasized the necessity of appointing to the proposed commission, which will administer the new act, men of no less character. After all, she maintained that the real test of the act would be in its administration.

HAMILTON BRIDGE AND STRUCTURAL WORKERS PIN FAITH IN INTERNATIONAL.

HAMILTON.—Local No. 234, bridge and structural workers' union, will not forsake the international in favor of the O. B. U. This was decided upon by an overwhelming majority at a summons meeting of the membership last week in Molders' Hall. H. J. Halford, H. G. Foster and H. A. Galloway were the speakers representing the Hamilton Trades and Labor Council, and the trio told their auditors—of the hour brought to the labor movement in western Canada during the short though disastrous history of the O. B. U. Daniel Brophy, international vice-president of the union, was also present, and during his outspoken talk he was frequently applauded.

BILL PROVIDING FOR ONE DAY'S REST IN SEVEN GETS SECOND READING.

TORONTO—Sergt-Major McNamara secured a second reading for a bill providing for one day's rest in seven for all hotel and restaurant workers in the Province of Ontario. The member for Riverdale said that persons who have to work seven days a week were endangering their health. The bill would be a social tonic. It could not work any good without any rest for the community. The bill provides for a penalty of \$1,000 fine or six months imprisonment. This the attorney-general has promised to introduce in so far as it concerned both employer and employee.

COMPULSORY APPRENTICE FOR QUEBEC MUNICIPALITIES.

QUEBEC.—The Gallipeau Bill, intended to put an end to lockouts and strikes in municipal services in Quebec, was passed by the Legislative Assembly. This new law will be applicable only to policemen, firemen, water works employees and employees in charge of the incineration of garbage. It will apply to municipalities having at least ten persons in their employ.

MUSICIANS' PROGRESS.

OTTAWA—The growth of the American Federation of Musicians during the last six months has been wonderful. The membership now in the United States and Canada, according to the secretary's report, stands at 310,000.

FORMER U. S. SECRETARY OF LABOR GETS APPOINTMENT.

WASHINGTON—Before his retirement, President Wilson appointed Secretary of Labor Wilson as a member of the International Joint Commission which adjusts disputes between the United States and Canada. The salary is \$1,500 a year.

PRINTING PRESSMEN MAKE GAINS.

PRESSMEN'S HOME, TENN.—The current issue of American Pressmen prints a long list of wage gains by locals affiliated with the International Printing Pressmen and Assistants' Union. Some of the gains include the 44-hour week and wage advance of 10 a week.

CANADA HAS NOT FULFILLED ITS PEACE TREATY OBLIGATIONS

By J. A. P. HAYDON. In a recent article I showed where Canada was in breach of her obligations in the enactment of a legal maximum workday of eight hours. What is true in the matter of the shorter workday is also applicable to other advanced social and labor legislation. The Canadian Government representatives at the International Labor Conference were talked much. One would imagine by their utterances that it was only a question of a few months until all of the principles recognized in the Labor Charter of the League of Nations would be recognized, and the Draft Convention of the International Labor Conference, carried out into full force and effect in Canada. The Washington Conference was held in October, November, 1919. One year and some months has elapsed since then but the legislation has not yet found its way on to the statute books of Canada. It is perfectly true that the Canadian Government by Order-in-Council, in 1920, decided what could be done but up to the present there has been no action.

Canadian statements point to the United States and support the employers' position that "Canada should take no action unless the United States was prepared to take similar steps in the matter of advanced social and labor legislation." President Tom Moore, of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, meeting in Washington, said "Canada did not wait on the United States. The Peace Treaty and the labor clauses therein. Therefore, it was the duty of the Canadian Government to carry out its Peace Treaty obligations." In a previous article we outlined out that the Rt. Hon. Arthur Meighen, the Prime Minister of Canada, had advised the Canadian Government to carry out its Peace Treaty obligations. The Canadian Government stated that Canada must act in co-operation with other industrial nations in carrying out its Peace Treaty obligations. The United States having refused to ratify the Peace Treaty is therefore not to be considered in the matter affecting advanced social and labor legislation. Canada is able to stand up for the principles for which so many of our gallant soldiers laid down their lives without reference to the Republic to the south.

The Canadian Government in refusing to ratify the Peace Treaty is in exactly the same position as the German Government, against whom the Supreme Council has recently taken action. We are suggesting that Canadian workmen should adopt similar tactics. But the workers of Canada are becoming more and more aware of the fact that the Canadian Government takes cognizance of the great producing masses in the establishment of the principles for which so many of our gallant soldiers laid down their lives. While the eight-hour day is perhaps the most important of all the draft conventions adopted at the International Labor Conference, other questions are equally necessary to the establishment of industrial peace. Unemployment insurance. In the speech on the Throne, the Government indicated that it was giving consideration to this important question. What action the Government will ultimately take is one of supposition. Nevertheless we have the assurance that the De-

partment of Labor is conducting an investigation into the question, and I understand a draft proposal will be submitted to the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, and possibly the Canadian Council of Agriculture, and their views obtained. In the meantime it might be of interest to note that other industrial countries already enjoy this legislation. In a recent bulletin issued by the International Labor Office, appears the following: "During the war the unemployment question fell quite into the background in belligerent countries. But the cessation of hostilities brought it again into prominence at once. In Germany a provisional emergency order was issued on November 13, 1918, to provide grants from public funds for the relief of the unemployed. Dollars were also provided with a lavish hand in Great Britain as soon as hostilities ceased, and similar measures were adopted in some other countries. These temporary expedients have since given way to a more scientific treatment of the unemployment problem. In Germany, the Unemployment Act of 1920, extends the principle of compulsory insurance against unemployment (formerly limited to specific trades) to practically all employment except agriculture, private domestic service, certain public services, and employment at a salary exceeding a certain limit. The Italian act is of wider scope than the British, in so far as it includes agriculture and other forms of non-manual work. Compulsory systems of unemployment insurance have also been introduced in Italy and in Austria, and a scheme is in preparation in Germany. The Italian act is of wider scope than the British, in so far as it includes agriculture and other forms of non-manual work. Compulsory systems of unemployment insurance have also been introduced in Italy and in Austria, and a scheme is in preparation in Germany. 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# COURSE WORLD'S PROGRESS RESTS WITH EMPLOYER

## Men Do Not Organize For Purpose of Upsetting Society or Setting Back Civilization.

OTTAWA—Industry is the central factor in our civilization today, and it rests with the employer whether or not the progress of the world will be along rational lines or revolutionary, or so-called irrational lines. Such was the solemn warning sounded by Mr. Tom Moore, President of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, speaking before a gathering of representatives of business and professional men recently in St. Andrew's Church, Ottawa.

Progress, rational or irrational, was the subject Mr. Moore was discussing. Continuing, he said: "There are so far as I can see today many more irrationals than rationals going on throughout the world. Of one thing, however, I am certain, we are a really struggling for progress. Industry is everywhere. In reference to the church itself today could it only decide what was the proper course to follow, whether to go back to the bare original conceptions of Christianity or to go forward after newer fields, it could take its place as a great power for good."

There are many men who in private life would never think of indulging in an uncharitable action who, however, as directors of companies would not hesitate to do so. Uniting Parties. "So far as the political phase of progress is concerned, we in trade-unions are endeavoring to unite parties on all sides. The political scene in this country has fallen into disrepair, but until the great mass of the people in the country come to respect politics as a noble game, men in power who themselves respect it, I would not say that I know nothing of politics, but the more I learn the more confused I become."

Men do not organize for the purpose of upsetting society or setting back the clock of civilization. But I am sorry to find that trade unionism is perhaps not so popular as it should be. Some of the actions of some of the unions may perhaps have inconvenienced some employers, but unpopularity does not imply irrationality.

The greatest problem facing the world today is the restarting of the wheels of industry. It has been suggested that wages be reduced. We have all followed the remarks of Mr. Reid in the House, but I am not prepared to admit that our wages are responsible for the present high cost of production. We are facing an immense debt in Canada, namely, the bonds issued to subscribers. Where are these bonds now, so many of which were taken up by the worker? In the hands of the financial interests which made as much out of the war as they could. These bonds must be paid in goods. Money is only a medium of convenience. This interest must be paid by the workers in the goods they produce, and a wage reduction would only mean that he would have to work harder to pay the interest required by the unproductive class who hold the bonds today.

From available statistics we learn that today the average wage is 80 per cent of the pre-war level. The average living expense has been 100 per cent. The cost of living is the home consumption that industry must depend on. By lowering your wage-scale you are merely decreasing your purchasing power so necessary to clearing out your warehouses. Roughly speaking, in Canada today one-seventh of the retail cost of articles is attributable to labor. That means that the worker can purchase only one-seventh of what he is producing with his own hands. What is the result? Some of the excessive cost must be chopped off. Industry will benefit by a closer proximity between the labor and the final cost to the consumer.

Rational in War. "During the war the employers begged the workers to be rational, and they were. They answered nobly. But in Winnipeg there were cut-throats, but this was the result of misconceptions. There have been less strikes in Canada of late than in any other country. The strikes are the result of the workers themselves. Today the worker is no longer master of the situation. We find responsible employers stating the fact, very much like the Germans, that the day has come when the workers as a class could be relegated to their state of former dependence. Now the workers realize and feel that they have an equal right with the employer to say under what conditions they shall live. But today the horrible fear of unemployment is striking the worker, burning the iron into his soul. The pendulum of progress may swing back, and then, if might be right in industry, we must look for industrial warfare. Our colleges are full of people preaching the gospel of revolution. We have them in the industrial ranks also, even in our unions. I leave the thought with you."

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# COMMUNISTS DO NOT DOMINATE THE COUNSELS OF BRITISH LABOR PARTY

## British Labor Has No Hesitancy in Declaring For Political and Constitutional Action as a Means of Meeting Difficulties.

Written Especially for The Canadian Labor Press.

LONDON, England.—An eminent K. C., a member of the British House of Commons, writing recently in a Sunday paper, warned his readers against allegiance to the Labor Party, on the grounds that the party was really a Communist party and not very many shades of difference removed in thought from the philosophy of Nicholas Lenin and Leon Trotsky.

Of course, being a member of the bar, and a politician at that, he did not say so in so many words—the direct method of describing things as they are, of calling a spade a spade, is not of the manner of the type of politician; the indirect attack, the innuendo, goes there just the same, without raising that instinctive opposition which the workers immediately show when any section of their own particular organization is assailed. The assault on the Labor Party has been proceeding for some considerable time. It has never ceased, in fact, but has become more pronounced and malignantly aggressive since it became clear that the only alternative to the present Coalition Government was one which could be claimed as being the political expression of "working class interests."

Defining a Worker. It might be said in parenthesis that the Labor Party takes great pride and pains in emphasizing that workers mean anybody "who works by hand or brain." It is obvious to the student of politics that a return to the old days of Liberalism and Conservatism would leave their followers stranded high and dry. The Coalition was the inevitable outcome of the tremendous growth in the numbers who had come to the belief that a solution of the ills that society is heir to lies in the formation of a Labor Government rather than a desire for national unity to achieve a definite object, as was certainly the case during the war. There are, and will continue to be, for a time, petty little skirmishes between the old school of Liberals and the new school in regard to the adoption of candidates.

It is significant, however, that these petty quarrels and misunderstandings leading to the running of a number of candidates, assume greater proportions with the absence of a Labor nominee. With the presence of a fairly strong local Labor organization to support a Labor candidate, grievances and differences disappear in a mutual effort to keep the latter out. Now the plan adopted invariably takes the form followed by the eminent politician referred to above; the candidate, in 99 cases out of 100, is the mildest of mild men, with a reputation for toleration, broad-mindedness and administrative ability in local affairs.

Mr. Lloyd George's Mistake. As there is "nothing known as yet" of the "prisoner," no trace of Bolshevik tendencies, recourse is had to the company that he keeps; he is the nominee of the Labor Party, the majority of whom are quite honest and law-abiding citizens, whom it would have been a pleasure to support if they did not follow the policy of expediency determined by Communists. Doubtless a number of truthful and otherwise well-meaning people believe that the majority of whom are lumped together Socialists, syndicalists, anarchists and any number of other "isms" embracing one train of thought, apparently unaware of the circumstances that between these

schools of thought there is bitter and unrelenting antagonism. As for the repeated assertion that a small and irresponsible group of men and women who form the Communist Party (or one of the Communist parties, for there are three, if not more) dominate the counsels of the Labor Party, the statement is so stupid as to place it beneath notice but for the fact that it is intended to frighten timid people who might be friendly disposed to Labor. At no time in the employment of great political and social conferences, never was the advice of the extrajudicial section as decided as at the recent conference of the party called to consider the strike problem. And even were the strike enthusiasts revealed in so barren a field, never were they handled so unmercifully in debate as when J. H. Thomas and others replied to their proposals.

The Strike Weapon. The strike weapon has really become an obsession with a small but noisy section of the Labor Party organization is assailed. The assault on the Labor Party has been proceeding for some considerable time. It has never ceased, in fact, but has become more pronounced and malignantly aggressive since it became clear that the only alternative to the present Coalition Government was one which could be claimed as being the political expression of "working class interests."

As a result of his visit to Geneva, Sir George Foster retained but only a faint hope as to the future of the League, but strongly insisted upon the value of the work already accomplished. These discussions were held, the other day, with a representative of The Christian Science Monitor, in Ottawa, he maintained that the work of the Assembly itself throughout its session, was not only a triumphant vindication of the spirit of co-operation and good will which have won for him such a position of trust in Canadian politics.

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# SIR GEORGE FOSTER'S VIEWS ON THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

From the Christian Science Monitor.

Few things, it may be ventured, are better calculated to deepen distrust of human judgment than the very divergent views that have been advanced during the past twelve months, on the question of success or otherwise of the League of Nations. The recent meeting of the Assembly in Geneva has been described, on the one hand, as little better than a fiasco, and, on the other, as an unequalled success. In these circumstances, it is particularly welcome to have the views on the subject of such an able and judicious statesman as Sir George Foster, Minister of Trade and Commerce in the Canadian Government, Sir George Foster was senior member of the Canadian delegation at the meeting of the Assembly at Geneva, and during the five weeks over which the great gathering spread itself, he had every opportunity for exercising that careful and important judgment which has won for him such a position of trust in Canadian politics.

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The Law as amended Nov. 10, 1919. THIS Referendum on April 18 is to ratify a new federal law, namely, the Canada Temperance Act, as recently amended by Dominion Parliament.

If a majority of the people of Ontario vote in favor of the Canada Temperance Act as amended, then, in the exact words of the law, it follows:

- 1. "No person shall import, send, take or transport into such province any intoxicating liquor."
2. "No person shall, either directly or indirectly, manufacture or sell, or contract or agree to manufacture or sell, any intoxicating liquor to be unlawfully imported, sent, taken or transported into such province."
3. "The carriage or importation of intoxicating liquor through such province shall only be by means of a common carrier by water or by railway and not otherwise, and during the time any intoxicating liquor is being so transported or carried no person shall open or break or allow to be opened or broken, any package or vessel containing such intoxicating liquor, or drink, or use or allow to be drunk or used any intoxicating liquor therefrom."
NOTE: This law does not prohibit importation of liquors to be used for sacramental, medicinal, manufacturing or commercial purposes, or the importation of such liquors as are permitted to be sold by the laws of the Province.

"Shall the importation and the bringing of intoxicating liquors into the Province be forbidden?" Vote—and Vote, "Yes" Close the door to imported "booze" Ontario Referendum Committee

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## NEW INDUSTRIAL POLICY BRITISH LIBERAL PARTY

### Suggest Establishment of Industrial Councils With Chairman a Minister of Crown.

LONDON, England.—Every fresh event reveals that the economic and industrial fabric is strained to breaking point. The most recent indication of the impending change is the issue by the executive of the National Liberal Federation of its outline proposals for a new economic and industrial policy.

In the preamble to the main resolutions, of which there are 11, it is stated that they represent a consistent statement of the new Liberal policy which aims in economic and industrial affairs at the removal of disabilities and the restraint of tyrannical powers. Rigid and mechanical industrial machinery, in which individual choice and initiative are reduced to a minimum, forms no part in the intentions of these proposals, which aim rather at "the development of a flexible and living society, in which all men are free to make the most of their own powers, whilst no man is free to do what is harmful to others."

The most arresting proposal is that relating to the establishment by Parliament of a National Industrial Council consisting of representatives of the employers and workers in each industry, with a chairman who shall be a minister responsible to Parliament. Joint committees or councils representing employers and workers of all grades, would be set up for each industry and be responsible to the National Industrial Council. These committees or councils could fix standard hours of work and rates of pay. Less desirable, but scarcely less important, is the suggestion that the proposed council should promote increased production, full and proportionate reward of labor, and the fair division of the product of industry.

Nationalization Deal With. The growing consciousness that no man or woman who is capable and willing to serve the community should be allowed to remain idle, is recognized in the proposals for dealing with unemployment, providing the necessary funds with the aid of state contributions. In addition to this, the Government should provide suitable machinery for absorbing unemployed labor created through extraordinary trade fluctuations, by adjusting the supply of public and local works as far as possible to meet this need.

Nationalization is shyly dealt with in a vague proposal to supply the scheme only to such industries and services which "tend to exclude free competition," each case to be considered on its merits. Taxes and combines are to be summarily brought to book under this Liberal program of reforms. A special tribunal is to be established to which the Board of Trade may apply for powers to compel information, or to make public the results of his investigations. Combines to fix unreasonable prices for commodities, or to withhold supplies are to be made illegal.

Repayment of War Debts. Draconic proposals are made for the repayment of war debts, without recourse to additional income tax or the imposition of import duties, by a graduated tax on the

values of property above the limit of \$5,000. For this purpose the estate valuation of land, made under the Finance Act, 1910, is to be amended and brought up to date. Under this new valuation, mineral and mining rights, it is proposed, should be included, and a uniform national tax imposed on the capital site value of the whole country. In the event of the state buying out mineral rights, the value at which they are taken over would be the value agreed upon for the purpose of rating and taxation. National expenditure is to be reduced by one-fourth.

Finally, proposals are made to render simpler and less expensive the transfer of land and buildings compulsorily acquired for public purposes, and for ready assessment of any compensation awarded under such transfers. All these proposals will be considered by the Liberal association, and then, with any amendments sent up, will be discussed and voted upon by the general committee of the National Liberal Federation at Nottingham.

## CANADIAN INDUSTRIES INCREASE IN NUMBER

### At End of 1918 There Were in Canada 35,797 Manufactories.

OTTAWA.—Statistics of manufacturing industries, in view of the time taken to compile them and the continual expansion of activities, must at all times be somewhat out of date, and the latest published survey of Canada's industries carried out by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics covers only the period up to the end of 1918. Since that time there has been a considerable development, the period subsequent to the war having seen the establishment of hundreds of United States industries induced to this foreign expansion by the adverse exchange on Canadian money. The figures are, however, useful for purposes of comparison, as illustrating industrial growth over the years prior to that time.

At the end of December, 1918, there were in Canada 35,797 manufacturing establishments, compared with 15,796 existing in 1905, and 21,306 in 1915. The capital invested in these industries in 1918 aggregated \$3,024,302,913, compared with \$1,846,585,023 in 1905, and \$1,941,103,272 in 1915. The number of employees engaged had risen from 392,539 in 1905 and 514,883 in 1915 to 877,737 in 1918. The output of all factories at the last survey was valued at \$3,458,036,975, whilst in 1915 it was \$1,807,187,149 and in 1905 only \$718,352,602. Over the previous year, 1917, there was an increase during the twelve months of \$247,652,000 in the capital investment, an increase of \$678,900 in the wages paid, and an increase of \$442,459,935 in the value of products.

Ontario led in the number of manufacturing plants with 15,365 to her credit; Quebec came next with 40,540; then in order Nova Scotia, 2,123; British Columbia, 1,786; Manitoba, 1,444; Saskatchewan, 1,422; New Brunswick, 1,364; Alberta, 1,252; Prince Edward Island, 484, and the Yukon, 15.

In the matter of capital investment, Ontario also led with a total of \$1,598,011,000, or nearly one-half of the aggregate. Investment in the other provinces was as follows: Quebec, \$880,468,786; British Columbia, \$244,897,241; Nova Scotia, \$132,522,649; Manitoba, \$105,981,159; Alberta, \$61,405,933; New Brunswick, \$74,420,878; Saskatchewan, \$39,476,269; Prince Edward Island, \$2,886,862, and the Yukon, \$3,633,929.

## SEVEN DAY WEEK STILL EXISTS IN THE STEEL MILLS

### U.S. Steel Officials State Evil Will Be Abolished But Few Believe Statement.

NEW YORK, New York.—The statement by Judge E. H. Gary, chairman of the United States Steel Corporation, that the seven-day week and the long turn in changing shifts have been "entirely eliminated" by all our companies, and that a committee of presidents of subsidiary companies might be expected to report the result of their investigations of the 12-hour day question in the near future, was received with interest by those who have been waiting to see what effect the Interchurch World Movement's report on the steel strike might have on the corporation.

Heber Blankenhorn, secretary of the commission, whose inquiry resulted in that report, said to your representative that the announcement that the seven-day week had been eliminated should be compared with similar statements made by steel officials during the past 19 years; such a comparison would show that it was eliminated before the war, but was quite done away with by 1919. The report further states that the president of the Carnegie Steel Company and of the Illinois Steel Company, subsidiaries of the corporation, assured the commission that seven-day week work was a thing of the past.

A letter from Mr. Gary to the commission, printed in the report, states that prior to the war the seven-day week had been entirely eliminated except as to maintenance and repair crews on infrequent occasions; that during the war there was considerable continuous seven-day work, due to the request of the

Government for more production, but that this was changed with the close of the war.

The report also quotes Judge Gary as having testified before the Senate committee: "We decided to eliminate the seven-day week if we possibly could, and we practically eliminated it."

The commission investigating the steel strike found that the facts did not bear out the statements of the corporation; the seven-day week had not been eliminated. Thus, since he thinks that the steel companies have already convicted themselves out of their own mouths by coming out again with an assertion that the seven-day week has been abolished, Mr. Blankenhorn is not inclined to pin much faith to the statements.

This report seems to come out every so often," he said, "and the public is always surprised to learn that the seven-day week still exists. The point is that the public has no reason to believe that this announcement means any change in conditions in the mills or that it even indicates that there will be any such changes."

### U. S. STANDING ARMY IS SMALLEST IN WORLD.

WASHINGTON.—The United States has a smaller standing army, in proportion to population, than any country in Europe, and only three countries in the world—Brazil, Paraguay and Colombia—have a relatively smaller armed force, according to statistics issued by the war department.

In absolute figures, Bolshevik Russia, with 1,500,000 soldiers under arms, heads the list, and China, with 1,362,000, is second though in proportion to their population they are exceeded by many other countries.

On a percentage basis Switzerland, with a population of 4,000,000 and a regular army of 170,000, or 4.25 per cent. of the total, is first; Greece, with 7,500,000 population and an army of 240,000, or 3.20 per cent., is second; and Estonia, with 1,200,000 population and an army of 36,500, or 3.04 per cent., is third.

According to the Federal trade commission the cost of coal at the mine has gone up fifty-two cents a ton since 1915. Who got the other 25.8¢?—Marion Star.

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