

# CANADIAN LABOR PRESS

A National, Sane Labor Paper

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## What Imports Are Doing to the Canadian Shoe Industry

### Lack of Proper Protection Hits Another Canadian Industry Hard

By L. P. Deslongchamps, President of the Shoe Manufacturers' Association of Canada

#### Beginning of the Shoe Industry in Canada

For a proper understanding of the present situation of the shoe manufacturing industry in Canada, it is necessary to note the conditions under which that industry has developed to its present status. History shows that shoe manufacturing is one of the earliest industries in any country, and especially in agricultural countries where such industry provides a market for hides. The making of shoes was a handicraft trade when the introduction of machinery started it towards the present factory system. The United States is the birthplace and home of modern shoemaking and the use of machinery came first in that country, although Canadians made no unimportant contributions to the invention and development of the exceedingly ingenious machinery which is employed to-day.

The United States, indeed, got a considerable start and the shoe manufacturing industry in this country had to struggle for years against the competition of shoes from factories in the United States. The latter, with their large home market, had the exceedingly important advantage of quantity output and they were able to dump their product into Canada at prices which were difficult, if not impossible, to meet. Besides, the earlier development of the industry in the United States and the fact that the manufacture of staple lines of footwear in Canada came before the production of the finer qualities resulted in a prejudice in the minds of many Canadians in favor of boots and shoes from the United States. In not a few cases retailers adopted the course of least resistance and represented Canadian shoes as shoes made in the United States.

But slowly and after repeated set-backs, the Canadian industry won its way, assisted by protective duties which helped the Canadian plants to capture an increasing share of the home market trade and to produce more economically because of their larger output. Profits always were meagre and competition exceedingly keen, for this, more than any other, has been the poor man's industry. Under the leased machinery system, it was possible for ambitious workmen to become shoe factory proprietors on very little capital and the industry has always been crowded. While this intense domestic competition caused a serious situation for the manufacturers, nevertheless it has afforded to the public continuous assurance against excessive prices.

#### American Competition

Competition from the United States continued to be a recurrent menace to the industry here. The boots and shoes manufactured in that country are similar to those produced in Canada and floor stocks and surplus goods of the United States factories alone would more than provide for all the requirements of the Canadian trade. Imports from the United States increased whenever the factories of that country required an outlet for their surplus production, and investigation has shown that in many cases such footwear has been exported to Canada at prices considerably below the cost of production in the United States. Mr. Fielding, who was Minister of Finance in 1906, realized the increasing unfair competition to which the Canadian industry was subjected and a small increase in the General Tariff duty was made. This served to check slightly the growth of importations from the United States but from 1909 to 1914 further increases occurred. Complaints of periodic "dumping" of a kind to which the Canadian Dumping Law did not apply or to which it could not easily be applied have continued. Shortly before the war, British manufacturers adopted American lasts and British competition began to assume serious proportions not only in Canada, but also, although to a somewhat lesser extent, in the United States. In the latter protection, an agitation developed for tariff protection but war conditions checked for a time the inflow of British footwear.

#### War Record of Canadian Shoe Plants

The war-time record of the Canadian shoe manufacturing industry is a creditable one. No other Canadian industry supplied its products to the military authorities at so small a margin of profit. Any complaint which occurred in connection with Canadian boots and shoes for army use was due not to factory defects, but rather to Government specifications which did not meet fully the requirements of the new trench warfare conditions. Every Canadian soldier who went overseas wore boots produced by Canadian labor in Canadian factories. Moreover, the Canadian-made trench boot was accepted by the British authorities for active service and orders were placed in the Dominion for imperial stores account. With the increased domestic demand for boots and shoes and an export trade which reached a value of no less than \$5,679,720 in the fiscal year 1919-20, the Canadian industry developed in magnitude and efficiency during the war period. The quality of the better grade Canadian-made shoes became more and more recognized by the public as a result of Made-in-Canada advertising and the prejudice in favor of United States footwear was overcome very largely. As a result, many of the highest class shoe stores in Canada, which before the war carried shoes of United States manufacture to the extent of from 50 to 90 per cent. of their stock, now handle few, and in many cases absolutely no lines of United States shoes. The retail trade is now practically unanimous in recognizing that Canadian-made footwear is unsurpassed by that of any other country and the growing acceptance of the Made-in-Canada idea has been a notable feature of the recent history of the shoe trade in this country.

#### Afflicted by Trade Depression

The shoe manufacturing industry was one of the very first to be affected by the trade depression, which commenced in 1920. Wholesalers' and retailers' stocks were high and the public also were well supplied with boots and shoes. Then our export trade, which at one time had reached about ten per cent. of the total output of the Canadian shoe factories, was cut off practically overnight

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by exchange and by high tariff duties and other restrictions on imports imposed by other countries. To make the situation still worse, exchange aided importations of boots and shoes from the United Kingdom, where wages were much lower than in this country, have been increasing sharply. Also there has been the threat of importations from Germany and thousands of pairs of infants', children's and misses' leather shoes purchased in Germany at 50 to 52 cents per pair, actually have been imported into Canada, unmarked as to country of origin. Although these shoes could not be made in either Canada or the United Kingdom for less than about \$1.25 per pair, they were valued for duty at only 80 cents per pair and duty of 24 cents per pair was charged. The dumping clause was held to be applicable. Import statistics for June of this year showed 3,900 pairs of women's leather shoes imported from Germany and appraised for duty purposes at only \$1.00 per pair. The shoe manufacturers also fear that some of the shipments imported from Great Britain under the low rates of the British Preferential tariff may be largely German products.

#### Urgent Representations to Government for Proper Protection

During the last session of Parliament, the Shoe Manufacturers' Association of Canada and individual shoe manufacturing firms made urgent representations to the Government asking that protection be provided against the rapidly increasing importations from Great Britain. We pointed out that, under present conditions, the Canadian industry must depend almost entirely upon the home market and if the Canadian business available to our factories be curtailed by importations there is no possible way of making up for such loss.

Every dollar that is paid for shoes from the United Kingdom, Germany, the United States or any other country, means an actual reduction in orders for the Canadian industry and short time for Canadian workers and also a direct loss of business to the tanners and other supplies. It means, too, an increase in the cost of Canadian-made footwear, because the larger the volume of business available the more economical will be the operation of the Canadian shoe factories and the lower the cost and selling price per pair. We pointed out further that, with a productive capacity of probably close to 25,000,000 pairs of shoes annually and a home-market demand at the present time, of only barely 15,000,000 pair, the industry was in a most difficult situation and that since the war more than 70 shoe manufacturing firms in Canada had become business casualties. That number has been further increased during the last three or four months.

#### Industry Has No Protection

THE INDUSTRY ACTUALLY HAS NO NET PROTECTION AGAINST IMPORTATIONS FROM GREAT BRITAIN. There is a nominal duty of 15 1/2 per cent., but we submitted irrefutable evidence to show that, with exchange against us and with wages which are from at least 66 2/3 per cent. higher than those paid for similar operations in the United Kingdom, and with duties on raw and semi-manufactured materials, the Canadian factories actually were under a net handicap of 10 per cent. over and above the duty. We pointed out too, that the British shoe factories are using leather tanned in Germany and imported into England duty-free. The Canadian duty on boots and shoes from the United Kingdom barely offsets the lower wage rates and material costs in Great Britain, leaving the

## Labor Conditions Satisfactory at Ontario Mines

### CHIEF INSPECTOR REVIEWS SITUATION—WORK IS ATTRACTIVE TO YOUNG MEN

By T. F. Sutherland, Chief Inspector of Mines, Ontario.

Few mining districts have as satisfactory labor conditions as are found in Ontario. Not only is there a steady supply of labor to meet all demands in the mining industry, but this labor is, as a rule, efficient. The "open shop" prevails at all mines. The Ontario miner, being but a few years removed from the farm, either going or coming, is not much interested in unionism. There are a few "Reds" among the foreigners, but they are so much in the minority that they can be disregarded.

The demand for labor in Northern Ontario comes from the mines, the pulp and paper and lumbering companies, railroad construction and road building. The cutting of pulp, lumbering, railroad and road building are seasonal operations and with a rate of pay much below that of the mines.

Young men come from the farming districts in the older portions of the province to engage in this industry, and, when once they start mining, they are lost to the other industries. There is a certain attraction in underground work—the noise and liveliness of the work, the even temperature underground throughout the year, the absence of lost time due to unseasonable weather, the high rate of wages, the short hours, and the active life in a mining town attract the youth. These, in addition to good housing and living conditions, schools, workmen's compensation, etc., are inducements that hold the married men. The desirability of the work tends to efficiency as the workmen realize that there are always recruits from the lumbering and railroad operations waiting for an opportunity to accept employment.

Another source of labor supply in the mining districts is the settlers who are making farms in the great clay belt of Northern Ontario. Naturally, these pioneers are young men, and for a few years, while getting started, require employment for part of the year. These men are ambitious, are hard workers, and choose the occupation paying the highest rate of wages.

The mining companies have followed a wise policy in attracting labor. Married men are induced to bring their families by being supplied with a house built by the company and rented at a reasonable rate. Company stores are operated where employees can trade at prices generally 15 per cent. lower than those charged the public. Group insurance of employees, recreation halls, schools, hospitals, and good medical attention are supplied. The contract

(Continued on page 2)

Canadian shoe manufacturing industry entirely unprotected against the British manufacturers' exchange advantage.

With the further aid of ocean freight rates to Vancouver, which are only a fraction of the rate from Eastern Canada by rail or lake and rail, and with the advantage of the 5 per cent. dumping allowance under the Canadian tariff before penalty is applied, the British manufacturers have captured fully one-third of the men's footwear business of British Columbia and a considerable share of the trade elsewhere in Canada. The most recent trade reports show large increases in importations of women's and children's shoes from the United Kingdom and the British importations have been spreading from high-grade walking shoes to the cheaper lines. Importations from the United Kingdom since the first of this year have averaged more than 12,000 pairs per month and in June amounted to 46,663 pairs. In respect of value, importations of British shoes during the last 12 months have totalled \$938,789 as compared with \$539,503 for the 12 months ended with June, 1923,—an increase of 74 per cent. These figures reflect a situation which is becoming increasingly serious for the Canadian shoe manufacturing industry and for the employees in such industry. The shoe manufacturers believe that it is a mistaken imperialism which continues a preference to imports from the United Kingdom, when that preference is harming so seriously our own industries at a time of acute industrial depression and unemployment. Our first concern should be for Canadian interests and there is need to-day as never before for a strong Canadianism. Needless to say, the shoe manufacturers will continue to urge upon the Government the need for protection against British importations as well as against those of other countries.

The Boot and Shoe Workers' Union in the United States has been aroused by the threat to the shoe manufacturing industry in that country from imported shoes. The Shoe Workers' Journal, published in Boston, said in its issue of July, 1924: "According to reports from various sources and sections, foreign-made shoes are beginning to make serious inroads in the American shoe market. We hear of numerous large city shoe stores and department stores that are beginning to feature European-made shoes quite extensively. European shoe manufacturers began to prospect the American market in the early months of 1914 but their campaign was then, for the time being, summarily ended by the outbreak of the world war."

"Your General Officers were then keenly aware of the destructive effect that an influx of European-made shoes would have upon the American shoe industry and its workers and are even more keenly alive to the menace of it to-day. We were aware then of the great disparity between the wages and living standards of European and American shoe workers and that disparity is far greater to-day than it was in 1913."

"Since or during the war, both your General President and your General Secretary-Treasurer have visited the principal shoe manufacturing countries of Europe and are quite familiar with the wages and living standards of the shoe workers in the various countries. It is no surprise to us, therefore, that European-made shoes should now be offered for sale to American shoe dealers at prices that make the competition of American-made shoes an absolute impossibility. We foresee the condition that confronts us now ten years ago."

"On the authority of Colonel Leonard P. Ayres, banker and internationally known statistician, wages in Germany range from 69 cents to \$1.09 per day in American money. Workers at those wages, receiving millions of depreciated German marks, find it difficult to buy a loaf of bread."

"Merchants handling these shoes see a long profit. They buy them much below American costs and sell them only slightly below retail prices of American shoes. Thus the consumer saves little, while the middleman profits much. Every shoe trade interest must realize that the longer united action is postponed on this matter, the greater the damage that will be done before corrective action can be secured. Therefore, action should be quick and strong."

#### Employers and Employees Should Co-operate

Employees of the boot and shoe factories equally with the proprietors are concerned to see that the growing menace to the Canadian shoe manufacturing industry is met before the industry is further harmed and unemployment made more acute. Representatives of both the Boot and Shoe Workers' Union and the Catholic and National Unions were with the deputation which awaited upon the Government in April and we believe that the authorities at Ottawa will provide protection as they are brought to realize how serious is our situation and how urgent is the need for action which, in the words of the Shoe Workers' Journal, "should be quick and strong."

## May Pass Pensions Legislation

Ottawa, Ont.—Before the next session of parliament the Canadian government is expected to sound out the provinces on an old age pension system. A parliamentary committee recently drew up a plan for pensions to all over 70 who are in need of them, half the cost to be borne by the Dominion and half by the provinces. The proposed pension is \$20 a month or \$240 a year. The cost of administration, it is proposed, should be borne by the provinces. The number of pensioners in Canada would be about 98,000, and the cost for the Dominion has been put at \$11,860 a year.

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Arriving at Quebec in the early evening of Wednesday, you enjoy a band concert on Dufferin Terrace. Thursday is spent exploring the city, visiting the shrine of St. Anne, the Falls of Montmorency, or wherever your fancy leads. Montreal is reached Friday, making connections with the steamer for Thousand Islands, Toronto and points west.

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# Editorial Page of The Canadian Labor Press

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Following in brief is an outline of our Policy:

1. The Canadian Labor Press supports the International Trade Union Movement, of which there are approximately three hundred thousand members in Canada.
2. The Canadian Labor Press supports the policy of the present Dominion Trades and Labor Congress of Canada.
3. In the interests of the Canadian Worker, The Canadian Labor Press believes that Canadian industry needs adequate tariff protection.
4. The Canadian Labor Press advocates fair play to employer and employee.
5. The Canadian Labor Press stands for the betterment of Trade Union conditions in Canada and the welfare of our country at large.
6. The Canadian Labor Press is independent in politics and free from any political influences.

### The Shoe Industry in Canada

On the front page of this issue of "The Canadian Labor Press," the shoe industry in Canada is most completely reviewed and it is the earnest desire of this paper that our supporters read and study this article most thoroughly as it is very typical of the situation prevailing in Canada at the present time in the majority of Canadian industries and demonstrates the necessity of closer co-operation in industry between employers and employees for mutual protection.

We are all affected by the critical development of foreign competition at a time when every effort should be put forth to protect Canadian industries if Canada is to maintain her status as an industrial country.

The shoe industry has played a very important part in the development of Canada as the article will show. In the year 1919-1920, the value of shoes exported from Canada reached the record sum of \$5,679,720—truly an amazing feat for one of Canada's most important industries, but the sad part of the story is the reaction which set in thereafter due to the unfair competition caused by inferior working conditions in other countries and the rates of exchange existing through the demonization of the places which allowed foreign shoes to be dumped into Canada at ridiculous prices, thus crippling the Canadian industry and throwing Canadian workmen out of employment.

### Prohibition in Ontario

After being able to think the matter over for the past three years, the working men of the Province of Ontario are about to have the opportunity of expressing their disapproval of the present temperance laws, legislation which was originally foisted on the public in 1916 without sanction of the voters and as a wartime measure; two referendum votes since that time, one in 1919 and one in 1921, were rushed upon the unsettled citizens and largely through the means of trick ballots, the original measures were sustained.

Now however, that the voting public of Ontario have had a chance to witness the evils brought about through the present system, we venture to say that many of those who through ignorance, voted for the legislation at the last referendum, will change their ballots accordingly.

When the present laws were rushed into force in 1921, prohibitionists tried to fasten the badge of disgrace on everyone who did not side in with their views, but now citizens use their own heads in discussing this all important question and have discovered that a person is not necessarily damned because he is not a prohibitionist. Even now, when the present campaign gets under way, the prohibition forces will try to rule the roost and thrust upon the people their bigoted and selfish views. Within the past few days, a prominent man in financial and business circles in Toronto, who is an ardent prohibitionist, has made the statement through the press that he does not consider a vote necessary, which is a far different view from that taken by the toiling masses who need and insist upon their glass of beer.

From the standpoint of the moral affect from present laws, we have a decided increase in dope fiends who end up with horrible crimes; the undermining of the health standards through imbibing illicit and poisonous beverages and a decided lowering in the standard of our social life; confidence in our fellowmen has been shattered and it has developed liars and a feeling of distrust which lowers the standard of moral responsibility.

From the standpoint of finances, the foreigners in the bootlegging trade are getting all the revenue which should go into the public treasury to help lower our taxes which have reached the breaking point during the past few years. The doctors are also getting money which they are not entitled to and which is a financial drain both ways. Business conditions during the past three years have been very bad and in Ontario especially, there seems to be a lack of interest in making progress and in the welfare of industry, which is the backbone of Ontario's success. Revenue which should ordinarily come into Ontario through the channels of business and in other ways is being directed to other provinces and we need privileges such as they have in Quebec to attract American finances which will offset Ontario's commercial disadvantages.

### Labor Conditions Satisfactory at Ontario Mines

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and bonus system of work underground are followed wherever the work lends itself to these methods. In this way the efficient workman receives a greater return than the prevailing rate of wages.

An analysis of mine labor made early in 1923 by Balmer Neilly, secretary of the Ontario Mining Association, showed that 64 per cent. of all labor at mines in Ontario was British, 11 per cent. Italian, 6 per cent. Finnish, 5 per cent. Polish, 4 per cent. Austrian, 3 per cent. Slave, 2 per cent. American, 2 per cent. Rumanian, all other countries 3 per cent. Mill men, machinists, hostmen, etc., are practically 100 per cent. British. The foreigners are found principally amongst the unskilled labor on the surface and underground. The British workman is content to leave all pick and shovel work to the foreigners. He insists on a better class of work and better pay.

Mining in Ontario is neither a hazardous nor unpleasant. The walls of the veins are self-supporting; the mines are not wet, the underground temperatures vary between 42 deg. Fah. in winter to 48 deg. Fah. in summer; the use of water drills avoid the dust nuisance. The hours of labor underground are fixed by statute at eight hours face to face. Wages must be paid every two weeks. The conditions under which mining is carried on are covered by

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statute. Government mine inspectors see that these requirements are complied with. In addition, most of the larger companies have safety engineers or safety committees.

Two very stabilizing influences on mine labor in Ontario are the medical attention provided and the compensation paid for injuries received in the course of employment.

### Carry Leslie Case to British Comons

Resolution Is Passed by Amalgamated Society of Carpenters

Toronto, Ont.—At a general meeting of the Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners, held in the Labor Temple recently, the following resolution relating to the case of a labor man named William Leslie, now being detained by the authorities, was passed practically unanimously:

"That this mass meeting of Amalgamated Carpenters condemn the vicious sentence passed on William Leslie and we demand his immediate release. Furthermore, that we notify our members of Parliament in Great Britain to take the matter up in the British House of Commons, and that we request the Clyde Labor members of Parliament also to bring pressure to bear on the authorities here for Leslie's release, whose chief crime, in the eyes of the law, is refusing to be employed and starve quietly; also to take up the crime of bringing immigrants here when many thousands are idle."

### Miners' Strike Still Deadlock

Little Hope for Re-opening Negotiations from Either Side Seen

Calgary, Alta.—H. Ostlund, of Lethbridge, who is solicitor for District 18 of the United Mine Workers of America, and who was a member of the Knowles' conciliation board two years ago, was in the city recently, as was also O. E. S. Whiteside of Coleman, late president of the Western Canada Coal Operators' Association, but neither was able to throw out any ray of hope that something might be done in the near future in the way of re-opening negotiations leading to a settlement of the present coal miners' strike.

"Of course I am looking purely after the legal end of the organization," remarked Mr. Ostlund, "and cannot speak for its officials, but it would appear to me to be but a question of marking time and waiting for some move to be made by the operators."

**No Developments**  
 Mr. Whiteside said there were no new developments in the situation. The operators had made what they considered to be a very fair offer and had only asked for a reduction in wages which was about half that recommended by the Knowles' conciliation board.

Advice received in Calgary were to the effect that forty-eight delegates representing approximately twelve thousand union miners in the Hocking Valley field in the States, recently unanimously adopted a resolution inviting mine owners and operators in that section to meet in joint conference to discuss amendments to the wage scale and working conditions with a view to expediting the cost of mining. It is understood that the operators have signified their intention of accepting the invitation, and the joint session will probably be held this month. Mines in that section of the American fields have been idle for months owing to inability to compete with other mining fields.

### Postal Strike Incident

Timmins, Ont.—One of the lumber companies of the Timmins camp had occasion to order some articles from a traveller, and after he had his order neatly written out he asked for a couple of pieces of slabs.

"What do you want with the pieces of slabs?" he was asked. His reply

was that on account of the postal strike in Toronto he had to get his orders by express, but as the express companies are not allowed to carry mail, the orders had to be weighed down sufficiently to have the general appearance of a bona fide express parcel. The traveller's letter went on its joyful way, appearing quite express-like, with pieces of slabs on each side, and an old shoe box for an envelope.

### Farmers Take Bulk of Help in Labor Mart

More Work Provided at Regina Employment Office Than Others in Province

Regina, Sask.—Regina topped the employment offices recently by placing 122 men and women in work. Moose Jaw came second with 95 and Saskatoon third with 75 found positions. Placements by other offices were Swift Current, 43; Yorkton, 22; Prince Albert, 22; Weyburn, 19; North Battleford, 18; Estevan, 7; Teachers' Exchange, 10.

Farmers supplied most of the work with 157 men taken on, while 49 general laborers were found employment. The railways absorbed 36 and lumbering 9. There were 78 domestics found positions and 35 day workers. Labor conditions continue quiet in

practically all lines throughout the province, farmers in some northern districts letting out men because of the continued dry weather having made it impracticable for them to carry on their summer fallow work. There is plenty of help available in all lines of business with a scarcity of vacancies.

At North Battleford there was a fair demand for farm workers to finish summer fallow work and a number of men engaged for the balance of the season to be sure of work.

### Customs Men Glad They Won Increase

Statutory Increase of \$120 for 1,500 Men

Ottawa, Ont.—Customs men throughout the country are very well pleased by the order-in-council which raises the statutory increases of certain classes, including about 1,500 men, from \$60 to \$120. It is a point they have debated since the classification in 1918, and on which they have constantly made representations to the department, the Civil Service Commission, and the Government.

"The measure is largely due to the indefatigable efforts of the Minister, Hon. Jacques Bureau," said Mr. T. H. Burns, secretary-treasurer of the Dominion Customs and Excise Officers' Association. "The Commission was most helpful in enabling us to present our case, and we had loyal support from the Commissioner of Customs, Mr. P. R. Farrow. It is a great satisfaction to our men."

It is stated that the main reason for the increase was the fact that these classes of customs officers do work requiring considerable initiative and without immediate supervision.

### Workmen Needed

Kingston, Ont.—Business was brisk at the Employment Office recently, with orders for first class carpenters, fitters-up on locomotives, stone-cutters, first class laborers, housemen, domestics and experienced farm help. Vacancies are still open for some of the above and the local superintendent would prefer local help if available before bringing outside help to the city.

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# OUR HOME PAGE

## HOUSEHOLD NOTES

### COOKIES

One cup granulated sugar, 1 cup butter, 2 eggs, vanilla or spice to taste, 2 teaspoons milk, 2 cups flour, 1 teaspoon cream of tartar, one half teaspoon soda.

### OATMEAL COOKIES

One cup flour, two thirds cup brown sugar, one-half teaspoon soda, one half teaspoon salt, 3 cups oatmeal, one half cup butter or lard. Mix with a little sour milk or cold water.

### BOSTON COOKIES

Two eggs, 1 cup butter, 1 cup sugar, 2 cups dates, one-half cup chopped walnuts, vanilla, one half teaspoon soda dissolved in one half cup of milk, flour to stiffen. Drop a spoonful at a time on the pan and cook quickly.

### SMALL CAKES

One pint of flour, one-quarter pound butter, one-quarter pound sugar, one-half nutmeg grated, one-half cup currants, 2 eggs, 1 teaspoon baking powder. This quantity should make 30 cakes.

### HERMITS

One and one half cups brown sugar, 1 cup of butter, 1 cup seeded raisins, 3 eggs, one half teaspoon soda, 1 teaspoon cinnamon, 1 teaspoon nutmeg, flour to thicken, about 2 one half cups. Drop on buttered tins and bake in a quick oven.

### DOUGHNUTS

Cream 1 cup of sugar and 3 spoons of butter, add 2 well-beaten eggs, 1 cup sour milk or cream, one-half teaspoon salt, 1 teaspoon soda mixed in some milk. Flour enough to roll out. Fry in hot lard.

### MUFFINS

Two eggs (whites beaten separately), one-half cup sugar, piece of butter the size of an egg, 1 cup milk, 2 cups of flour, 2 teaspoons baking powder. Beat the batter to a cream, adding the beaten whites of the eggs last. Bake in a quick oven in small tins about 15 minutes.

### FITTERS

To be palatable and digestible they should be cooked quickly; the lard in which they are boiled should be very hot; the proper heat is indicated by a blue smoke arising from the surface. Batter for fritters is best made several hours before using.

### KISSES

Beat the whites of 3 eggs to a stiff froth, then add 5 spoons of powdered sugar, and flavor with lemon. Drop the mixture in teaspoonfuls 1 inch apart upon a buttered pan, on the bottom of which is a white paper; sift sugar over it and bake half an hour in a slow oven.

### APPLE FRITTERS

One egg, 1 teaspoon sugar, one-quarter cup cold water, one-half cup flour, one-quarter teaspoon salt, one-half teaspoon melted butter; beat until smooth. Whip the white of an egg to a stiff froth, stir into the batter and set it in a cool place for at least two hours before using. Peel and core the apples, and cut into one-half inch slices; dip in the batter and fry in hot fat. When cooked dust them with confectioner's sugar. Bananas, peaches and pears may also be used, and when serving a little of the syrup which is left from a jar of fruit may be poured over the fritters for a sauce.

## John Unsworth Labor Leader, Interred

### I.O.O.F. and Union Members Honor Brother at Funeral Service

Coleson, Alta.—The funeral of Mr. John Unsworth took place from his residence, July 4th. A short service was held in the home, conducted by Rev. D. K. Allan. The funeral arrangements were in the hands of the Oddfellows. The procession to the cemetery was preceded by the band. The members of the I.O.O.F. walked in front of the hearse and the members of the union followed after it. Both organizations were well represented. Then a large number of citizens followed in cars. The floral tributes were many and beautiful. The late Mr. Unsworth was a man held in high respect by all sections of the community. At the conclusion of the church service at the graveside, the beautiful rituals of the I.O.O.F. and U.M.W.A. were read and the sprigs of evergreen thrown into the open grave. Much sympathy is felt for Mrs. Unsworth and her son Percy in their hour of sad bereavement.

## Court Upholds Labor Dept. on M. Wage

### Hudson's Bay Company Questioned Interpretation on Nearly All Points

Calgary, Alta.—Mr. Justice Simmons recently handed down a very important decision in connection with the Minimum Wage Act, arising out of a difference in interpretation between the Labor Department and the Hudson Bay Company in Calgary. The two parties submitted a test case with a series of questions to the court, and the finding is a very interesting one. The first question was whether the orders of the board were valid and effective. The act provided that the schedule of wages would come into effect when announced in the Alberta Gazette. The announcement in the Gazette provided that the new schedule would come into operation on April 1st. The contention of the Hudson's Bay was that the notice in the Gazette did not comply with the act, and for that reason the act was invalid. The court found in favor of the department. "The fact that the board attempted to override the statute as to the date at which the order should become effective does not, in my view, vitiate the effect of that order and may be neglected." He finds that the order should have become effective on the date of publication and not at the postponed date. Question of Commissions. The second question was concerned with bonuses and their effect upon

the minimum wage. The finding of the court is that "commissions and bonuses must be treated as a part of the salary and remuneration, but the company cannot take into consideration commissions paid as late as December, 1923, and make the same applicable in raising the average of the preceding months, in other words, since the act has to deal with the Minimum Wage, such commissions or bonuses should apply only on the week on which they are earned and should be confined to such period." This was the contention of the department of labor.

### Pay for Holidays

The third question referred to holidays. The finding is as follows: "The stated case says it is the custom of the Hudson's Bay Company to give employees who have been in the employ more than one year, a week's holiday with pay. In my view, if the company follows its custom then the presumption is that they are paid on the same basis as during the period of employment, and that they cannot employ or use the amount so paid for the holiday week in raising the average of the other week's employment." This was the contention of the department of labor.

### Classification

A fourth question respected the classification of employees. The minimum wage of cashiers is higher than that of clerks. The company has what is known as a pneumatic tube system for transmitting cash, and a part of it is a tube room in the basement. The contention of the department was that girls employed in this work were cashiers. The company contended that they were clerks. "It is quite obvious," says the court decision, "that an important part of the duty is the handling of the cash and the making of change, and I am of the opinion under the meagre evidence submitted to me that they should be employed as cashiers under Order No. 5, and not as sales clerks under Order No. 6." The department won all its contentions. S. H. Adams appeared for the department, and M. M. Porter for the Hudson's Bay Company.

## Officers and Men Get a Reduction

Winnipeg, Man.—Owing to a wage cut by the authorities at Ottawa, the forces at Tuxedo Barracks are to be depleted by wholesale resignations. Local military men express the conviction that there will be no trouble recruiting, owing to unemployment. "To the large number of men in Winnipeg who have been idle several months," says the press, "the opportunity to obtain a permanent position will come as a 'god-send'." It isn't what a woman says that is shocking but the fact that a woman could say it.

## Must Limit Claim to \$3,000

Authorization to institute a claim both under the Workmen's Compensation Act and Common Law was given Alme Cournoyer in Superior Court, Practice Division, by Mr. Justice Coderre in Montreal recently. The man asserted that he had both legs broken in an accident while at work on the new Morgan factory, Aylmer Street in June, 1923, and claiming \$7,329.50. As the Compensation Act limits the amount to \$3,000 (he was obliged to seek recourse to common law for the balance. He adds that he suffered permanent 75 per cent. incapacity.

## Refers 8-Hour Day to Supreme Court

### Will Decide Canada's Jurisdiction on It

Reference of the eight-hour day convention to the Supreme Court of Canada for opinion on jurisdiction will be recommended to the House of Commons by the Committee on Industrial and International Relations. The convention was adopted at the Washington conference of the International Labor organization of the League of Nations. Canada was a party to the convention, but doubt has arisen whether the implementing of the convention comes within federal or provincial jurisdiction. It is this doubt which, if the committee's recommendation is adopted, will be referred to the Supreme Court for opinion. An amendment to a report as originally presented, recommending that the Government should bring down legislation to provide for the eight-hour day on all Government contracts entered into in future, was also adopted.

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# Labor News From Coast to Coast

## "OUR OVERSEAS COLUMN"

### News From Various Countries

**BELGIUM**  
**Industry Thrived in 1923.**—Published reports of the Ministry of Industry and Labor show that during the year 1923, Belgian industries were, for the most part, operating up to the limit of their capacity; that the demand for agricultural labor was far in excess of the supply and that the number of offers of employment from individuals and firms exceeded request of labor applicants for placement.

**BRAZIL**  
**Homes for Pernambuco's Poor.**—On May 21st, 1924, the Legislative Congress of the State approved the project conferring upon the Governor the authority to expend, during the current fiscal period, an amount of 100,000 contos of reis for the establishment of a foundation whose purpose will be the building, in the city of Recife, of small houses for the poor.  
**Improved Labor Conditions for Recife.**—On September 16th, 1924, Municipal Law No. 1342, which provides for a complete reorganization of conditions governing the employment of women and children in Recife, Pernambuco, will become effective.

**DENMARK**  
**Conference on Immigration Act.**—Based upon the theory that "reduced quotas have quite a paralyzing effect on the North Atlantic emigration traffic," a conference of representatives, numbering about twenty persons, of the various American, British, German, French, Dutch, Swedish, Norwegian and Danish steamship lines, engaged in emigration traffic to the United States, was held in Copenhagen during the first ten days of June, 1924, for the purpose of discussing the situation created by the new American Immigration Act.

**MOROCCO**  
**Farm Labor Migration.**—There is a considerable migration back and forth across the Moroccan-Algerian frontier each year, and it is estimated that at harvest time fully 30,000 Moroccans cross into Algeria to do agricultural work, and that, when the harvests have been gathered, they return to their homes with their savings.

**NEW ZEALAND**  
**Coal-Mining Agreements.**—It is understood that three-year agreements as to wages are being negotiated by the various coal-mining companies, which will insure steady operation of the mines for that period. A uniform wage scale is to be established for the entire dominion.

### Will Recommend Old Age Pensions

Old age pensions of \$20 a month, to begin at the age of 70, are to be recommended to the House of Commons by the special committee on old age pensions. The report was approved by the committee recently and is to be presented soon.  
 It is estimated by the committee that the number of persons requiring to be pensioned under the plan would be 98,800 or approximately 40 per cent. of the total population of the Dominion at the age of 70. This estimate is based on Australian experience. The total cost of the scheme to the Dominion is placed at \$11,860,920 per annum. This one half of the pension estimated to be paid, the province being asked under the plan to provide the other half and to pay the cost of administering the act. Residence of 20 years on the part of a British subject is fixed as a condition of pensionability, while aliens must be naturalized and must reside here for 25 years in order to qualify.

### 8-Hour Day Urged on Govt. Works

Ottawa.—Reference of the eight-hour-day convention to the Supreme Court of Canada for opinions on jurisdiction will be recommended to the House of Commons by the Committee on Industrial and International Relations. The convention was adopted at the Washington conference of the International Labor Organization of the League of Nations. Canada was a party to the convention, but doubt has risen whether the implementing of the Convention comes within Federal or Provincial jurisdiction. It is this doubt which, if the committee's recommendation is adopted, will be referred to the Supreme Court for opinion.

### A Labor Employing Centre

Port Arthur has for a number of years been one of the foremost outlets for labor. The record of the local branch of the Provincial and Dominion Labor Bureau stands out prominently as compared with even some of the larger centers.

The predominance of this branch has much to do with the fact that occasionally there is a disproportionate amount of labor idle here. From this city hundreds of men are distributed to camps and extra railroad work in seasons, and to this city gravitate many men when work is shut down or when men are changing jobs.

Again it is not an uncommon thing for managers of labor branches to advise applicants for work that Port Arthur can always find work, with the result that at times the distribution of labor, unless intelligently conducted, will throw a surplus of workmen out of employment here.

When this occurs the fault is no way lies with Port Arthur, but rather with the Governments which maintain the labor bureau. This fact is so palpable that the attention of the Governments should be directed to it and steps taken to prevent a burden being placed upon this city for which it is no way responsible.

### Unemployment

St. John, N. B.—A delegation of working men has waited upon the Mayor to urge that public works be undertaken to provide employment, and so relieve the anxiety of many families who find it very difficult to make ends meet. There is very little work in the harbor this summer, or in the sawmills, which in former years gave employment to so many people. Local industries are fairly active, but there are many laboring men who find little or no work to do. Those who have families are unable to provide for them as they should, and as they would do if work were plentiful. This condition of affairs is not peculiar to St. John. Indeed there are other cities in which the conditions are less favorable. Nor is the condition confined to Canada. American cities are filled with men seeking employment and unable at the present time to find it. So far as St. John is concerned, there is every reason to believe that the condition is but temporary, and that later in the year there will be an improvement, with more work in progress and a better outlook. Meantime, however, there is need of work for many laboring men and mechanics, and a well considered construction programme would relieve the situation. It had been hoped that building operations on a fairly large scale would have been in progress by this time, but they have been delayed. The City Council would do well to consider whether it would not be in the interests of the city, not only of laboring men but of the merchants, to undertake work upon the streets such as had been planned earlier in the year; and perhaps some other improvements which would reduce the unemployment and tide men over until the general industrial and commercial situation is more favorable. Should unemployment continue through the summer the problem of paying rent, living expenses and taxes would be serious for those effected, and would mean a heavier burden of distress to be relieved next winter. It is well to pursue the policy of retrenchment and to scrutinize very carefully all expenditures, but exceptional conditions must be taken into account, and the City Council would do well to look carefully into the matter before turning a deaf ear to the appeal of the working men's delegation.

### Better Service Conditions

Ottawa.—The Superannuation Act's progress is creditable to the House of Commons. It is evident that members of parliament appreciate the necessity of providing adequate retirement allowances before the reorganization of the service can be proceeded with much further.  
 The Ottawa members, Messrs. McGivern and Chevrier, have reason to feel gratified that the Act has passed its third reading without any detrimental amendment. Mr. Chevrier particularly has put in many months of hard work in helping to get the Superannuation Act into satisfactory shape to meet the requirements of the House.  
 Provision for widows and dependents under the new Act should meet with public approval. Something should be done, too, for some widows who are at present without adequate means of support, although their husbands worked for many years faithfully in the civil service. Mr. Chevrier spoke of a possible instance where, after contributing 2 or 3 per cent. for thirty or thirty-five years the contributor died, after retiring and receiving from the fund two or three or six or eight months pension. In that case the whole of the remainder of the civil servant's contribution is gone, which does not seem quite a humanitarian disposition of the matter.  
 The junior member for Ottawa argued that there is a moral claim on the government in respect to the contributions made. The parliamentary committee felt that this matter did not come within the purview of the present measure. They did submit it, however, to the serious consideration of the government. Without detracting from the credit due to the government for having accomplished so much, it is to be hoped that means can be found to take care of the comparatively few claims of widows at the present time of former civil servants.

### White Fishermen Replacing Japs

Transfer From Fraser to Skeena—Salmon Fishing Brings Good Results  
 Prince Rupert.—This year a number of white fishermen from the Fraser River have transferred to the Skeena, and during the first week have done well. It is planned by the whole of the canneries here to increase the number next year, and have them gradually take the places of the Japanese, who are being restricted by Dominion regulations.  
 The first week of salmon fishing on the Skeena has brought good results, an average of thirty sockeye to the boat has been taken at most of the canneries. While the Japanese were on strike some good hauls were made by white fishermen, but now the catches are more evenly divided. The last of the Indians has arrived from Massett, and saw them all out with their boats. So far the new regulations allowing gas boats on the Skeena River has made no material change in conditions. The men are out as usual with the canneries boats, propelled by oars and sail, and all is proceeding much as usual. Spring salmon fishing has fallen off slightly during the week.

### Injunction Against I.W.W. Is Dissolved

New Move Made in Lumber Camp Troubles at Cranbrook  
 Cranbrook.—Some surprise was occasioned when it became known that the action of the I. W. W. in this city to have the injunction held against them by the lumbermen of the district dissolved had been arranged satisfactorily out of court. Peterson and Sampson were the two leaders named through the injunction was really aimed at the I. W. W. organization. According to the settlement now arrived at it will cease to be in effect. W. R. Ross, K.C., Vancouver lawyer, acted for the I. W. W., and H. W. Herchmer, Cranbrook, for the lumbermen. The disposition of the costs was not learned.

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### Hamilton Women's Labor League

Does Not Feel Single Girls Getting Square Deal  
 Hamilton, Ont.—A regular meeting of the Hamilton Women's Labor League was held here recently. Many matters were discussed relative to the welfare of women and children. An earnest discussion took place regarding the excessive and apparently unnecessary number of married women who are filling hundreds of positions in Hamilton, while hundreds of single girls are running around out of a job. Caustic remarks were passed on men in jobs driving their wives in their own cars and dropping them off at their places of employment, and in some instances passing through a queue of out-of-work girls. One member shrewdly remarked that if this type of woman was stopped from working to this extent she would have no alternative but to throw herself on the city, as her wants always exceeded her capacity to supply them.  
 This remark was provocative of much feeling, and the twentieth century idea of economic insecurity for workingmen's wives came in for much ridicule. A convention call was read from the Federated Labor Leagues, to be held in London in September, where the delegates would confer with the Dominion of Canada Trades Congress on many matters interesting to the working class as such. One of the questions scheduled for September will be, What, in your locality, are the most pressing questions for women workers?

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### Mexico Has Internal Troubles Again

Mexico City.—The attempt to seat the newly-elected congressmen is causing tumult and strife between the contending political parties. The labor-farmer faction maintains that the Flores followers, are trying to seat those illegally elected, while the Floresistas accuse the Calles followers (farmer-laborites) of the same attempt. Mounted police are patrolling the streets around the congress, while others are watching the examination of credentials. The labor-farmer block under the leadership of Luis N. Morones, president of the Mexican Federation of Labor, is threatening to form a legislature of its own; the other side threatens the same. In the meantime Calles is going to Europe to escape whatever results may arise from these dissensions.

### Victoria Lumber Employees Strike

Victoria, B.C.—Three hundred and fifty employees of the Canadian Pugh Sound Lumber Company, one of Victoria's largest sawmills, went on strike when notified of a proposed reduction of 35 cents an hour to 32 cents for common labor and proportionate decreases for their classes. Both whites and Chinese figured in the walkout.

### Australia's Navy

Melbourne, Australia.—The Australian federal government is about to announce a new defense policy, details of which have already been semi-officially announced to press correspondents.  
 Two new 10,000 ton cruisers will be built at once and thereafter one 10,000 ton cruiser every three years. Two modern submarine cruisers will also be built. There will be a seaplane base at Sydney, another in western Australia and a third on the northern coast of the continent; an aeroplane base at Melbourne, and an oil-fueling depot at Darwin, on the northern coast of the continent.  
 The various munition factories in Australia are to be speeded up so that they can turn out all the rifles, revolvers, machine guns, field guns, shells, explosives, and small arms needed for defense.

### Anglicans Did Much to End Postal Strike

Premier King Conveys Thanks to Rev. W. J. Spence  
 Toronto, Ont.—It is stated by those in close touch with the situation that the importance of the part the Church of England played in the postal strike settlement has not yet been fully appreciated by the public at large.  
 Several of the clergymen of Toronto addressed the striking postmen in a most conciliatory manner, which paved the way for a receptive attitude towards the Government's proposals. The Social Service Workers of the Anglican Communion from all over Canada and the United States were in conference at the time, and dealt with the postal situation by appointing a committee, with Rev. W. J. Spence of St. Jude's Church, as chairman. The latter immediately got into touch with the Premier, who arranged a conference with Hon. Mr. Murdock. The Anglican representative had interviews with the postal employees' executive, and the postmaster as well in company with Mr. Cascaden.  
 Rev. Mr. Spence yesterday received a letter from Premier King. In thanking him for his efforts as mediator, the Premier said, "Your own part in bringing matters to the satisfactory conclusion finally reached was much appreciated by all of us who had to do with the situation."  
 Naturally, the Social Service Workers of the Church of England feel very gratified that their efforts were of some practical benefit in such a crisis.

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 Rev. Mr. Spence yesterday received a letter from Premier King. In thanking him for his efforts as mediator, the Premier said, "Your own part in bringing matters to the satisfactory conclusion finally reached was much appreciated by all of us who had to do with the situation."  
 Naturally, the Social Service Workers of the Church of England feel very gratified that their efforts were of some practical benefit in such a crisis.

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### Mexico Has Internal Troubles Again

Mexico City.—The attempt to seat the newly-elected congressmen is causing tumult and strife between the contending political parties. The labor-farmer faction maintains that the Flores followers, are trying to seat those illegally elected, while the Floresistas accuse the Calles followers (farmer-laborites) of the same attempt. Mounted police are patrolling the streets around the congress, while others are watching the examination of credentials. The labor-farmer block under the leadership of Luis N. Morones, president of the Mexican Federation of Labor, is threatening to form a legislature of its own; the other side threatens the same. In the meantime Calles is going to Europe to escape whatever results may arise from these dissensions.

### Victoria Lumber Employees Strike

Victoria, B.C.—Three hundred and fifty employees of the Canadian Pugh Sound Lumber Company, one of Victoria's largest sawmills, went on strike when notified of a proposed reduction of 35 cents an hour to 32 cents for common labor and proportionate decreases for their classes. Both whites and Chinese figured in the walkout.

### Australia's Navy

Melbourne, Australia.—The Australian federal government is about to announce a new defense policy, details of which have already been semi-officially announced to press correspondents.  
 Two new 10,000 ton cruisers will be built at once and thereafter one 10,000 ton cruiser every three years. Two modern submarine cruisers will also be built. There will be a seaplane base at Sydney, another in western Australia and a third on the northern coast of the continent; an aeroplane base at Melbourne, and an oil-fueling depot at Darwin, on the northern coast of the continent.  
 The various munition factories in Australia are to be speeded up so that they can turn out all the rifles, revolvers, machine guns, field guns, shells, explosives, and small arms needed for defense.

### Anglicans Did Much to End Postal Strike

Premier King Conveys Thanks to Rev. W. J. Spence  
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