

LABOR NEWS
From Coast to Coast

MINIMUM WAGE FOR LABORERS

Mr. Peter Heenan, Labor Member For Kenora, Has Bill Under Review.

TORONTO.—Legislation providing for a minimum wage in the lumbering and pulp and paper industry will be one of the demands put forward by the Labor group of the Ontario Legislature next session. Though the calling of the next session is eight months away, Peter Heenan, labor member for Kenora, is already busy upon the framing of the bill with a view to starting in early in building up support for it.

"The proposition is that every factory that is making use of public resources for its raw material should be required to pay a minimum wage that will approximate at least the standard of living as laid down by the family budget issued at Ottawa," said the Kenora member last week during a visit to Toronto. "My idea would be to apply it to saw mills and pulp and paper mills at the outset, though it might be applied to any other industry."

The tentative bill mapped out by Mr. Heenan would not deal with any enterprise. He thought that if an employer obtained a license to operate a business that he could not pay the minimum wage fixed without operating his business at a loss, then the Government should have the right to step in and get at the fact. If it appeared on investigation that there was ground for the objection then it would be for the Government to make the minimum wage the employer in the way of reduced wages on timber to enable wage increases to be made up to the minimum. The proposed bill would, according to Mr. Heenan, give the Government power to take necessary measures where it was found that the inability of an industry to pay fair wages was due to inefficient management.

GEN. SMUTS DEFENDS LEAGUE OF NATIONS

Only Hope of Human Race is Association of Nations.

CAPE TOWN, South Africa.—In a speech in the assembly last week General Jan Christian Smuts, Premier of the Union of South Africa, warmly defended the League of Nations making an earnest plea that the league be given chance to show what it could do for the world.

"Do not let us fight the League of Nations," said Premier Smuts, "but let us fight the supreme council which may be wrong."

General Smuts thought the council had not "played the game" by the league. Everything was in the melting pot, he said, and he considered the league absolutely essential. He saw no other hope for the future of the human race than that of an association of nations, great and small.

General Smuts, who was a member of the peace conference commission for the organization of the League of Nations, added that he sincerely hoped the league would become a high court of justice and civilization, which would keep out of the international future.

In the course of his speech Gen. Smuts referred to the question of Ireland as a matter of concern to the United Kingdom. The British government, however, might desire to consult the dominion governments on this subject which would give them a chance to express their opinion.

As regards the Anglo-Japanese treaty, General Smuts said South Africa was apparently interested, but if he were asked to do so he was prepared to express his opinion on it, as well as on the question of dominion navies.

The premier expressed the hope that the forthcoming dominion conference would be successful in reaching an agreement on the matters affecting the empire, as such success would make for the success of the League of Nations and give the future government of the world peace and world peace.

PEACE WORLD'S GREATEST ASSET

Lord Lee Expresses Confidence in Japan's Desire For Disarmament.

MANCHESTER, Eng.—Speaking at a luncheon at the Grosvenor Hotel of Japan, who was visiting for the Admiralty, referred to the statement in April of the Japanese minister of war, Gen. Honma, regarding Japan's willingness to join in restricting armaments. This was a momentous statement, he said, which emphasized the growing need of all nations today, namely, a conference at which this grave question could be discussed.

After declaring that all rejoiced at the adoption by the United States Senate of Senator Borah's amendment to the naval appropriations bill for a naval conference, Lord Lee said that Japan had shown by the foregoing statement that though great in war, she was greater still in appreciation of the need for world peace.

It was concluded that Japan never would make the mistake, which brought all millard world's eyes instinctively to the prospect that peace is the world's greatest asset.

BUSINESS WOMEN URGED TO ASSIST IN REDUCTION OF 60-HR. WEEK.

TORONTO.—At luncheon at the Canadian Business Women's Club recently, Mrs. Horace Parsons, a member of the Minimum Wage Board, gave a very interesting talk, tracing the history of the minimum wage act back to 1894, when the first act was passed in Australia. Mrs. Parsons paid a tribute to the business women of Toronto and denounced the employer who "steals" the productivity and effectiveness of an underpaid employee. She urged the business women to do all within their power toward the amendment of the Sixty-hour Act, under which a girl can be compelled to work 60 hours a week. The president of the club, Miss Mary McMahon, presided.

SIX POINTS FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE A. F. OF L.

Annual Convention of Great Labor Body To Be Held At Denver, Col.

WASHINGTON.—As usual, Samuel Gompers has his programme ready for the coming annual convention of the American Federation of Labor, which is to be held in Denver, Colorado. He has already made known the six major points for which organized labor is contending. These are accepted by the element of the leadership of labor which is loyal to Mr. Gompers, and although there has been a movement on foot to combine the disaffected under the leadership of John L. Lewis, the United Mine Workers, it is believed that the main body of organized labor is sufficiently conservative and well enough organized to elect Mr. Gompers again to the post that he has held for so long.

Mr. Gompers has been conducting his campaign in characteristic fashion, and his supporters say he will handle the convention at Denver as he has those in the last few years when the radical element has sought his overthrow. He has taken an aggressive stand against the open shop and a definite position on other questions which labor is vitally interested.

The problems which Mr. Gompers will present to the convention are officially outlined as follows:

"The question of unemployment, which estimates run as high as 8,000,000 workers.

"The un-American movement to cripple labor and blast its spirit through what is called with miserable disregard for truth, the open-shop movement.

"The railroad problem, sufficient in itself to absorb the entire time of any great convention, involving the nation's chief means of transport.

"The immigration problem, with its effect on the American standards of living and citizenship.

"The problem of Russian affairs, sitting at the vitals of world civilization.

"The problem of how best to meet conditions brought about by court decisions—a problem unhappily not decreasing in importance, and for the reason demanding more than usual attention."

NO REDUCTION PROPOSED TO TELEGRAPHERS YET.

TORONTO.—Chairman William Storey of the Commercial Telegraphers' Association of America, C.P.R. division, stated last night that there had been no suggestion to C.P.R. telegraphers from the company of any wage reductions.

"All we hear so far is rumors," he said. "Any wage reduction which the company might propose would certainly be given serious consideration before it was expressed. The men intend to retain present wage rates."

RECONSTRUCTION OF FRENCH WAR AREAS

Mr. Briand Now Favours Employment of Germans.

PARIS, France.—The Committee of Action of the Devastated Regions has had an interview with Aristide Briand respecting the reconstruction, elaborated by the Confederation Generale du Travail. According to a statement made by the committee, Mr. Briand expressed himself favorable to an immediate trial of employment of German labor. In what is known as "the red zone," that is the districts where the destruction is most complete.

The secretary of the committee explained that this body had come into existence as a result of the congress held in London, and that its organization was "entirely autonomous." It considered the most urgent task was to constitute in the various departments a national organization for reconstruction, which should frame a programme.

The Government should only exercise powers of control, and be responsible for payments. The problem of reparations should be regarded in all its aspects, and Germany be called upon to acquit its debt, not only in money, but by furnishing material and labor. The members of the delegation insisted that there could be no real reconstruction without the collaboration of the people and, in particular, collaboration with the German people.

Mr. Briand affirmed that German material could certainly be used, and German labor on condition that it was really skilled and was accepted by the populations. German collaboration had been impossible with the preceding Government, but he believed in the sincerity of the new Government.

BOARD TO ORDER RETAIL CLERKS MINIMUM WAGE

Ontario Minimum Wage Board to Soon Set Minimum For Many Workers.

TORONTO.—The laundry regulations into effect in Toronto by the Minimum Wage Board of Ontario are to be extended to cover the whole province, according to an intimation given by Prof. J. W. MacMillan, chairman of the board to Hon. Walter Rolie, Minister of Labor. The regulations, which provided a minimum wage of \$12 a week for laundry workers, were applied first to Toronto, and the interval given laundry owners in other parts of the province to adjust themselves having expired, the order extending the regulations is to be issued.

Within a short time the board will also issue minimum wage orders for the paper box group of industries, which includes a number of similar trades such as paper boxes, manufacturing stationers, the confectionery group of trades and the retail clerks. The consideration of the needs of these workers in New York 1918, printer in 1919 worked 12 hours per day, and their average age at death as 28. New York Typographical Union No. 4 Greley as its first president. The union cut the working hours to 11, and by 1945 printers were dying at the average age of 32.

In 1922 the working hours had been reduced to 10, and printers were living to the ripe old age of 35.75 years after nearly six years of the nine-hour day.

CHATHAM LABOR CONDITIONS PLEASE LABOR DEPT. OFFICIAL.

CHATHAM.—T. A. Stevenson, of the Department of Labor of Ottawa, was in the city recently investigating the industrial conditions. He was particularly interested in the working conditions of the workers in connection with the heavy artillery of the British Labor movement, simply collapsed on the eve of the "acid test." Various reasons have been given for this, according to the point of view. It is thought that the extreme left wing dislikes more than the "capitalist system of society" with its "bourgeoisie." It is leadership, particularly at the head of the transport workers, is not given to shouting for revolution. In this connection, the manner in which Ernest Bevin, one of the leaders of the transport workers, has fallen from grace, from the pinnacle of fame to which his handling of the transport workers case before him, to the condemnation and scurrilous attack of the so-called Labor press because of his attitude toward the Triple Alliance strike, is remarkable.

Trade Union Not a Factor.

Posterity will, however, in all probability, place Mr. Bevin on the side of the weaklings, for no man knows the weakness of the transport workers better than he, and no man has worked so energetically and conscientiously toward cementing together the loose fabric of the Triple Alliance which goes to make up the Transport Workers' Federation. The alleged failure of Friday, April 15, was primarily the failure of the Triple Alliance and particularly of the Transport Workers' Federation, and not to the treachery or chicanery of leadership.

While the irresponsibility are attacking their vocabulary for fresh invectives to cast on the rebuilding of the structure. Readers of the Labor Press are aware that the weakest link in the Triple Alliance is the Transport Workers' Federation. It is known in these columns that the extraordinary fact and ability of the Transport Workers' Federation.

Unlike the National Union of Railwaysmen, a partner in the alliance, which is one single organization, the Transport Workers' Federation is built up of many organizations, each with its own code of rules, executives, organizers and policy. There has never been that cohesion, unity of purpose, and loyalty within the ranks to justify the belief that a decision of the federation would be faithfully pursued by the affiliated organizations.

Swept Into Organization.

It is as well that the facts be faced frankly. In the first place the various unions embraced by the Federation with one or two exceptions have no long tradition and training behind them such as develops discipline; for the most part they are composed of those who enter the industry for the first time.

Nine More Years of Life

How the Typographical Union Looks Upon the Forty-four-Hour Week.

By Clark B. Hicks, President Denver Typographical Union, No. 48

A portion of the book and job employing printers of the United States and Canada are much excited over the inauguration of the 44-hour week by the printing trades unions. As always, they are referring to the expected reduction in hours as an "economic crime," a criminal curtailment of production. According to the annual report of Secretary of the International Typographical Union, the average age of those members who died last year was 53.17 years. Under the laws of the union only those who have attained the age of 21 years are eligible to membership. The "expectancy" then, of the 21-year-old printer is but 32.17 years of life. The American Experience Table of Mortality, covering all American citizens, shows the "expectancy" of the 21-year-old average American to be slightly more than 41 years, and that the minimum age at death of more than 62 years. It appears, therefore, that printers are dying about nine years before the average American citizen.

According to the records of the New York Typographical Society, an incorporated sick benefit association, which has been in business in New York since 1815, printer in 1859 worked 12 hours per day, and their average age at death as 28. New York Typographical Union No. 4 Greley as its first president. The union cut the working hours to 11, and by 1945 printers were dying at the average age of 32.

In 1922 the working hours had been reduced to 10, and printers were living to the ripe old age of 35.75 years after nearly six years of the nine-hour day.

TRIPLE ALLIANCE FAILURE NOT DUE TO "BLACK TREACHERY" OF ITS OFFICIALS

The Transport Workers Are the Weak Link in Alliance and the 17 Branches Are Not Yet Solidified—Structure Being Re-constructed.

LONDON, England.—The failure of the Triple Alliance to function when, in the opinion of the miners, it was most vitally needed, continues to be the one absorbing topic in Labor circles, and, when the coal dispute has been settled, there is certain to be much bitter controversy as to the reasons for calling off the sympathetic strike by the railwaymen and the transport workers almost at the last moment.

There is no disguising the fact that the hope of the revolutionaries, the heavy artillery of the British Labor movement, simply collapsed on the eve of the "acid test." Various reasons have been given for this, according to the point of view. It is thought that the extreme left wing dislikes more than the "capitalist system of society" with its "bourgeoisie." It is leadership, particularly at the head of the transport workers, is not given to shouting for revolution. In this connection, the manner in which Ernest Bevin, one of the leaders of the transport workers, has fallen from grace, from the pinnacle of fame to which his handling of the transport workers case before him, to the condemnation and scurrilous attack of the so-called Labor press because of his attitude toward the Triple Alliance strike, is remarkable.

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TO MANY MEN IN OUR CITIES NOW SAVES E. INGLES

Electrical Workers' Officials Criticize Immigration Policy of Governments.

LONDON, Ont.—The Ontario and Federal Governments received some strong criticism from E. Ingles, international vice-president of the Electrical Workers of America, at a recent meeting of the London Trades and Labor Council.

The former Government he blamed for running advertisements in two English papers, namely, John Bull and Reynolds's Weekly, for 50,000 farm hands for Ontario, and a result of same hundreds of men are arriving weekly, claiming to be bona fide farm hands, and these same men possibly never saw a farm, the latter Government could not recognize a farm if they saw one.

The latter Government, claimed Mr. Ingles, was somewhat also to blame for giving a bonus of \$5 to all agents who get people to leave for Canada. This system was introduced by the Federal Government in 1914, and it was then placed in this country, and naturally the agents of steamship companies and Government agents also would work to get men to obtain passage to America, and naturally the agents of steamship companies and Government agents also would work to get men to obtain passage to America, and naturally the agents of steamship companies and Government agents also would work to get men to obtain passage to America.

A. F. of L. To Launch Organization Drive

WASHINGTON.—The American Federation of Labor is about to launch an intensive organizing campaign. President Samuel Gompers announced last week, in a statement which said that "the message of trades unionists will be carried to every corner of the continent to the limit of our power."

Coupled with the announcement was an assertion by Mr. Gompers that "confidence that the open shop campaign has proved a failure was made public May 16, at the annual convention of the National Association of Manufacturers, held in New York."

BUILDING COSTS REDUCED 20 P.C. IN CT. BRITAIN

Housing Policy of British Government Indicates a Second Housing Scheme.

LONDON, Eng.—The Minister of Health in a statement on the future policy of the Government with regard to housing made to a deputation from the Association of Municipal Corporations indicated that the Government would be prepared to consider a second housing scheme which the existing scheme had been carried through to completion. He also stated that where local authorities had entered into commitments with the Government, the Ministry, but had been unable to complete their schemes within the prescribed time owing to such difficulties as the cost of materials, labor and material, arrangements would be made for extending the payment of the subsidy.

The National Housing and Town Planning Council issues a statement in which they refer to the fall which has taken place recently in the cost of building involving a decrease of some districts up to 25 per cent, as compared with last September. This reduction in cost, it is stated, is in no measure due to the scarcity of labor and material, arrangements would be made for extending the payment of the subsidy.

Mr. Ingles' reply was very clear. He pointed out that there were hundreds of moving picture cameras in the Old Land demonstrating fields of wheat as high as a man's chest. These pictures would further show men standing in these vast prairies of wheat, just able to see over the tops of the grain. Mr. Ingles claimed that he had travelled all over the Western provinces and had never seen wheat higher than his thigh and most of the time the wheat was shorter. He further stated in his reply that the agents in England were going to lose the bonus system. So far for the Government. The Ontario Government had a man working for them in the immigration department by the name of Dr. Creed, who was a member of the Ontario time stamped the country, asking the farmers about the feasibility of importing Chinese labor for farm work. Mr. Ingles hoped that our Government would have learned the fact that we have too many men in our cities now.

HAMILTON CONTROLLER DECLARES AGAINST WAGE CUT.

HAMILTON.—Employers who attempt to cut wages were criticized by Controller O'Heir last week when he said there was no justification for such action, since labor had substantially increased its productivity.

"During the war many Labor men actually sweat blood in Hamilton, Toronto, London and other Eastern Ontario cities in their efforts to keep labor quiet down."

"Yet, in the face of that, there are many employers who are bent on nothing else at this time but cutting wages. Labor has increased its productivity, and employers have no warrant for cutting wages just now," concluded Controller O'Heir.

WANNIPEG STRUCTURAL IRONWORKERS ACCEPT SLIGHT WAGE CUT.

WINNIPEG.—A reduction of 15 cents an hour was effected in the wages of local bridge and structural ironworkers, as a result of the decision of the Joint Council of Industrial Relations. The previous wage agreement called for \$1.25 an hour. The men have agreed to abide by the ruling.

LONDON, Eng.—(Special Montreal Gazette Cable).—Although Ontario is not a Dominion, it is nevertheless a part of the Dominion of Canada, and its immigration policy is not favored in any Dominion. It is pointed out that recent immigration figures published by the British Government show that in 1918 Australia obtained nine British immigrants for every one who went to Canada, and in 1919 five for every one, although the cost of the voyage to Australia is considerably greater. It is apprehended that if Canada restricts its immigration policy, the number of immigrants to Australia will be correspondingly increased.

OTTAWA TRADE UNIONS RESIST OPEN SHOPPERS

Building Trades Council and Allied Trades Will Co-Operate in Movement.

OTTAWA.—It was decided at a special meeting of the Ottawa Building Trades Council, held Monday night, at 115 Sparks street, that the council would co-operate fully with the Allied Trades and Labor Association in the efforts to resist wage reduction and fight against the open shop movement, insisted on by the employers of the city. The meeting was called to fully discuss the local labor situation and the present situation which includes the Mayor and the Board of Control concerning the matter of proposed city work and also the new hospital, recommended that the council should have the right to do the work by day labor. The committee were not impressed with the attitude of the board, and felt that the best thing to do was to take immediate action being taken in the matter.

It was reported at the meeting that during the last few days many employers have taken up negotiations with the men. The report that the strike was petering out, met with great denial, and it was stated that the situation was well in hand.

Confidence was expressed in the strike committee and in the international officers who were assisting them. It was decided that all negotiations would be conducted through the committee.

On account of the success with which the last mass meeting had met in bringing the workers together, arrangements will be made to hold another in the near future. The committee will continue to do the operations of stilet influence endeavoring to bring about wage reductions.

The secretary reported having communicated with the Sills Bread Company concerning the employment of non-union men from Montreal in the construction of a new work at their plant on Catharine street. He stated that he had received a reply from the president of the company, stating that he was unable to do anything in the matter. It was then decided that the matter would be reported to the Trades and Labor Association of Ottawa.

The action of the hospital board, according to a report in the Ottawa Citizen, in refusing to go ahead with the new hospital, met with considerable approval at the meeting. The action of the hospital board, according to a report in the Ottawa Citizen, in refusing to go ahead with the new hospital, met with considerable approval at the meeting.

A committee was appointed to investigate the general situation, and to report on the necessity of going ahead with all the work possible, and that this work be done by day labor. The committee will continue to do the operations of stilet influence endeavoring to bring about wage reductions.

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ONTARIO PUBLICITY TO CEASE IN BRITAIN

Call For Immigrants Has Been Temporarily Suspended.

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Editorial Page of The Canadian Labor Press

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A WEEKLY NEWS LETTER.

OUR PRESENT INDUSTRIAL SYSTEM.

Matthew Wolf, President International Photo-Engravers' Union, Vice-President American Federation of Labor.

THE present industrial system is destined to remain, for a long time at least, in its main outlines. Private ownership of capital, freedom of choice and freedom of action—these doctrines of contractarianism are not likely to be swept aside or supplemented by collectivism or governmental organization and operation of industries. Despite the alluring promises held forth by its advocates and special pleaders, Socialism will not be accepted as an improvement on our present industrial system. Instead, it is believed to spell bureaucracy, political tyranny, and to render helpless the individual as a factor in ordering his own life, and to develop social inefficiency and industrial deallocation.

The present industrial system is far from being perfect. It is sorely in need of modification and improvement. Its defects include waste and inefficiency in the production and distribution of the commodities of life. It renders an insufficient reward for services contributed by the vast majority of workers and the abnormally and unnecessarily large incomes and returns for a small minority of privileged capitalists.

CHILD WELFARE IN CANADA.

THE Canadian National Council of Child Welfare was organized on Monday of this week, at a representative meeting of delegates from various organizations interested in child welfare work in Canada. The meeting was called by the Child Welfare Division of the Federal Department of Health, and the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada was represented by Mr. J. A. P. Haydon, of Ottawa.

A temporary council was formed last October, following the recommendations of the Advisory Council of Health. The meeting on Monday took the first step towards a real, active campaign on behalf of the children of the nation.

The aims of the Canadian National Council of Child Welfare are contained in the preamble to the constitution, which is divided into five sections, namely: Child hygiene, child labor, child education and recreation, the defected, neglected, dependent and delinquent child, and the ethical development of the child.

The National Council decided to promote and co-operate with the Federal Department of Health and otherwise the work of child welfare. It was decided to arrange for an annual conference on child welfare problems, and to co-ordinate the child welfare programme of the constituent agencies.

The executive council consists of fifteen members upon which there will be a representative of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada.

Over fifty national organizations are represented on the council, and much good should follow the creation of the national council.

At the meeting on Monday the Labor representative took every opportunity to bring to the attention of the representatives the policy of the workers in the matter of child welfare. When the question of child labor was being considered the Labor representative drew to the attention of the delegates the appalling conditions that prevail in many of the industries of Canada. He stated that the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada was endeavoring to have the compulsory school age raised to eighteen years, and appealed to all the organizations present to assist in the campaign. The delegates promised to give all assistance in the work, so that we might bring about a condition in Canada when there would be no child labor in this Dominion.

One of the chief items of business at the September conference will be the consideration of the Draft Conventions of the Washington Conference of the International Labor Office insofar as they affect child welfare. This resolution was the result of an appeal from the Labor representative for assistance in the enactment of legislation for the protection of women in industry before and after childbirth. The Labor representative stated that the Washington Conference had approved of this Draft Convention, but that as yet no legislation had found its way onto the statute books of the various provinces, except in British Columbia, where legislation had been enacted with a string attached.

The various trades councils, labor unions, etc., in Canada should give every assistance to the Canadian National Council of Child Welfare. Much educational work must be done, and the quickest way to have the necessary legislation enacted to protect our women and children in industry is by the creation of a strong public opinion. The Canadian National Council of Child Welfare affords the avenue.

Efforts are being made in many of the provinces to unify the various agencies interested in child welfare work. Labor can assist in no small degree by rendering its full support and co-operation.

"A free man is a menace to nobody."—John Drinkwater.

There are plenty of Bolsheviks in top-hats in Bond Street—Justice, London, Eng.

"We may depend upon it, where there is a pauper there is sin, and to make one pauper there go many sins."—Carlyle.

Griggs—"Rogers claims to be an agnostic."
 Griggs—"Only as to religion; as to everything else he knows it all."

"We are talking too much about concessions, but, unfortunately, we have so far concluded none."—Lenin. What about those concessions, American hosts?

A small boy is credited with these gems:
 Ghetto is the place where you keep all you get.
 Socrates died because he had too much wedlock.
 Stoics, followers of Zero, so they believed in nothing.

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POLITICS AND PEOPLE THROUGH THE TELESCOPE OF LABOR

By J. A. P. Haydon.

OTTAWA, May 28.—Two bills, containing the requests of the organized labor movement of Canada, have been introduced and passed the committee stage in the House of Commons. These bills are the Canadian Copyright Act and the Immigration Act Amendment.

The printing trades have been particularly interested in the Copyright Act and Mr. Tom Moore, president of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, appeared before the special parliamentary committee of Copyright and presented Labor's requests as contained in the instructions given to the executive at the Windsor convention. These requests are contained in the legislation enacted by the Canadian Government.

Repeated attempts have been made from time to time by the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada to have the Immigration Act amended in 1919, repeated. It will be remembered that during the Winnipeg strike certain amendments were hurriedly passed through both Houses which allowed British subjects to be deported without trial on charges of sedition. Last year the Minister of Labor introduced the repeal of this section of the Immigration Act in the Senate but strenuous opposition developed and the bill was defeated. When the executive of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada laid the workers' legislative programme before the Government early this year it requested that the repeal of this section of the Immigration Act be introduced in the House of Commons and that the elected representatives of the people might have an opportunity of expressing themselves thereon. This was done on Monday when Hon. J. A. Calder, Minister of Immigration and Colonization, introduced a bill which further amends the Immigration Act. Mr. Calder, in introducing the amendment said:

"This is the section that was included in the bill last year introduced, although not passed in the Senate and re-introduced in this House by the member for Quebec East (Mr. Lapointe). Two years ago a clause was inserted in the Immigration law dealing with persons guilty of sedition, and provision was made for their deportation. It is proposed to repeal a portion of the section in the law as it now stands. The section at present provides that it shall not apply to any person who is a British subject either by reason of birth in Canada or naturalization in Canada. It is proposed to amend it so as to read that the section shall not apply to any Canadian citizen. There is a wide difference between the two.

Reference was made in the speech from the throne to an investigation which is being conducted by the Labor Department on the question of unemployment insurance and old age pensions. Reference is all that has been made. No official announcement has been made in the House of Commons as to the Government's policy in the matter of unemployment insurance or old age pensions.

The Government seems more anxious to get the business of the House concluded than anything else. This is the Prime Minister's Imperial Conference of Prime Ministers. If there is a vast army of unemployed and starving men and women in the country the members of the Government might attend to nothing of it. They have made no proposals to assist the unemployed. Even the members from the City of Toronto, where unemployment is said to be the most acute, have sat quietly in their seats content with

their lot. Their constituents have been forgotten.

The report of the special parliamentary committee on Pensions, Insurance and Civil Re-establishment was presented to the House of Commons during the past week. The fifty per cent. bonus on pensions is to continue for another year if the recommendations of the committee are accepted, and there is every indication that they will be. The bonus will also be applicable to pensioners residing outside of Canada. No change in the Pension Act was made to bring widowed mothers to the same scale as widows, but the committee recommended a change regarding the earnings of children of widowed mothers.

The committee decided once more against any further bonus or gratuity, a portion of the money to be used for the purpose of making loans to the returned men for re-establishment purposes.

In regarding the Pension Act was made to bring widowed mothers to the same scale as widows, but the committee recommended a change regarding the earnings of children of widowed mothers.

Important recommendations are made regarding the after-care of tuberculosis ex-soldiers, and these are hoped to result in the establishment of a form of sheltered employment for these men and others similarly disabled.

Amendments to the Soldiers' Insurance Act permit an initial payment of \$1,000 on the death of the assured, instead of one-fifth of the face value of the policy. Benefits are hoped to result in the establishment of a form of sheltered employment for these men and others similarly disabled.

Are We Facing An Industrial War?

NOTE.—The accompanying editorial is reproduced from a recent issue of the Catholic Standard and Times, published in Philadelphia, Pa. As this publication enjoys the endorsement of the highest representatives of the Roman Catholic Church and occupies a front-rank position among the Roman Catholic publications on this continent, the editorial may be considered as reflecting the attitude of the Roman Catholic Hierarchy on the question of the so-called "open shop."

It is well to look ahead and not to wait until events are upon us. What is foreseen may, with prudence, be avoided and averted; but what is no wise anticipated bursts upon us with disastrous suddenness. The prophet of evil is not a pleasant figure and his repulsive voice jars on our ears; but it would be wrong to classify the intelligent worker with the croaking raven that delineates in the lugubrious foretelling of calamity and disaster. A prudent appreciation of the turn events may take will fend off those very ills that otherwise may overtake us. To hoist the alarm signals at the proper moment forestalls the blow that, if not expected and guarded against, would fall with crushing destruction.

The drive in favor of the open shop seems to be on for good. More employers are rallying to the cause on the plea that it is the American policy and that it is in the interests

of the workmen themselves. This drive is considered by the unions, and that not without very good reason, as an attack upon unionism, and as a deliberate attempt to undermine organized labor movement. It is regarded by them as a challenge and a declaration of war. The labor leaders see it in that light. Naturally, this will arouse resentment among the laborers, for they are well aware that most of the advantages they at present enjoy are due to the concerted efforts of the unions. The unions are dear to them and they have pinned their faith to them. An attempt to weaken the unions cannot be inspired by any good purpose. Instead of alleviating class hostility, this unfortunate move on the part of big employers is calculated to increase it. That at the present critical moment would be fatal. It is true labor is caught at a disadvantage at this moment. The spreading unemployment reduces its strength and takes almost all the fighting spirit out of it. Thus, temporary business depression has succeeded in forcing labor to its knees and wrestling from it its acquisitions in these plans. But that would be the very worst time that could happen to organized labor. It is less of a menace in spite of its power than an organized labor. The American Federation of Labor has all in all a fairly good record. It has acted in a conservative spirit and assisted greatly in holding down the radical elements. Unorganized labor is the most promising field for the socialist and bolshevistic agitator. The open shop drive, in the sense in which it is being conducted by the big employers, is playing right into the hands of the radicals. In this

attempt the employers may overreach themselves and conjure up ghosts that it will be difficult to lay. They are courting anarchy and driving labor to resort to the old policies of violence, direct action, conspiracy and sabotage. It is certain that labor is not in the mood to tolerate coercion and give up the standing it has achieved. There will be a test of strength between the two. And the public is not at all anxious to witness such a tug of war.

Disorganization, at all times brings with it grave dangers. A dismemberment of the Federation will leave a disorder out of which chaos may grow very readily. The aggression on the part of the employers is psychologically ill-timed. Too much high explosive matter is lying about to make it safe to play with matches.

Sincere good will on the part of the employers is the only thing that will stave off a possible clash, the magnitude of which no one can at the present moment foresee. Camouflage will not long deceive, and it will prove costly in the long run. It is strange that some should still to the delusion that might can prevail in a world which is based on moral principles and which is

governed by moral law. The success of might is only temporary. Right on the other hand has the promise of ultimate triumph. Every movement, therefore, not allied with the cause of right is doomed. This warning must be shouted from the house tops. Not all will be deaf. Even among those in possession of economic power a sufficient number of intelligent men may be found who will resist the reactionary tendencies of their own class and disengage them from exercising their power in behalf of a cause that in its very nature must be a failure. To apply the brakes to the onward labor movement in the way which is contemplated by big employers will only generate friction and a dangerous degree of heat.

We do not forecast industrial war. We are loth to believe that reason and good sense have fled to the beasts. But as long as reason and common-sense and an elementary sense of justice predominate, nothing will interfere with the development of our industry. Before entering upon their campaign to regain lost positions and to thrust labor back into its former helplessness big business will do well to ponder gravely the possibilities that may arise out of their ill-advised efforts.

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EXISTING CONDITIONS IN THE BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRIES.

There appears to be some doubt in the minds of many of the citizens of Canada as to the unanimous findings of the National Industrial Conference for the Building and Construction Industries which recently met at Ottawa.

What can be done to remedy the situation and revive the industry. In the opinion of this Committee, it will undoubtedly improve if a lower level can be reached and that level stabilized so as to avoid the consequences of a demoralized or falling market.

The conclusions arrived at as to the shortage of dwellings are confirmed by the following observations prepared by Mr. Adams of the Town Planning Commission. Figures can be obtained showing that there is a considerable shortage of houses throughout Canada, but in this matter, as in so many others, figures are only useful in so far as they support general observations and knowledge of the conditions to which they apply.

The needs of the community, therefore, in the matter of additional housing accommodation may be summarized under three heads: (1) Houses required for families at present living in apartments or rooms, who could afford to pay for and would prefer houses if they were available.

It is obvious that all these classes of need should be met as far as practicable. As soon as building costs fall there will be a third class needing housing accommodation, viz. those who are at present doubled up with other families or relatives, but who cannot afford to pay for their own housing.

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cannot afford to pay present prices for rents. It is stated that there have been 11,111 houses built in Canada during 1920, and during the same year about 78,000 copies were burned. This leaves a shortage of about 67,000 houses to meet the ordinary needs of the country.

During 1920 there came into the country 117,133 immigrants. It is not possible to estimate how many of these would need houses, but assuming that 50 per cent. required dwellings and that three persons comprised the average family, the need in this connection would be about 20,000 houses, thus making a total shortage for the whole country of 79,000 for 1920 alone.

Mr. J. A. Ellis estimates the shortage in Ontario at 20,000. The above, however, is without regard to the number of houses short prior to 1920 or the number of houses occupied which should be condemned because they are unfit for habitation. It may be assumed that another 79,000 houses will be required this year over and above what will be erected in the way of private enterprise. It would seem, therefore, that we could do with 158,000 houses.

The situation now becomes serious that it is evident that the Government, Federal, Provincial and Municipal, shall accept a greater share of responsibility for the matter, and immediately put into operation some machinery for providing the necessary funds to assist in the payment of many men unemployed necessary to house the people of this country. It is also to be hoped that the Government, both Federal and Provincial, will see their way to proceed with the construction of many of the large public buildings for which sites have been secured and plans prepared for several years.

Seasonal Nature of the Industry and Possible Methods of Regulation. This condition is to some extent necessary owing to our variable climate, but much can be done to relieve the present situation, and thereby minimize periodic unemployment of many men employed in our industry. This periodic unemployment has greatly accentuated existing conditions owing to the fact that at the season when unemployed persons are able to earn money, after a period of idleness, they are faced with a practical shut-down of all kinds so that it may be as carried on during those periods of the year, when private operations are at a minimum.

Little more for outside work, but we believe that this additional cost would be balanced by the lower prices of such materials as lumber, sashes and etc., which are made indoors and doors, structural steel, cut stone, which manufacturers would probably be prepared to take at lower rates to carry their overhead through slack months.

Wage Theories. By Matthew Wolf in The American Engineer. There have been six main reasons presented thus far to the law of wages governing wages. They are substantially as follows:

The wage fund theory, suggested by Adam Smith and developed by his followers, as originally stated is that wages, like everything else, are governed by supply and demand, and in the aggregate depend on the proportion of laborers to the capital available for employing labor, this capital being denominated a "wage fund."

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today all that economists can say, Trade-unions on the other hand is not so much concerned in propounding theories. It actually and constantly raises wages. Legens the conditions of work and that far has not been greatly concerned by what theory or combination of theories these ends have been obtained.

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CONDITIONS BAD SAY CARPENTERS IN MAY REPORT

Provincial Council Convention Will Be Held at St. Catharines June 23-25.

TORONTO.—"The reports last month on the conditions in the Province," says the Monthly Trade Report of the Ontario Provincial Council of Carpenters, "were more cheerful than for some time, and it was hoped that this month trade would have improved to such an extent that all the members would be employed, but we are sorry to say that they seem worse than ever; in several districts where they reported that trade was improving last month they report this month as bad, rotten, and all kinds of language which expresses the disgust of the writer at the present condition of trade.

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with members out of work, on strike against reduction in wages, and lock-outs where they are trying to force our members to accept either lower wages or longer hours. This is only the start, as it has been pointed out for several months past that the American Plan, or the open shop, would be tried here, and our members were warned to organize and strengthen their ranks for this onslaught. Now that it is here it means that if they succeed in one place they will then attack another, so it is up to every member in the Province to give his full support both morally and, if necessary, financially, to offset this attack. The districts where they are now on strike are Windsor, Hamilton, Ottawa, and Kincardine. Members should see that they keep clear of these places and their surrounding territory.

"The employers at Windsor submitted a new agreement in direct violation to the existing one, which called for the giving of a certain length of time if, either parties wished to alter it, otherwise it was supposed to run from year to year. The new agreement called for a sliding scale of from 75c to 90c per hour in place of the \$1.00 an hour last year. No member should accept any work in any of the districts around Windsor without first writing around Windsor Local to see if everything is right.

"Hamilton wants every member to keep clear of their territory during the dispute of the Building Trades. Several of the contractors have already agreed to pay last year's scale, but the Hamilton members are going to allow the others to get their way; they have organized their strike committee and they have got every member tabulated, every job is picked, and they have a live Press Committee who answer every advertisement the Bosses' Association puts into the papers, to notify the public what good fellows they are and how they are trying to save the people money who wish to build. In the Building Trades' first bulletin published in answer to one put in the daily paper by the Hamilton Branch of the Association of Building and Construction Industries they certainly show where the responsibility of the high cost of building lays.

"The Ottawa Builders' Association refuse to consider anything but a 10c an hour reduction for the carpenters, and they also refuse to arbitrate the matter, showing again that some of the employers seem determined to cause as much unrest as possible. It was hard, very hard, to get them to advance wages when the cost of living was going sky-

high, and now when it has dropped a few cents on the Weekly Budget compiled by the Department of Labor, they want to immediately hit the workers. It seems to be the thought of several of the employers that the workers should only get just enough to make ends meet and that the men who produce everything should only exist; also through their daily press they are giving the public the idea that it is the organized workers who have put up the prices and it is their fault the prices don't come down.

"At Kincardine the men are on strike at the F. E. Coombe Co.; this is to resist a general cut they are trying to put into effect. The men are standing out well; also the finishers and some of the upholstering department are out. This is also the result of some of the shops in the different furniture centres who have already been reduced not being in a position to fight the decrease and now that the bosses in some districts have got away with it the others are following suit, but it is hoped that the boys at Kincardine will be able to win out, as the employers will not face many strikes, as they are as costly to the employers as to the men. Once the shop is disgraced it means a big loss to the employer training a new staff. The conditions of the furniture workers are bad, and the employers who are trying to make them worse are surely piling up a heap of trouble for themselves in the near future.

"The Provincial Council's Con-

vention will be held in the City of St. Catharines on the 23rd, 24th and 25th of June, and Local Unions should get the various resolutions and amendments which they wish to present there in order, and if possible mail them to the Provincial Secretary before June 20."

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