

# May Our Greetings be a Hearing Term

## UNITED MINE WORKERS' PRESIDENT UPHELD OF SEATTLE SUPPORTS FORD

The International Executive Board in session at Indianapolis, Indiana, has reviewed the various matters pertaining to the disturbed situation existing among the members of the United Mine Workers of America in the State of Kansas. The most serious consideration has been given to the "open shop" of the coal fields of the International Union, and the following resolutions were adopted:

Resolved, That we approve the action of the Executive Board of District No. 14 and deplore the officers of said district for failing to comply with the mandates of the International Executive Board and the International Convention, and placing in charge Provisional representatives to protect the interests of the United Mine Workers of America.

Evidence was presented to the International Executive Board that at the present time certain individuals within the State of Kansas were attempting to maintain an organization in opposition to the accredited Provisional District No. 14, United Mine Workers of America, and that such individuals were undertaking to function without respect to the provisions of the joint agreement between the mine workers and operators in that state. The existence of this dual organization has to some degree been made possible by the aid and assistance of certain members of the United Mine Workers of America in District 12, who, in the opinion of the members of the International Executive Board, have been grossly deceived as to the true circumstances. In connection with this matter the International Executive Board has considered official communications from local unions within District 12 protesting the action of the present organization in that district.

Resolved, That the International Executive Board, in the absence of proper facts, authorized the collection of an assessment from all members of District 12 of \$1 per month per member, which is being used to sustain the unauthorized and unacknowledged organization in violation of their joint agreement and in opposition to the laws and mandates of the International Union. Pursuant to these facts, the International Executive Board adopted the following resolution:

Resolved, That the action taken by District 12 in convention at Peoria in placing an assessment to assist the Kansas mine workers in continuing their fight against the laws of the International Organization is held to be illegal and in violation of the laws of the organization, and the District President and Executive Board and members of District 12 are hereby notified that such assessment should not be collected.

It is the opinion of the members of the International Executive Board that the members of the United Mine Workers of America in District 12 desire to be loyal to its principles and to observe its laws. It is further deemed that the members of District 12 will have the support of the members of District 12 in all efforts to secure observance of our joint agreement in a manner that will reflect credit and add to the prestige and influence of our union. For this reason, the undersigned Executive Officers are requesting the official action of the International Executive Board and urge your fullest support and cooperation in that regard.

It is illegal for the members of District 12 to pay the \$1 per month assessment levied by the Peoria convention of the International Executive Board. It is illegal for local unions in District 12 to pay the officers of the District Organization any such money for the purpose of collecting the same. It is also illegal for the members of District 12 to use money now held in the common treasury of District 12 to be used in any way in connection with the dual organization existing there.

## CHRISTMAS BELLS

Henry W. Longfellow  
I heard the bells on Christmas Day  
Their old, familiar carols play,  
And wide and sweet  
The words repeat  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!  
And thought how, as the day had come,  
The bellies of all Christendom  
Had rolled along  
The unbroken song  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!  
Till, ringing, singing on its way,  
The world revolved from night to day,  
A voice, a chime,  
A chant sublime  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!  
Then from each black, accursed mouth  
The cannon thundered in the South,  
And with the sound  
The earth-drowned  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!  
It was as if an earthquake rent  
The hearth-stone of a continent,  
And made forlorn  
The household born  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!  
And in despair I bowed my head;  
"There is no peace on earth," I said,  
"For hate is strong,  
And mocks the song  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!"  
Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:  
"God is not dead, nor doth he sleep:  
The wrong shall fall,  
The Right prevail,  
With peace on earth, good-will to men!"

## PREMIER ELECT HAS APPEAL FROM FEDERAL UNION

The following letter was sent by Associated Federal Employees, Union No. 100, to the Hon. W. J. Mackenzie King, Prime Minister of Canada.

"Dear Sir:—You are aware, of course, as we all are, of the very serious unemployment situation which obtains in Canada, and we are especially being drawn to your attention in the city of Ottawa, where there is a pressing need for immediate assistance to a large number of cases of extreme want if not destitution among the unemployed through no fault of their own and by no means belonging in the slightest to the mercenary class.

The majority of the Ottawa civil service receive salaries which do not permit them to make any very large income. In fact, many are in a position of being unable to meet the needs of their families, and we believe that there is no stronger desire to meet to the best of their ability.

At the last meeting of the executive of this organization the following resolution was therefore passed:

## Items of Interest from Overseas

**DIAGNOSIS AS A TRAMP**  
The Rev. David R. Margate, year of Margate, has voluntarily accepted the "miserable" of unemployment.

He did this to obtain first-hand knowledge of the conditions which are being met by the unemployed.

"My conviction is that it is almost impossible to get even an hour's work at service men have to face.

"I certainly seem to be in his pocket, the vicar, who won the M.C. during the war, called upon Mr. Margate, and he was asked to undertake any casual work they could give him.

"The only job that came his way was the cleaning out of a garage, for which he received half a crown and a treat.

Sometimes, in the absence of work he was given a few coppers to help him on his way, and this he managed to do for the night as opportunity afforded—in one instance, at a domestic.

His experience was that people seem to be under the impression that one does not really want work, but that one is a "tramp" who is taking advantage of the situation.

"At the garage, where I obtained a job it was difficult to get the proprietor to understand that I was willing to do any work of which I was capable.

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## LABOR COMMODITY THEORY REJECTED BY POSTAL HEAD

Washington.—One of the hardest raps that a government official has ever given Garryson and Burleson is found in the first annual report of Postmaster General Hays, who serves notice on governmental and private interests that the postal service will not be a model slave state.

"We are away in the postoffice service for any idea that labor is a commodity," he says.

"To treat a postal employee as a mere commodity in the labor market is not only wicked from a humanitarian standpoint, but it is foolish and shortsighted even from a business standpoint.

"An employee, who is someone that he is regarded as a more valuable asset, will be sought to 'get by' and keep his job until he finds another, and he will do so more. He contributes nothing to the morale of the organization; the chances are, in fact, there will be no morale to which to contribute. He goeschase his own with his coach. Feeling that he is ill treated by his government he does his work badly, that soon everybody is growing at the mail service, and at the government.

A postal employee, as a human being, is regarded as a human being whose welfare is important to his fellows, high and low, in the national postal organization, is bound to do his work with a courage, a zeal, and a thoroughness which no money alone can buy. The security he feels he passes on to the men and women he serves. Instead of a distrust of his government, he radiates confidence in it.

The postmaster general presents this direct rebuke to the slave theory of his predecessor:

"When we took hold of the administration of the postal service,

## PUBLIC WELFARE

We have to thank Sir W. Peter Rylance for a nice, compact, little explanation of how manufacturers came to find themselves saddled with a surplus of goods.

"In 'The Times' Supplement' of Sept. 24, speaking of their inability to get rid of their boom product, he said: 'There was no one to buy the goods, and the time money was plentiful and there was no difficulty in obtaining money to get a better reception than when asking for money, and though no job may be obtainable, one will probably get some food.'

"It certainly seems that the chances of ex-service men seeking work are almost hopeless."

## HEAVY CALL

As a result of the heavy call on the services of the British Empire, the Government has been determined to make a levy of £1 upon each adult member of the County Association.

The whole of the available funds, amounting to £200,000, were spent, and in addition a deficit for a further £200,000 was incurred with tradesmen for the supply of household commodities on credit, and coupons issued in lieu of strike pay.

## TEACHERS' TROUBLE

The teachers of the elementary schools of Southampton have been refused the Barham Scale by the Borough Council, although its adoption has been recommended three times by the Education Committee.

Southampton Class Teachers' Association has now issued a statement in which it says that next year, "in addition to the £100,000 which the Government is expected to base its right, Labor believes it can make the same food."

## INTERVIEW PREMIER

Premier Lloyd George made an interesting reference to the reparations question to a labor deputation which conferred with him on unemployment.

## CANADIAN EXPORTS SHOW FALLING OFF

Statistics have been compiled by the Bureau of Statistics to show six months' operations of the Federal Emergency Tariff on affected Canadian exports to the United States. The United States Emergency Tariff Act was passed by Congress on May 23, signed by the President on May 27 and became effective on May 28. The emergency tariff has therefore now been in operation six months and the statistics compiled by the department compare this period with the corresponding period of last year.

The "Vital Statistics" of the West Virginia struggle began in May, 1920, when the movement to unionize the mine workers of the two chief mining countries was gathering strength. There are, roughly, 7,000 miners in the coal fields of the state. More than half of them are enrolled in the United Mine Workers. The non-unionists are mostly in Logan and Mingo counties, and last year the organizers of the union entered upon a campaign to bring all the men in. The mine owners resolved to stop the movement. They announced that they would dismiss every man joining the union, and would evict their families from the houses owned by the company. This they did, making use for the purpose of gunmen belonging to the notorious detective agency of Baldwin-Felts. The miners found it impossible to vindicate their rights, mainly for the reason, as the press intimated, that the mine owners were in complete command of the county administration, and had the sheriffs and deputy sheriffs in their pay. The crucial incident of this first stage was a fight at the mining town of Hardy, where seven of the Baldwin-Felts men were killed. A miner named Sid Hatfield and some 20 others were tried for the killing, and after a prolonged hearing were acquitted. Hatfield was sentenced to a term in the penitentiary. In June of this year he was done to death by gunmen in the courthouse of a neighboring county. That was the signal for the wild campaign on the mountains which was known as the "war on the cables" during the last month.

Shortly after the murder of Hatfield the miners from the unionized fields of Kanawha assembled for an aggressive march into Mingo and Logan counties, where the coal fields are owned and by no means unionized.

## ESTABLISH 10-HOUR DAY

Chicago.—The railroad labor board has established the 10-hour day for railroad maintenance-of-way employees by eliminating the penalty for work over eight hours. The time and one-half provision now applies after 10 hours.

## LABOR COUNCIL

The National Labor Council of Labor, the supreme labor body formed under the new co-ordination scheme, held its first meeting. The Joint Council is representative of the General Council of the Trades Union Congress, the Labor Party Executive, and the Parliamentary Labor Party, and its chief function is to secure concerted action on all questions of national importance. It is a great step towards the union of the labor force, and its creation is due largely to the driving force of Mr. Arthur Henderson. Whilst it is bound to be extremely useful in connection with the usual current of events, the real test-time will not come until some great emergency arises. For instance, the last miners' dispute and the circumstances which arose in connection with it, showed that the National Joint Council, being so authoritative and representative, will be able to convey to any affected union the national labor view on any question at issue, and the union will then know to what extent it may expect support in its struggle.

## WELSH COAL

There is no doubt that trade is steadily reviving in South Wales. Less than a month ago commercial men in this important industrial area were saying that the coal trade of the district had gone to the dogs, and that recovery was almost hopeless. They thought that the trade of the district had gone to the dogs, and that recovery was almost hopeless. They thought that the trade of the district had gone to the dogs, and that recovery was almost hopeless.

## INDUSTRIAL SITUATION IN U.S. THROUGH BRITISH EYES

The American correspondent of the Manchester Guardian states that the social and industrial warfare is the dominant fact of the United States today. That terrible fact can not be disputed, and two aspects in especial are just now presented to the American public. One—the mine war in West Virginia, for the moment suspended—must be described as the most appalling outbreak of its kind at any time since the Colorado coal war seven years ago. It is an incident in the great drive of big business to break the power of labour unions.

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## PRESIDENT'S LABOR POLICY WOULD ESTABLISH SLAVERY

Washington.—"I wonder if the president remembers the thirteenth amendment to the constitution?"

"I wonder if he knows that slavery is forbidden in America?"

"I wonder if he realizes for what principle all the blood was shed in the civil war?"

"Is he trying to turn back the stream of time and bring back into this country the day of the manacle, when serfs will be made to work at the dictation of their masters?"

"Are we to establish in this professedly democratic country an autocracy of employers of labor?"

The above questions were asked by Congressman Huddleston of Alabama in a spirited attack on that member of President Harding's message to congress in which he expressed sympathy for "can't-strike" legislation.

"And what does the president mean—analyze the language in which it is framed, the language of the law maker. It is as clear as words can make it that the policy of the administration does not contemplate courts, nor more arbitration boards, but his in view labor tribunals such as the Kansas industrial court."

"It means courts with power to say to them, 'You will not do your job. Your occupation is charged with a public interest and you shall continue to labor for such wages as we shall decide are fair and just. You shall not strike before having your dispute decided by us. It means a policy on the part of the administration which will take away the right that working men in this country have had to decide their own affairs for themselves."

"It means that men will be thrown into jail who dare to strike without asking the permission of some court created by congress and composed of the appointees of the present administration."

"It is reasonable for the chief executive of this nation to recommend a policy toward men who labor beyond comparison with any government in the world."

As between workers and employers, fights can never be altogether fair fights. Each side in a labor fight has different things at stake. With an employer it is a matter, perhaps, of some more bank shares or a finer home; perhaps a marble palace instead of one of brick. It is merely a matter of another limousine or another cluster of jewels for his wife and another important matter with the employer.

## MONTREAL HAS MINERS CONFERENCE

"We have a strong case and we intend to put up a good fight," was statement made by one of the United Mine Workers representatives, who arrived with several other delegates for the conference which opened in connection with the wage dispute between the British Empire Steel Corporation and the men's union.

The conference was a success in that it has signified its intention of reducing wages while their employees affirm they will not submit to any cut. A report is now current that representatives of the mine workers will endeavor to kill the existing system by which the mine owners are selected from them by the pay department of the company. No official statement on the subject, however, can be obtained, nor is it anticipated that any definite news of the conference will be available until the termination of its sessions.

Fifteen thousand miners in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick are affected by the conference.

## STATISTICAL DECLINE IN LIVING COSTS

During December the cost of living again declined as compared with the previous month. Statistics compiled by the Labor Department show that the average cost of the family budget of 29 staple foods in some sixty cities was \$11.95 at the beginning of November, as compared with \$11.45 at the beginning of November, 1920; and \$11.95 in November, 1920; and \$7.95 in November, 1914. The cost of fuel and rental averaged \$21.80 for November, as compared with \$22.01 for October, \$26.15 for November, 1920, and \$14.25 for November, 1914.



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## UNION SHOP FOR FREEDOM

The synonyms for "union shop" and "no-union" shop respectively are "democracy" and "autocracy." In the union shop the workers are free men. They have the right of organizing in trade unions and to bargain collectively with their employers through representatives of their own choosing. Employees in the non-union shop are like cogs in a machine. They have nothing to say as to the conditions under which they will work, but must accept any wages, hours and working conditions that may be fixed arbitrarily by the employer.

The union shop represents true democracy in industry. There are no less distinctions or autocratic rulings to disturb the best relations between the workers and their employers. The right of organizing into trade union is conceded. Employers and employees meet as man to man. Each respects the other. The employee is a willing worker and the employer keeps the part of the bargain he has made with the workers through their chosen representatives.

It is because labor is continually seeking improvements in working conditions and the standard of living that the objections are aroused of those who desire to keep the workers servile. Upon what other grounds would employers oppose the organization of the workers? What other reason could be given? They are the men who clothe themselves in the cloak of piety and raise their eyes upward in horror when they hear anyone speak of the union shop. They stand in the way of progress as others have done since the beginning of time. They are the reactionaries who believe in involuntary servitude. They are the men who seek legislation to tie men to their jobs. The union shop is an obstacle to their dreams of autocracy in industry. Therefore they seek to make the union shop detestable in the eyes of the people while the non-union shop is lauded as the greatest harbor for "free" men that could possibly be conceived.—Federationist.

## CAPITAL AND LABOR

It is unfortunate, but a fact, that too often orators and others who discuss the relations of capital and labor fail to recognize that the interests of the two are identical in needing production and prosperity, but are antagonistic when bartering over wages and conditions of work. The success of each lies in the direction of the success of the other, and neither can prosper long at the expense of the other.

The thoughtless may imagine that increased wages, or conditions reducing output, come out of capital, but they do not. Wages are never paid from capital. They come from exactly the same source as profits, from production. The employer and the employee get their returns from the same cash drawer and neither can get out more than is put into it. Production is in the interest of both, for without production there will be no returns for either. Their rewards will be based on what is produced and conditions that interfere with production or make the cost abnormal will be ruinous to both.

The only conflict there can be between employer and employee relates to the proportions of the return each shall receive on their joint output. There should be an equitable division, but there must be something to divide and the more there is the greater the possibility of reward for each.

The prosperity of the United States is inseparably linked with that of the rest of the world. We cannot use all our factories make, nor can we eat all our farms produce. We must sell our surplus abroad and the price we get for it will regulate in a large measure what is paid in the home market. We must produce and sell in competition with the rest of the world. The American capitalist and laborer must take what the world will pay for their product. They cannot dictate the price, but they can increase the percentage of profit by adding to output. It is, therefore, in the direction of greater efficiency and higher production that the industrial prosperity of this country lies. That must be attained by co-operation and the co-ordination of effort on the part of those who are working for wages and for dividends.—The Carpenter.

## SAFETY FIRST OFFERING

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Passengers—For your own safety always: 1. Wait until car stops before getting on or off. 2. Upon entering, move back and fast door. 3. Watch threshold when stepping into, or out of, car. 4. Keep your hands off doors and elevator mechanism.

### COMPANY "UNION" IS PACKERS' ALIBI

Chicago. When "governors" of several states were told, nearly 30 years ago, that "I have nothing to arbitrate," the public administered a severe slap on the wrist to the author of that statement. Then the public said: "Let another employer dare take that position."

But employers have perfected their system as the packers' strike shows. Offers to arbitrate have been rejected by the most brazen. They say, as did Pullman, "We have nothing to arbitrate."

The packers have formed a company "union," and this is their alibi. The "union" accepted wage cuts and thousands of workers have struck in protest. The alleged "unionists" are working with strikebreakers, and the packers refuse to arbitrate because "our men are satisfied."

The system is a decided improvement over 30 years ago, when employers knew nothing of the parlor manners of secret diplomacy.

The public is not interested in the strike because their meat supply, so far, has not been affected.

### OTTAWA TRADES COUNCIL ENDORSE MORATORIUM MOVE

The street railway plebiscite, the endorsement of candidates for Controller and Alderman were among the problems acted upon by the Allied Trades and Labor Council. Unemployment was also touched upon and the delegates went on record as being in accord with the efforts put forth by President Hayden, who is chairman of the Civic Advisory Committee on unemployment.

The executive report that the Garrow Act passed on March 17, 1897, which prevents provincial civil servants taking part in elections, be condemned, and that the Government be asked to rescind it, was passed.

The executive also recommended that a resolution from the Bradford Trades and Labor Council, which urges the restoration of the moratorium be endorsed. The resolution drew attention to the fact that during the war many workers built houses on the installment plan, but now owing to unemployment payments were not being made. The legislation should be in force for 12 months. The recommendation was endorsed.

The recommendation that support and endorsement be given to the following candidates was adopted: Controller, John Cameron; for Alderman, Dalhousie, Ward, Dan, McLean and Frederick Rowe; Victoria Ward, Charles Lewis; Ottawa Ward, R. Marcell; Rideau Ward, Tom Marcell.

Chairman Hayden declared that caution would have to be the watchword in endorsing candidates who claimed to be trade unionists. Personally he was not in favor of pledging support to a man who had a union card when that man might have joined a local to get labor votes.

Council reiterated its stand in favor of public ownership of the Ottawa Electric Street Railway. Some of the delegates criticized the street railway, terming it a "bunch of junk." Wm. Lodge said that, although labor was fighting for the public ownership, the citizens should not forget that the O.E.R. system was good compared with systems in other cities. They have given us a splendid service," he declared, and I believe they have had something to do with the making of Ottawa.

### TRAINED CONCILIATORS

Washington.—In his first annual report Secretary of Labor Davis asks congress to appropriate \$250,000 for the appointment of technicians as conciliators in each of the 12 basic industries of the country.

The secretary says that the "usefulness of these special men will extend far outside this sphere of settling occasional controversies."

"They will," he says, "be particularly useful in talks to meetings of the working people or the general public on the subject of sound economic principles. They will be able to explain the working problems of management and they may keep the managers reminded of the trials and struggles of their employees."

The man assigned to each of these basic industries must know his special industry from top to bottom. He must know every technical process involved in that industry. He must know what is to be expected of every worker in each step of the process. He must also know something of the operation of management so as to have the necessary understanding of the problems and hazards that go with the handling of business.

### ONTARIO APPEAL TO NEW CHIEF

A grant of \$30,000 to relieve unemployment distress in Montreal is sought in a resolution addressed to premier-elect Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King by the Executive Committee on Unemployment which met at the City Hall.

Similar grants will be sought from the city and the Provincial Government to make a total relief fund of \$90,000.

Mayor Martin who presided in the absence of Ald. Dixon, pointed out that unemployment was not so serious this year as it had been in 1915, 1916 and 1917, and that consequently a smaller fund would meet the situation adequately this year. He announced that some \$150,000 of civic public works were to be undertaken this winter and these would help considerably to relieve the situation.

The immediate position of the city is decidedly unfavorable as regards aiding the unemployed by a cash grant, the Mayor further pointed out, owing to the fact that no funds have yet been voted for the administrative commission. The aim, therefore, is to secure the grant immediately from the federal authorities on the promise that the city will later contribute a like sum.

**Case More Acute**  
Clarence F. Smith urged that immediate measures be taken to supply money to the particularly needy families. He pointed out that considerable assistance was needed before Christmas because, while the number of cases needing relief this year might not be so great as in past years, he believed the existing ones were more acute.

In commenting upon the work to be undertaken by the city he remarked that it would be of a rough nature and would not call for the employment of any considerable number of skilled workers or mechanics, who actually formed the bulk of the unemployed.

The Mayor further suggested that representations might be made to the railway companies asking them to turn over their old track ties to the committee instead of burning them as heretofore. The ties could be used as fuel for the poor.

### ALBERTA PREPARED FOR NEW SYSTEM

That the next provincial election in Alberta will be under the proportional representation system appears to be assured from a statement made by Premier Greenfield. "The United Farmers of Alberta have a way stood strongly for proportional representation and there is no doubt that the question will come before the Provincial Legislature before the next elections."

### QUEBEC CITY UNEMPLOYED

Discussing the unemployment situation at a meeting of the Quebec City Council, Alderman P. Bertrand affirmed that in the parishes of St. Sulpice and St. Made there were between 2,500 and 3,000 men out of employment.

Mayor Samson said that he was prepared to seek for power from the Legislature to borrow \$250,000 in addition to the \$700,000 already decided to relieve the situation by starting public improvements this winter.

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### PRAIRIE PROVINCES GET TOGETHER TO BENEFIT KIDDIES

The four Western provinces of Canada took the lead in educational standardization when the inter-provincial conference which has been in session in Calgary since the beginning of the week brought their deliberations to a close. As a result of the work accomplished by the representatives of the departments of education of Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba and Saskatchewan, along with representative teachers from these provinces, a standard set of text books will be adopted. This is the first time that any of the provinces of Canada have successfully got together on the standardization of school books to any extent.

The result of the work accomplished will have a far reaching effect," said J. T. Rose, deputy minister of education for Alberta, in discussing the matter. "It will mean that students can move from one province to another and continue their education without any disadvantage in the west where there is a large moving population. Another big fact will be the facilitating of transferring teachers from one province to another. They will be able to take up their work with the same books."

There are six hundred thousand children in the four provinces who go to school, and it is estimated that the saving in the cost of books will be \$1,000,000. Through the large number it will be possible for the printing firms to give a much better price than they have ever done in the past. It will practically cut the overhead cost to a quarter of what it previously has been on the individual books in each province.

### LAST MONTH STRIKE LIST HEAVY

Time lost due to industrial disputes in Canada during November, 1921, or November, 1920, according to the Labor Department. There were in existence at some time or other during the month 18 strikes, involving 2,950 working people, and 98,099 working days. On Nov. 1 there were on record 16 strikes, affecting 1,950 work people. Two strikes were reported as having commenced during November. One of the strikes commencing prior to November was reported terminated, leaving 17 strikes, involving about 3,919 work people, on record at the end of the month.

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### ORIENTAL LABOR DECISION IS RESERVED

The Supreme Court of Canada reserved judgment in the reference by the Canadian Government as to the validity of the British Columbia statutes and orders-in-council prohibiting the employment of Japanese and Chinese of alien race.

The reference was for the purpose of obtaining the opinion of the Supreme Court on the action of the legislative assembly of British Columbia in passing a resolution whereby it was resolved "that in all contracts, leases and concessions of whatsoever kind entered into, secured, or made by the government or on behalf of the government, provision be made that no Chinese or Japanese shall be employed in connection therewith."

E. L. Newcombe, K.C. deputy minister of justice, argued the case on behalf of the Dominion government; Charles H. Tupper, K.C. for the Japanese Association of British Columbia; J. W. de B. Parria, attorney-general of British Columbia; and J. A. Ritchie, K.C. for the province. Aime Geoffroy, K.C. on behalf of the Province of Quebec, was granted leave to file intervention if Quebec decides to enter the case.

### WEEKS WANTS "BIG STICK"

Washington.—Secretary of War Weeks has made a mess of things by his recent New York speech in which he condemned the senate farm bloc and called for a return of the "big stick" to replace present policies in the senate and house.

The farm bloc has kicked over party traces, much to the consternation of managers of both parties. The spirit behind the farm bloc is non-partisan, but this is distasteful to the party worshippers—and also to special privilege, with its constant warning that group legislation is "un-American."

The farm bloc has been condemned by "our best citizens," and at a meeting of insurance presidents in New York, Secretary Weeks took a whirl at educating senators from the agricultural states.

The result was unexpected. Instead of receiving their chastisement with due humility, these lawmakers are mad clear through. The situation is distressing to old-line politicians of both parties.

### PITTSBURGH PLUS SHOWS TRUST'S POWER

Chicago.—Low wage advocates are still insisting that workers reduce their income a few pennies an hour and thereby reduce their living standard and their purchasing power, but no mention is made of "Pittsburgh plus," which is added to every pound of steel by the steel trust.

"Pittsburgh plus" means that a steel manufacturer must add to every ton of steel from Pittsburgh, although the steel never sees Pittsburgh. Millions of dollars are annually siphoned from the people through this system. Outside of Pittsburgh, the three largest steel producing centers are Chicago, Birmingham and Duluth. The three latter cities are known as low-cost centers, mainly because of their proximity to the raw material. To enable the high-cost plants in Pittsburgh to operate the trust has evolved its "Pittsburgh plus" scheme, which is enforced because of its control of the raw material and its financial power.

Under this system, if a Chicago contractor buys steel at a local mill, he is also charged the freight rate on the steel from Pittsburgh. If the price of bars at Pittsburgh is \$50 a ton, and the freight rate is \$7.50 a ton, he is charged \$57.50. If a Birmingham contractor buys a ton of plates from a Birmingham mill, and the Pittsburgh price is \$50 and the freight rate to Birmingham is \$12.50, he must pay \$62.50.

The federal trade commission has opposed this hold up on industry, as

### has state legislatures, manufacturers, contractors, farmers and shippers, but the steel trust is more powerful than all these.

Washington.—"The outstanding points in our present serious situation as to timber supply are the disappearance of three-fifths of the virgin forests of the country," said Chief Forester Greely in his annual report.

"The present drain upon our remaining forests is over four times as to timber supply as the disappearance of three-fifths of the virgin forests of the country," said Chief Forester Greely in his annual report.

The forester recommends that forests be protected from fire and that legislation provide for the restoration of forests on denuded areas.

### PORTO RICO'S NEEDS

Washington.—Sanitation work in Porto Rico is in need of improvement to lower the death rate and the island's school system should be strengthened, said Governor Reilly in his annual report. The island is a good customer for the United States, as \$97,000,000 of its \$105,000,000 imports came from this country.

Monarchical interests in Porto Rico are attempting to oust Governor Reilly. Their agents are in this city but to date they have made little progress.

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## AUSTRALIA MAKING BIG MOVE WITH THEIR RAILROADS

Frederick M. White from Fremantle is playing an important part in the unification of the railroads of Australia, which, according to present plans, is to be undertaken by the Commonwealth Government at an estimated ultimate cost of \$57,000,000. About a year ago Mr. White was appointed a member of the Royal Commission to study and make a report of the project of unifying the railroads of Australia. He has just passed through Honolulu on his way to the United States after eight months of employment in the work of the commission in that country. The other members of this commission are Rastat Blake, a civil engineer of London, England, and John J. Garban of Australia. Mr. White was formerly with the New York Central Lines.

Railroad mileage of Australia is 25,729 miles, made up of many different systems and of various gauges. Practically all the railroads there are either owned by the different states or by the Commonwealth Government. In New South Wales there are 6,000 miles of 4-foot, 8 1/2-inch gauge; Victoria, 5,161 miles of 3-foot 6-inch gauge; South Australia, 1,319 miles of 3-foot 6-inch gauge and 1,195 miles of 3-foot 3-inch gauge; West Australia, 1,139 miles of 3-foot 6-inch gauge; Queensland, 6,073 miles of 3-foot 6-inch gauge; Commonwealth Government, 725 miles of 3-foot 6-inch gauge and 1,121 miles of 4-foot 8 1/2-inch gauge.

Recommendations of the commission are in substance that the first work toward this unification should be confined to that of the transcontinental line between Fremantle in West Australia and Melbourne, a distance of 2,181 miles, thence to Brisbane by way of Sydney, a total distance of 3,488 miles from Fremantle. The mileage is by the present route, but it is proposed to make the unification that there shall be several changes of modifications of the track, which would reduce the total mileage between Fremantle and Brisbane to 3,265 miles.

The suggestion is made by the commission that the work of unifying the gauge of the trunk line between Fremantle and Brisbane should cover eight years and that total unification work of all of the railways of Australia should be completed within thirty years. The cost of the unification of the gauge of the trunk line of 3,265 miles is estimated at approximately \$35,400,000. It is proposed that the Commonwealth Government shall bear one-fifth of the total cost and that the remaining four-fifths shall be borne by the five states on a per capita basis.

There exists at this time an excessive surplus of railroad mileage in Australia, that country having per unit of population 2 1/2 times the railroad mileage of the United States. Railroads have been built in Australia instead of highways. In this statement of the total mileage of railroads in Australia the lines on the Island of Tasmania were not included as it is not proposed to change their present gauge.

One of the most important features of railroad construction in Australia is that it is to be undertaken as soon as financial conditions improve will be the building of a north and south line between Oodnadatta and Emuquallen, about 1,100 miles. This proposed road will run through the heart of Australia and will give Port Darwin on the north coast, a direct connection with Adelaide on the south coast.

Can't-strike plan again proven faulty  
Melbourne, Victoria, Australia.—Among the latest to acknowledge that the Australian "can't-strike" law has failed is T. R. Ashworth, president of the Victorian employers' federation. At the annual meeting of the federation, held in this city, Mr. Ashworth also frankly blamed employers for present conditions.

French turnover tax is not successful  
New York.—Advocates of the sales tax in the United States will get little consolation from an article written in the Analyst, financial paper, by Alzada Comstock, on "Lessons of the French Turnover Tax." The 18 months' trial of the turnover tax which France is now completing," he says, "argues badly for similar experiments which are being urged in the United States."

NO CHANGE IN FOOD COSTS  
Washington.—There was practically no change in food costs from October 15 to November 15 in nine of the principal cities of the United States, according to the bureau of labor statistics.

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## INJUNCTION AIDS ROADS

Washington.—Nothing that courts can do will more quickly destroy public confidence in their own integrity than continued abuse of their own power," says President Gompers in a public statement on an order issued by Federal Judge Landis in which the railroad labor board is restrained from publishing its decision against the Pennsylvania railroad for violation of an order.

It may be permissible," says the A. F. of L. executive, "to recall the fact that the government stood ready to use all necessary force to compel coal miners to operate the mines when mine wages were in dispute. Indications are that the last riot gun would be summoned to compel workers to accept decisions adverse to labor."

But the Pennsylvania railroad goes into court and gets a piece of paper which not only stops the award, but prevents its publication. "The railroad labor board is in itself an institution of more than doubtful worth, but the fact that a court can stop the publishing of a decision reached by any government agency is repugnant to every ideal of democracy. The effect of the injunction is to prohibit the people of the United States from reading the decision of a government agency and the principle is exactly the same as it would be if the courts were to forbid the people from reading the president's message."

## LIVING COSTS ALARM

New York.—High rents and other increased living costs has junked the propaganda that high wages is responsible for high prices.

One information service for contractors and builders tells its patrons that the turn in the cost of living will make radical wage reductions in building labor an unsafe element to figure on.

Secretary of Agriculture Wallace reports that the farmer is receiving less for his products, considering the purchasing power of his dollar, than ever before. Wages have been hammered down, in many instances, to almost a pre-war level, but living

## IGNORE PEOPLE'S MANDATE

Grand Rapids, Mich.—The eight-hour law, approved by the people at the 1914 election, is ignored by the city government and organized labor threatens to take legal action that the law be complied with. Cheap wage employers would knife the people's mandate.

## TEAMSTERS ENJOINED

Newark, N.J.—Organized teamsters have been enjoined by Vice Chancellor Backes, who has issued one of his sweeping writs. The teamsters are restrained from demanding that employers agree that only union teamsters be employed.

This injunction judge is quite confident that he can force teamsters to forego their right to choose whom they will work with.

## "RADICALS" NOT RADICALS

New York.—People who call themselves "radicals" are not so radical, says Max D. Danish, editor of Justice, official magazine of the International Ladies Garment Workers' Union. The labor editor says he intends showing in the near future that "our so-called radicals are, in more than one way, more backward in their view of free thinking and searching for the truth than some conservatives."

"We shall prove that their radicalism is of the purified, non-growth variety, and that they live, breathe and act not only in accord with a formally consecrated code of conduct but that which they dare not deviate a hair's breadth."

"Of course we do not speak here of the quasi-radical, of the fellow who merely cloaks himself in a mantle of radicalism to cover up his or her personal ambitions or cravings. We speak of the earnest variety of those who believe in what they speak or write, those who are far more dangerous than the first species and who are likely to exercise a certain amount of influence in a narrow way, and cause some injury to the labor movement."

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