# The ST. John Standard 

## AN ANNOUNCEMENT

Beginning with this issue, The Standard passes under the control of new owners, who have taken over the paper from its former owner. The new ownership is comprised of a group of men who have faith in Canada and particularly in the Maritime Provinces, and who believe that the interests of the Dominion as a whole can
be best served by the maintenance of a stable fiscal policy; by the retention of the be best served by the maintenance of a stable fiscal policy; by the retention of the markets we have, and the opening up of others through the, negotiation of suitable
trade arrangements with other countries; by the limitation of tariff preference to trade arrangements with other countries; by the limitation of tariff preference to
direct importations through Canadian ports and by a vigorous immigration policy direct importations through Canadian ports and by a vigorous immigration policy
which will only admit a selected population suited to the agricultural needs of the which will

They believe also in the development and cheapening of transportation within he country, so as to extend our present home markets and give to the people of the Maritime Provinces a more effective access to those markets which they already posProvinces as a whole, and devote its energies towards assisting in the realization or our people of the development which was anticipated as a result of Confederaon d and which can be achieved only by the hearty cooperation of all the people of these provinces.

The new owners of The Standard do not approve of the policy which, unfortunately has at times in the past been followed by this paper with reference to racial and creed questions. They believe that in this country no effort should be affairs, and that if this is loyally done, there can be no room in our political life for dissension along the lines of race or creed.

Certain changes in the paper are contemplated, among others perhaps, may be that of a new name, but announcement will be made with regard to these matters later on. In the meanwhile, it may be said that all obligations to subscribers and
others entered into by The Standard in the past will be loyally carried out by the new owners.

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## THECABINETRE FIRST CLASH <br> ORGANZATION NOW COMPLETED <br> DISCUSSED IN ARMS PARLEY

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Ottawa Sept. 16 -The come prime Min completed reorganization of
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SUGGESTIONS SOUGHT BY UNITED STATE

No Announcement Made Concerning Subjects
Until Replies Are Received. Washington, D. C., Sept. 16.-renta









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## Unemployment-Freight Rates And The Railways

THE indicator of true prosperity is employment. The presence of unemployed men,
unemployed machinery, unemployed unemployed machinery, unemployed railway. euxipment and unemployed capital in
Canada is reason enough therefore for very large Canadian buinees interest to study its relation to the general problem-to see whether anything in its power remains to be done to advance the general prosperity of the country.
N this connection the railway companies have been specially interested. Freight ratee 1 touch every one and because they touch every one are always close to the public coptociousness and more conveniently attached than the true causes of depression which are less easily discerned and more difficult, if not indeed impossible to control.
URTHERMORE, the railways while joining with every one else in the general agitetion for deflation of prices and wages-found the eveeryes one elecently in the general agits-
anomalous position of demurring when it was proposed to lower railway rates. Thing
were made to appear as though they were endeavoring with one hand to put wages down and with the other hand to keep rates up, thereby securing for their own treasuries instead of passing on to the Canadian public, any saving effected from the wage rolls. They were placed in the equivocal position of having urged blanket increases of rates when wages went up-and of opposing blanket decreases when wages were seemingiy decreased.

HE following statement is offered, therefore, with a view to expedring what the railways believe to be the true relation of railway fright rates to the question of un employment, outlining the history of Canadian rates, explaining something of the groundwork of ratemaking and clearing up the seeming anomalies offered to, so that none may remain as possible causes for future weakening of confidence between the public and the carriera.

## FREIGHT RATES AND UNEMPLOYMENT

With a large part of the worlds population idle, or only par-
tially efficient owing to warion or diturubed political




 ment aituatio

This condition is international, not local to Canada If Can stian railway rates were a determining factor in making the sale were higher in intermational markets than the goods of our com peaitora then railway rates would be contributing to ourmploy-
ment in Canada by depresing our sales abroad, lowering the ment in Canada by depresesing our sales abroad, lowering the
number of our cuatomers and the orders coming to our producers. But in the frrat place the real effect of freight rates on price
nakking is a debatable point This is proven
(1) By the fact that prices fall hast Fall after the rates were
(2) By the fact that a 10 per cent. reduction on western coal ares offered in ordeen to stimulate coal movement in the Summer stead of an increase.

In the second place, assuming for the purposes of argument
hey did have serious effect, Canadian export rates are lower and they did have serious effect, Canadian export rates are lower and compared. Mile for mile the heul from Western Canadian point
to the end of navigation is cheaper than in the United State to the end of navigation is cheaper than in the United States. The
export rate on grain is lower than it

In other words, in intermation on $h$ of export Canada is helped by her railway rates. So far as interrather than aggravating it

Inside Canada the same is true, although it is a very difficult point to prove or disprove, the railways of Canada are sincere Canaimang than int, by and large, goods are carried more cheaply in ion of 5 per cent. last Januery, wherese there is till not redus or immediate prospect of a blanket decrease in the United Statese.

## THE TREND OF FREIGHT RATES

> With the exception of war and post-war conditions the
whole tendency of freight rates in this country, as in any other pro whole tendency of rrieght rates in this country, as in any other pro-
gressive country of its kind, is downward. As Canada's population risee, as our industries mulliply and the density of traffic be comen more nearly like that of older countric, some of the principal costs of rail way service can be subdivided among a greater
number of shippere and travelers, levying on each, therefore, a number of shippers and travelers, levying on each, therefore, a
amaller fraction of these costs prior to the war, traffic was on the increase. For twenty years therefore, the railways have beenadjusting rates downward -quite
apart from ppecial decreases put in effect by the Board of Rail. way Commiesionera. These revisions have been skillfully applie fic experts of the railwaya, whose businese it is to know al branches of induatry intimately, wo that the benefit of these voluntary rate adjuutments would go to "Key Commodities," thus stim
ulating further growth of the country, increase in traffic, and
the end further reductions of rates the end further reductions of rates. The difference between giv all kinds of goods is illustrated in the case of a certain amall railway which by concentrating rate reductions on lumber enable the mills of that region to remain open and the people to remai at work, whereas if the efffect of the reductions had been scattered
over all the goods carried by that road each family would been able to saves a small handfulof silver in a year, - (Provide the decreased rates had been passed on as decreased prices b storekeepers) -but there would have been almost no employ

So much for the day to day reductions arranged on thousand So much for the day to day reductions arranged on thousand
of articles by the traffic departments of the roads. In 1907 a
substantial reduction in eastern rates was made In substantial reduction in eastern rates was made. In 1914 a very
material cut was applied in the West. So that the transcontin ental lines entered the war period with a depressed earning power.

Now while all-even the railwaye-see the desirability fo Iow freight rates, there are certain limits beyond which no one
urged red actions. Of eourse there are theorists such as Mr. urged reductions. Of eourse there are theorists such as Mr
Bernard Shaw, who believed that all railway service should be free. But leaving aside views so far in advance, as yet of public opinion it is assumed by most people that a railway will give bes service at least cost-because, of course, even free railways mus
be paid by for by the tax payer-when their managements are be paid by for by the tax payer-when their managements ar
allowed to show their mettle by meeting obligations of their prop erties out of their earnings. It is ueefully recognized that these
obligations fall into obligations fall into two groups.

GROUP ONE-To pay their employecs; to pay for curren supplies of materials such as coal, etc.; to pay for repairs and re

GROUP TWO-To pay such a wage or hire for the use of th capital which built these railways as wall make Canadian Railway securities alwaye desirable, and easily marketed whether as bonds or stocks. This involves more than the mere payment of the esta-
blished rate of dividend in the case of privately owned roeds. It bished rate of dividend in the case of privately owned roads. It
involves the earning also of some surplus-a safety margin of income over expenditure, which will assure investors of oomplete he Board of Railway Commissioners in 1914 under the chair 1920, when the matter was again considered exhaustively. O this principle rests Canada's ability to enter the money markets whereever she may need and feel confident of bringiag back funds
for extending her railways as she may require in the future.

War conditions, following the Western and Eastern rate ad justments brought the railway managements sharply up agains for 1907 ngainst problems. Comparing the government 1919 -the last yerrea for which the railway blue cook is available-the wage bill of the railways rose 306 percent. coal 345 percent; ties 320 percent. But neither the volume. of
traffic or the scale of freight rates increased in comparable degree traffic or the scaie of freight rates increased in comparable degree
during that period. The actual revenue per ton per mile (which is the real proof or disproof of the matter) advanced only 20
percent over 1907. The year 1920 andarged the dien percent over 1907. The year 1920 enlarged only 20 crepancy. although an increase of 35 percent on Western lines
and 40 percent in the East was supposed to yield enough additional revenue to meet the increased wages. The increased wages were effective from May Ist-the increased rates increased wastil September lst. he effectiveness of that imcrease depended on the volume of traffic remaining at a fairly high level. It did so for
a time, then began to drop. Today it is very low. Nevertheless a 5 percent decrease was applied in January.

For the first ax months of 1921 ace compared to the firut ibit months of 1920 the volume of traffic on the mort fortumately siturated Camadian road fell 26.72 percent. And its revenve on

The net realt of these changes has been a state of emeegency in the offices of even the most fortunately stituated of all
Canadian roads. Wages could be paid and bills met on time. Canadian roada. Wages could be paid and bills met on time.
Even the usual dividend was paid and a very slight surplus-one of the factors in maintaining the reputation of Canadiap railwaye securitios, was earned. . But this was only done by refuing work
that must ultimitely be doae on current account.

Such economies cannot long be continued without eating too far into the broad safety margin which the Canadian roads main-
tain. Nothing but slackened speed of trains and reduced Canadian industrial efficiency can result if these savings have to be lon continued. Falling traffic still further aggravates the conditions. Maintenance cannot continue to be sacrificed to protect the credit
of our railway securities. Neither can be neglected.

In May the managements approached the task of reducing
their wage bills. For the first time in many years it was managetheir wage bilks. For the first time in many years it was manage-
ments and not the men who were taking the initiative. They had been forced to adopt the war-time increases granted in the United States-where 92 percent of the membership of the railway unions lie. Therefore when the reverse movement was undertaken in
that country the Canadian reads at once that country the Canadian roads at once gave due nntice and a
provisional and conditional decrease of roughly 10 percent-corprovisional and conditional decrease of roughly 10 percent-corin effect, tentatively, as from July 15 the. This reduction has not been accepted by the United States membership of the unionse
where a vote is being taken on the question- nor by the Canawhere a vote is being taken on the question-nor by the Cana-
dian membership, who have applied for a board of conciliation. Every resource of the managements will be used to sustain this inperativly yecessary and only too moderate reduction of their
wage billo-which account for 60 percent wage billo-which account for 60 percent cost of operation-
they are compelled to regard the matter as still unsettled and they are compelled to regard the matter as still unsettled and way rates- a view which a majority of the board of failway com

## IN CONCLUSION

The railway managements welcome deflation of railway rates and are working steadily toward that end. On two grounds,
however, they asked that any general decrease be deferred.

Firit-Because the so-called wage decreases are not yel assured and cannot be until the parallel decreases in the Unitod
States where 92 percent of the union membership lice, (and where no general freight rate reductions have been ordered) ase Second-Because the volume of traffic in the inmodiare
future is problematical and any serious seccline. if couplet with :
decrease in rates, would have very grave effect on: evee the snost decrease in rates, would have very grave effect on evee the snosit
favorably situated managements.

The railways have spoiken ageinst blaniket decreases of the grounds that it would be in the intereast of the covirtry on as a
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Commoditie"" rather than distribute them over ali desess oi goods, thereby benefiting ocly the distributore

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THE RAILWAY ASSOCIATION OF CANADA
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