

# CANADIAN LABOR PRESS

A National, Sane Labor Paper

True Confidence and Understanding Between Employer and Employee Absolutely Necessary to Industrial Peace.

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## Canadian Workers and Industry Not Given a Square Deal

### Liberal Government Has Lost Track of Canada's Requirements and Has Framed Its Policies to Retain Goodwill of Progressives But Has Not Considered Industry or the Workingman

#### False Policy of Economy Directed Against Labor, Government Civil Servants and Industry

The "Canadian Labor Press" does not believe in discussing politics except where it affects Canadian Labor, but as the Liberal Government at Ottawa has framed its policies to injure both the working class and industry, and as they are both interlocked, it is time steps were taken towards a consolidated resistance to the blundering management of the Liberal Government.

#### No Regard for Progress of Canada

The Government contends that in lowering tariffs and allowing excess foreign goods to be dumped into Canada, they are assisting agriculture and lowering the cost of living, but we cannot see it in that way. The reverse would more likely happen, for Canada needs protection of her industries as well as agriculture. Owing to high protective tariff in other countries, Canada cannot dispose of her surplus foodstuffs, and yet we lay our country open to absorb the over-production of other countries. And the surprising thing is that while we are supposed to be an agricultural country and the Government would ruin other industries for agriculture, nevertheless last year we imported four million dollars' worth of apples, plums, peaches, pears, etc. (while our own fruit rots on the trees). \$5,610,000 worth of butter, eggs and cheese, and we might just mention here that it is the huge dumping of U.S. eggs into Canada at this season of the year, that ruins the Canadian egg producer, the very person the Government is supposed to be helping. The United States has a great variety of climate and while Canada is still under snow and ice, the grass is growing green in parts of the States; hence an over-production of eggs and the flooding of the Canadian market, but the Government does not seem to take our geographical position or weather conditions into account when framing policies. We also imported last year vegetables, including potatoes, cabbage, tomatoes, onions, etc. to the value of \$2,435,000 and pork to the value of \$4,

134,061, all of which should have been supplied by our Canadian growers, and when it comes to a question of our farmers selling their pork, they cannot realize enough to pay for the grain fed them, let alone the labor involved. These startling figures only cover part of the industry that the Government is supposed to be helping by reducing tariffs!

GOD HELP THE INDUSTRIES THAT ARE NOT BEING HELPED!

#### Canada—A Free-for-all Dump

At the present time, Canada is a free-for-all dump for any and every country that has more than they need for themselves; and this is what our Government thinks is helping the people of Canada and lowering the cost of living, but can they not see that it is raising the cost of living, for it is preventing us from making enough money to purchase what we need, as the dumping of necessities of life into Canada causes unemployment and unemployment means decreased purchasing power. We wouldn't mind being a dumping ground for other countries if we had some magic way of equalizing the adverse trade balance created.

#### Civil Servants Problem

The Government employees are also being made the target for the Government's policy of economy and the Postal Clerk's situation is in the limelight at the present time. The Government tells them they must economize, but that is as far as the economy goes. There is no wise provision made nor the tariff regulated so that the Postal Clerk may get along on less money. When you think of it however, you cannot wonder at them telling the Postal Clerks that salaries will not be reduced, for at the rate the Government is going there will not be sufficient revenue to meet the salaries of the Government officials, let alone such a common person as the Postal Clerk.

The Minister of Labor has also made some wonderful strides in the matter of economy. Mr. Acland, former deputy minister of Labor, who had been in the Labor department for some years, and who understood that the work of the Labor department was to assist and champion the cause of the workingman, did not satisfy the Honorable Mr. Murdock, so a new deputy was appointed whose power was limited to the phrase: "I will speak to Mr. Murdock about it." Needless to say, everything concerning the welfare of Labor is vetoed, as the Minister of Labor is only interested in politics and not in the welfare of the working class, whose department he heads.

## American Unions Bring Prosperity

By Frank Hodges

(The following article appeared in the pen of Mr. Frank Hodges, of Great Britain, following his recent visit many of the coal districts of to the headquarters of the United

Of the four and a half million trade unionists in the United States, no body of workmen is as formidable as those in the trade union known as the United Mine Workers of America. Comprised of 500,000 members, spread over twenty-one separate districts, including the anthracite districts of Pennsylvania, it plays an important role in the economic life of the nation. Its activities are not confined to the United States, but are spread to Canada.

Like many other international (that is, United States and Canada) trade unions on the American continent, it determines the wages and conditions of its Canadian members in a marked degree. America undoubtedly paves the way for the conditions of employment in the Dominion of Canada.

As mentioned in previous articles, there is a joint movement of capitalists and Communists in Canada to free the Canadian trade union movement from the domination of the American movement. It will, indeed, be a sorry day for the Canadian workers if ever this is allowed to happen. They are face to face with a very difficult situation, and only sound leadership can prevent the Canadian trade union movement from breaking up in the face of these two conflicting influences. American capital is dominant in Canada in nearly all industries. Left to themselves, the Canadian workers would soon feel the pressure upon their standards of living resulting from the operation of American finance. Their ties with their fellow workers in the trade movement of the States, however, make it possible for them to enjoy many, if not all the economic advantages of the American workman.

Mr. John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers of America, informs me that the coal miners of Canada are more in the nature of a liability than an asset to the union from a financial point of view. It has been my lot to witness the value of this form of organization in another connection, namely, among the printing trades in Canada. In Toronto, for example, there has been a printers' strike lasting for two years.

Reynold's News, a London newspaper, secretary of the Miners' Federation visit to the United States. Mr. Hodges America and incidentally paid a visit to the headquarters of the United

The struggle has been for an establishment of a forty-four hour week. For the most part this has been secured in the printing houses of the United States, and certain houses in Canada, but there are still printing establishments in Toronto which have not yet made the concession. The strikers are in receipt of over \$25 per week strike pay from the International Union, apart from the special allowances they receive by way of rent and coal. This strike may last for another two years, but the men are bound to win in the end because of the fact that the whole of the finance

At that time there were at least three and a half millions unemployed in the country. Many unions and union leaders were ready to end, in fact, did accept reductions in wages. The miners were asked to accept such reductions, but they definitely declined. They declared that they were going to maintain the peak wages secured during the war for another two

precedented scale; an external boom followed which still remains; unemployment grew less and finally disappeared. Prosperity abounds as compared with Europe. The standard of living among the workers is the highest I have ever seen. Yet with all this, only fifteen per cent. of the produce of the United States is exported. What a contrast between this and our own country!

The United States is prosperous because of high wages. Great Britain is in poverty because of low wages. This turn of the tide is accepted by the best American authorities to be due in the first instance to the United Mine Workers of America. They have not yet reached their highest attainments.

After this session of the Legislature is over the Ontario Government will pass an order-in-council which will make provision for the insertion of the Fair Wage Clause in all Provincial contracts. This was the cheering statement made by Hon. Dr. Leeming Carr, M.L.A., who addressed a largely attended special session of the Trades and Labor Council at the Labor Temple. Applause followed when the Minister stated, that after the order-in-council had been signed by the Governor-General in Council, it is the intention of the Government to rigidly enforce the measure.

Asked why the Government didn't introduce a Fair Wage Bill while the House was in session, Dr. Carr replied that the Government is overburdened with work, and that Premier Ferguson is considerably overworked. "Premier Ferguson has given me permission to make this important announcement to you gentlemen, and the Fair Wage Clause will be included in all work undertaken by the Government this year," said Dr. Carr, who added that a Fair Wage Bill will be introduced by the Government at the next session of the Legislature.

Dr. Carr told the delegates that he considered that old age pension legislation was required in Ontario, and that it is his intention, at the first favorable opportunity, to consult Premier Ferguson and his Cabinet colleagues respecting such a scheme. Hamilton.—Union bricklayers in Hamilton will insist on an increase of from \$1.00 to \$1.25 per hour when new agreements are signed. The present agreement of \$1.00 per hour expired Monday. Several contractors, when spoken to, said they were opposed to the increase. It was intimated that a compromise of \$1.10 or \$1.15 per hour might be effected.

years. The leaders of other trade unions thought they could not win, thousands of miners thought similarly. During the whole of the strike the non-union coal fields produced on an average about four million tons of coal per week, but despite this array of forces against them they won.

The result has been that miners' wages were maintained at their peak figures. Then other trades began to demand increases. Increases, in fact, were granted, as in the iron and steel trades, even without demands. The total wage bill of the United States went up by hundreds of millions of dollars. The purchasing power was thus put in the hands of the workers. They began to buy the things they had lost and the things they had wanted. Factories began to move; agriculture received a new fillip; consumption increased on an un-

#### Stopped Downward Wages

I have further observed that the high wages which are now being paid practically throughout the whole of America are due to the efforts of the United Mine Workers of America, when they conducted their long strike of 1922, which was of five months' duration. It has been openly stated that but for the magnificent fight put up on that occasion by the miners, America would have followed in the wake of many European countries which have experienced the downward tendency of wages. In 1922, when the American trade depression was most marked, a certain psychology developed as in England, namely, that the only way to get improvement and economic prosperity lay in cuts of wages.

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### Engineers' Hours at O.A.C. Too Long

Guelph, Ont.—The Trades and Labor Council here is interesting itself in behalf of the steam engineers employed at the Ontario Agricultural and Veterinary colleges and Macdonald Institute, complaint having been made that the hours worked are too long and the pay received too small. Labor leaders here are not satisfied that the Government is doing its full duty towards these workmen, some of whom are said to work a total of 91 hours weekly for the salary of \$19 per week.

### Big Wage Offer For Plasterers

Chicago Firm Sends to Toronto for Men—\$4,000 Year Rate

Toronto.—A rate of wages approximating \$4,000 per annum is offered to plasterers of Toronto, who wish to work in the United States, according to an advertisement posted up on the bulletin board of the Labor Temple here.

A number of plasterers are needed for work in the United States and are offered \$13 a day of 8 hours, and promised 60 days' work. To secure them a firm in Chicago guarantees transportation to and from Toronto if any of those who accept the job are not anxious to remain in Chicago.

The jobs are to be filled at once. Building trades mechanics who are in the United States state that skilled workmen can find plenty of work, and that building will offer much employment there again this year. While the jobs advertised are for a period of 60 days, judging from letters received from the United States, there will be plenty of work for plasterers during the season. There will be opportunities for overtime pay.

### Labor Situation

Ontario Bureau Reports Less Unemployment

Hamilton.—Unemployment figures at the local bureau of the government employment service are gradually becoming smaller, there being a decrease during the past week of about 100, which has been the average weekly decrease for the past three weeks. The number on the unemployment register recently was around 1,800.

There was an increase in placements last week, the majority of positions being on the farm or for lumbering. The bureau has secured fifteen of the twenty-five river drivers asked for by a Muskoka lumber company and the party will leave here shortly in charge of a representative of the company.

There has been an increase in the demand for experienced farm hands, married and single, during the past week.

## Living Cost Considered by Wage Board

### Conciliation Body Hears Evidence of William Jennings for Street Railway Employees—Disguss Profits

Fort William, Ont.—Evidence with respect to the cost of living as determined by the Labor-Gazette of Canada took up a considerable portion of the session of the Arbitration Board, meeting under the Industrial Disputes act to determine the points at variance between the cities of Ft. William and Ft. Arthur and the employees of the street railway system of the twin cities. The evidence submitted by William Jennings on behalf of the employees showed the cost of living for a family of five in February, 1924, to have been \$32.64 per week. This figure Mr. Jennings contended was considerably lower than that suggested by the management of the street railway as being the basis on which an agreement should be reached.

### Case for Men

The sessions of the board to date have been taken up entirely by the presentation of the case for the men. It is hoped to complete this side of the case as soon as possible and then proceed with the hearing of the case from the standpoint of the cities concerned. The board will then be in a position to weigh the evidence submitted and make a decision in the matter. The question of wages, it is understood, is the chief point at issue between the employers and the men. Mr. Jennings is the sole witness before the board so far.

Resuming his case where he left off, Mr. Jennings took up the question of profits made by the Port Arthur and Fort William street railway, and stated that the net savings made on the two systems during 1922, as compared with 1921 could be credited directly to the employees. Figures which he submitted showed a total saving during six months of that year to be roughly in excess of \$27,000. Any saving that had been affected could be credited directly to the employees. In no other item, he stated, was a saving shown in either system. He also took up the question of grading of employees, urging that the maximum rate be reached after six months.

### Necessities of Life

In dealing with the item respecting wages, he stated that he wished to take this matter up from the standpoint of the actual necessities of life. Most of the men were of mature age and carrying the expense of families. They should receive a fair return for the labor they were putting in the industry.

Quoting from the Labor Gazette of

February, 1924, he showed the cost per week for a family of five for such items as food, light, fuel and rent to be \$21.23. This constituted 65 per cent. of the total cost of living. The other 35 per cent. provided for clothing, etc. The total cost was shown to be \$32.54 per week. Working 313 legal days at 9 hours per day at 55 cents per hour netted the men \$1,549.00 per year. Most municipalities were adopting the eight-hour day. At this rate it still left the men \$147.93 below the actual cost of living as tabulated by the Labor Gazette. At the rate of 57 cents per hour, as suggested, the employees would still be \$101.59 below the actual necessities of life.

Dealing with other industries from the Atlantic to the Pacific Mr. Jennings stated that Port Arthur and Fort William had to be considered geographically as being western cities. He referred to conditions in the brick-laying, carpentering, electrical and metal and printing industries to show that wages locally were higher than most cities of the east and as high or higher than many centres farther west.

### Sunday Work

Turning to the street railway, he stated that in 1921 wages paid locally were as high as any city in the east excepting Toronto, and they were as high in some cases as cities farther west. Rates for work on Sunday, he argued, should be considered as overtime, and time and a half should be paid for labor on that day.

### Wants Pay Sheets

Prior to the conclusion of the session, a request was made by Mr. Jennings, representing the street railway men, for pay sheets covering the year 1923 to be submitted to the arbitration board for consideration. This action was taken following the reading by Mr. Jennings of a newspaper report of a statement made by Alderman Rankin to the effect that there were men in the employ of the railway who were working for 55 cents per hour and were earning at the rate of between \$142 and \$155 per month. Mr. Jennings said that he would like to see the pay sheets to verify the statement made.

An adjournment of the board was ordered until the next afternoon at two o'clock, to allow the officials of the railroad to secure the information requested.

One of the questions dealt with at the afternoon session was the recognition of the employees not belonging to the union. Mr. Jennings was anxious that the union should be recognized so that in future matters could be dealt with through the organization. (Continued on page 4)

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# Editorial Page of The Canadian Labor Press



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## THE CANADIAN LABOR PRESS

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PUBLISHED BY THE CANADIAN LABOR PRESS, LIMITED

A NATIONAL, SANE LABOR PAPER

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Following in brief is an outline of our Policy:

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

### When Will It End?

The lowering of Canada's tariff rates and consequently the wiping out of Canadian industries, has caused hundreds of thousands of Canadian workers to leave Canada for the United States, where production is in full swing, owing to proper tariff protection, and it is the most natural thing in the world for our skilled Canadian workers to go where the work is being done and not stay in a country that is used as a dumping ground for those countries that are doing the producing. The only thing that worries foreign countries is, how long can we keep going and how much more our dump will hold? We suppose, however, that they figure that it is impossible for Canada, with a fast depleting population, to meet outside competition in the way of manufactured goods and that therefore our dump should hold out for many years to come.

### Unfair Treatment of Postal Clerks

It is rumored that if the Postal Clerks, Letter Carriers, etc., go on strike in order to gain their just dues, the Government will immediately take steps to replace them with new and inexperienced help.

This would be adding insult to injury and would be a very grave step on the part of the Government. The Dominion Government is one of the largest employers of Labor in Canada, and is supposed to set a good example to private employers, instead of tearing down the standards that have been set up by Trade Unionism. Private employers of Labor have got to live up to rules of a living wage and proper working conditions, and the Government has acted more than once to see that private employers did live up to the rules. The Government has enacted laws from time to time, established Minimum Wage Boards, etc. and in every way has endeavored to see that the working man gets a square deal, but here we come to one of the most important branches of the Civil Service, who are demanding something that they are certainly entitled to and the Government not only gives them the cold shoulder, but threatens to take their jobs away from them if they exercise their privilege to strike. Truly it is a funny world—and a funnier Government.

## The State and The Workman

That Governments should begin to realize that they are not omnipotent is not surprising, and that they should commence to recognize rights that belong to individuals and bodies outside their own formation is quite a natural thing. It is under such conditions and circumstances that the beneficial effects of perfected organized labor cannot fail to be felt. The relations between the State and the Workmen are now being considered from a new standpoint and from a heretofore unfamiliar angle. A few hurried considerations in this connection may not be untimely.

In the first place the State is not the creator of all rights and privileges nor is it the sole solver of all problems. The family is the author of the State and has its natural rights as each individual member of the family, which antedates any prerogatives of the State. The rights that the State is called into existence by their children, the rights of individual conscience in accord with which the parents decide as to the instruction and moral obligations of the children, all these are not created by the State; but it is in order to better safeguard these rights that the State is called into existence by the families included in its jurisdiction.

From these obviously clear facts it follows that the safety of the State depends upon the integrity of the home and the contentment enjoyed by the individuals composing it.

Peaceful and happy as well as prosperous homes are the surest guarantee of the prosperity and greatness of the State. The man without a home is a person without any stake in the country, and the homeless man becomes very naturally, a menace to society and to the well being of the country. It follows that the very surest policy of self-preservation for a State is the fostering of contentment in the homes and of honest confidence in the breasts of all citizens at the head of such homes. The man who has a home to support has inalienable rights that no wise Government will invade, or jeopardize, or ignore.

Amongst other rights possessed by the citizen is that of selling his labor. He has a perfect right to demand adequate pay or remuneration for the work, be it physical, mental, or both that he supplies. But he has not the right to sell his labor for a wage that is not sufficient to decently support his family. There is a just limitation to rights and liberties, for the employee as for the employer.

It is not right for the workman to accept pay that is not proportionate to the work done or that is not sufficient to support his family. To do so would be to sin against those dependent on him, and against his fellow-workers whose chances of adequate pay he diminishes by accepting under pay.

It flows logical, from these principles that if a man has no right to work for inadequate pay, he has the absolute right to refuse to do such work under such conditions. The adequate price implies the right to refuse to work and therefore to "strike." This applies to a collective body of men as well as to the individual. Consequently, the more perfect the measures taken by the State to insure adequate pay for proper work done, the more faithfully does the State fulfil its duty towards those who created it. Legislation that tends to put down strikes, to punish strikers and to break up organized resistance to unfair treatment of the workman is not of the higher class nor does it indicate statesmanship in those who are in authority. But legislation that will tend to removing the causes of complaint, the sources of discontent, the motives of strikes is in accord with the more noble functions of the State. Hence the inclination of Governments to establish commissions of inquiry into labor conditions, or arbitration in case of disputes, of conciliation between Labor and Capital is the outcome of a saner appreciation of conditions that obtain in the great labor world to-day.

If the workman is not complete

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### Railway Men to Have New Bureau

Want Statistics and Industrial Research by Special Fun—Old Age Pensions

The establishment of a Bureau of Statistics and Industrial Research with a view to keeping all railway lodges in Canada properly advised of industrial activities and the intention from time to time of capitalistic concerns was advocated by Division Four Railway Employees Department of the American Federation of Labor in a biennial convention at the Mount Royal Hotel in Montreal recently.

The Division requested the Trades and Labor Congress to establish such a Bureau. Functions of the proposed bureau would be in part to ascertain how much money is invested in various corporations, who controls such investments and how much watered stock there is in a corporation. It would also set itself to determine what profits have to be made by an industry to cover the interest charge on investments.

The convention also unanimously passed a resolution regretting the action of certain railroads in declining to pay pensions to old employees who participated in a shopmen's strike 16 years ago. The hope is expressed that such employees who still survive will receive the pensions which they have been expecting for many years.

#### Old Age Pensions

E. J. Evans, vice-president of the electrical workers addressed the convention on general conditions. Touching on pensions, he pointed out that on the principal railroads in the United States and Canada there were pension schemes but a common proviso was that men in receipt of pensions must be prepared to return to work at any time they were called upon to do so by the management. This had its disadvantages to the workers in certain instances, particularly in times of industrial disputes. He urged the desirability of old age pensions being established by law in the United States and Canada, for all classes of workers.

Mr. Evans also touched on workmen's compensation. He congratulated the railway workers of the United States and Canada on the progress which was being made through en-

actments of compensation acts such as that prevailing in Ontario and the Western Provinces, and expressed the hope that the Province of Quebec would soon enjoy similar advantages. Numerous states in the Union had adopted similar legislation and other states that had not yet done so contemplated similar legislation in the near future.

Much could be done by good understanding between the employer and the employee Mr. Evans maintained. Whilst he had been brought up in a school that did not believe in the identity of interest as between employer and employee, his experience as an officer of the international labor movement had proved to his satisfaction that much could be gained through honest co-operation in shop management, always providing that it was definitely understood that where such principles were adopted employees should receive their fair and legitimate share of the increased profits made thereby.

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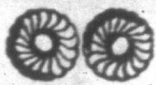
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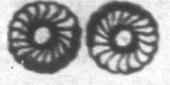
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# OUR HOME PAGE



## A New Industry For The Maritime Provinces

What It Means to the Provinces to Use Coke as a Domestic Fuel Instead of Anthracite

By Ernest G. Mackay

All down through the ages necessity has been the mother of invention and the factor which led to greater economy and conservation of resources.

In the iron and steel industry, necessity drove the manufacturer from wood, charcoal and anthracite to the use of coke for smelting purposes. The change from one fuel to another was brought about by the shortage of wood within reasonable range of smelting operations, the ever-increasing demand for larger tonnages of iron and steel at a lower cost, and the desire to save wood for other purposes. In the use of coke as a domestic fuel, history is repeating itself. From the use of wood, bituminous and anthracite coals, we are turning slowly but surely to coke as a fuel for all purposes where anthracite was formerly used, and for very logical reasons.

In the Maritime Provinces we are fighting hard for Maritime rights. Unfortunately for us, but not for the rest of the world, our people are leaving in thousands each year and we are trying hard to keep them at home and to find useful and remunerative employment for them. In order to build bigger and better Maritime Provinces, and to benefit Canada as a whole, it is essential to keep our money at home, rather than to send it out of the country where it will be used to stimulate foreign industry, while our own industrial plants remain idle.

In the year 1923 approximately 152,980 tons of anthracite coal were brought into the Maritime Provinces at a cost to the consumer of \$2,600,660, as follows:

Nova Scotia	57,820 tons
New Brunswick	91,000 "
Prince Edward Island	4,160 "

Assuming that the average consumer paid \$17.00 a ton for this coal delivered in his cellar and that the dealer paid \$15.00 a ton for the coal delivered on his dock or in his sheds, then 152,980 tons = \$2,594,700 went out of the country; 2x152,980 = \$3,059,600, cost to handle and deliver; 17x152,980 = \$2,600,660 cost to consumer.

With these figures before us it is evident that we should make every effort to avoid this large outlay. That this foreign fuel bill is avoidable has been demonstrated by experiments carried on during the past five years with domestic coke.

We have the coal, we have the coal washers, we have the coke ovens, we have the by-products recovering equipment, and we have the men with brains and experience in the industry. It is economically sound business, then, and we are fair with ourselves when we go abroad for this class of fuel? Let us consider for a moment what economic advantages would accrue to the Maritime Provinces if coke were used instead of foreign anthracite.

Now if 152,980 tons of metallurgical coke had been used, made from our own coal, mined and coked by our own workmen, shipped over our own railroads or in our own ships, the advantage would be approximately as follows:

Assuming that the average consumer paid \$17.00 a ton for his anthracite and that the average consumer, big and small, paid \$14.00 a ton for coke, then:

- 1st Consumer saves \$458,940, or \$3 a ton;
- 2nd A new market for 305,960 tons of coal;
- 3rd Giving continuous employment yearly for 600 miners;
- 4th Continuous employment for 200 men at coke plant;
- 5th Additional freight for Canadian railroads, 152,980 tons;
- 6th Gas: 2,609,600,000 cubic feet, \$764,900;
- 7th Ammonium sulphate, 7,649,000 lbs., \$267,715;
- 8th Tar, 2,069,000 gallons, \$61,192;
- 9th Motor fuel, \$17,800 gallons, \$225,470;
- 10th Royalty on 305,960 tons of coal, \$38,245;
- 11th Cost of anthracite, \$2,594,700. Total, \$2,658,225.

In the year 1870 the first coke ovens were built in Nova Scotia to produce coke for metallurgical purposes, and since that time every effort has been made to improve the structure and quality of the coke which is so essential to the successful operation of the iron and steel industry. In 1890 a modern coal-washing plant and 54 Bernard return coke ovens were erected. This was the first unit of its kind put into operation in Canada and probably the earliest plant at which the complete operation of washing to purify coal and coking it for metallurgical use was successfully practised in America.

With the object of improving it possible, the quality of the coke, systematic tests have been made from

The accompanying article regarding the use of coke, has taken the Maritime provinces as a basis of comparison, but the figures apply equally well to Quebec and Ontario where millions of dollars are sent out of the provinces annually to the United States. This article is valuable inasmuch as it demonstrates the value of coke for domestic use and the most efficient method of using this valuable fuel.

time to time of Nova Scotia coals in every type of washer and coke oven in Europe and the United States; with the result that to-day it is to be found in Sydney, Nova Scotia, the "last word" in modern coal washers, coke ovens, and by-product equipment.

The quality of the product of this plant is beyond question, and can be honestly recommended as a good, clean efficient, high-carbon fuel, which can be used to advantage in any type of oven, stove, furnace, or boiler where anthracite is now being used.

In the process of manufacturing metallurgical coke, the coal is selected from the mines producing the best metallurgical coal, crushed fine so that particles of stone and slate may be separated from it by gravity in a British Baum washer. After washing, the coal is conveyed to storage towers at the ovens where it dries preparatory to being charged into the ovens for coking. The coking operation is simply an expulsion of the volatile combustible matter in the coal in a long narrow air-tight chamber which is kept at a high temperature by the circulation of the gases around the oven walls.

The final product is a hard, porous coke of the contracted carbon, of the coal charged into the oven, practically free from impurities. The coke is pushed out of the chamber by an electrically-operated car on the opposite side of the oven, quenched, and sized for the various purposes for which it is intended.

The volatile matter with its valuable and exceedingly complete mixture, passes through the elaborate and costly distillation plant where the by-products are recovered. Surplus gas amounts to about 60 per cent of the total gas expelled from the coal, the balance is used for heating the oven chamber. The value of the gas, of course, depends on the market, and the location of the plant is an important factor.

Ammonium sulphate is one of the best inorganic manures known. Its value lies in its high nitrogen content, so essential to plant life. It is also used in other forms for making artificial fertilizer, for cleaning and in the manufacture of nitric acid.

Tar is used in the manufacture of drugs, dyes, explosives, paints, road dressing, roofing paper and as a fuel. Motor fuel is made from the light oils, which are also the basis of TNT and herein lies one of the most important features of the plant as an asset to the nation in time of war.

Most people have the idea that the by-products recovered in the coking process are "wrecks" and that the price of coke should be much lower than it is, but when it is considered that modern coke ovens, with by-product recovering equipment, cost to-day approximately \$75,000 per oven to build, and each oven produces about seven tons in 24 hours, and that it takes about two tons of raw coal to produce one ton of coke, it will be seen that the price is not exorbitant. The sale of by-products only brings their fair share of profit, except where gas can be sold for domestic lighting and heating.

## HOUSEHOLD NOTES

Grease the cup in which molasses is measured and every drop will run out.

Leftover stewed tomatoes can be used in the macaroni or rice and cheese casserole to make a delicious scalloped dish.

If metal teapots are not used for some time they are likely to become rusty. This may be prevented by dropping a lump of sugar into the pot before putting it away.

Carrots and peas are good to eat and good to look at when cooked together.

Never wash rubber stockings in soapy water. The alkali in soap rots the rubber. Wash in warm water with a brush. They last much longer if treated in this manner.

In New York as Spring advances, the floral wreath becomes more and more accepted as a coiffure ornament. The wreath, or coronet, may be of artificial flowers sprinkled with a dust of brilliants; or—more formally—of gold or silver with real jewels. Now and then a wreath of soft feather flowers is seen.

## Stakes and Trellises

The necessity for support for plants is never so apparent as when a heavy rain or wind has flattened some favorite stock and there are no supports in the way of stakes or trellises at hand. The winter months are an excellent time to start a collection of stakes and to build or buy trellises for tomatoes, find poles for the beans, and brush for the peas or stout stakes or posts upon which to string chicken wire. A lot of time will be saved by taking thought now.

Stakes of various sizes and strength are more necessary in the flower garden, and the neatness of beds and borders is often ruined by sprawling plants which have toppled over into paths or fallen over other plants. Heavy brittle-staked plants like dahlias and perennial delphiniums need stout stakes. An offer of a nickel apiece to the children of the neighborhood is likely to produce a fine collection of broomsticks and handles from other broken or discarded tools which make ideal stakes for the flower garden.

Better still, buy bundles of the bamboo stakes now sold in different lengths by seed houses for the lighter plants or uniform-sized and green-painted heavier stakes for the dahlias and similar plants needing support. Many of the perennials need staking. A stake for each system is the proper method. Tying them in a bundle to one stake ruins the effect of some of the finest plants.

Six-foot stakes will be needed for the tomatoes trained to a single stem, driving them well into the ground so that they will not be toppled by the weight of the vine during a rain or windstorm. Tie the plants loosely at short lengths with rags or raffia. Ordinary cord is likely to cut or saw the stems.

Start laying in supplies of stakes and if there is any brush from pruning operations, cut it into proper lengths to hold the sturdier dwarf peas and to use as a foundation for the drapery of perennial asters and other floppy perennials and annuals which are never so handsome as when firmly held in fluffy luxuriance by a twiggly branch concealed by foliage and flowers.

## Flowers in Shade

The shady part of the garden that will not grow even decent grass, can be made beautiful by the use of the tuberous begonia. So long as a bit of the ground can get the sun in early morning or late afternoon or for an hour's duration during the middle of the day, a bed of tuberous begonias planted there will bring charming results. This plant does for the shady spot what the geranium does for the sunny location, but it does more because of the variety of colors secured and greater beauty of the foliage. The tuberous begonia cannot be used in an open location facing the sun during the hot part of the day, because the leaves are apt to curl up and wither, says the Ontario Horticultural Association.

This flower has been greatly developed in recent years. The best varieties produce flowers from four to six inches across, and bloom from July until frost takes them off. They require rich soil. When the space is reached by the roots of trees they need plenty of moisture. If started in light soil in pots or flats set in a warm place during the first week in April, they will be almost ready to bud by the first of June, but some growers prefer to plant the tubers direct in the soil early in May, or as soon as the ground would be ready for potatoes.

The plants should be set 12 to 15 inches apart, about two and a half to three inches deep, with the hollow side of the tuber uppermost. The surface of the soil should be

kept stirred during the summer, and a dressing of bone-meal or other manure, preferably from the poultry yard, applied from time to time.



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# Labor News From Coast to Coast

## "OUR OVERSEAS COLUMN"

### Secretariat Notices

**Bureau Meeting of the International Federation of Trade Unions on Feb. 28-29 and March 1, 1924.**

At the Bureau Meeting of the I.F.T.U. held on 28th and 29th of February and the 1st of March, the chief resolutions adopted were the following:

Agreed draft rules are to be submitted to the International Trade Union Congress of Vienna, the wording of these rules was discussed and fixed. Jounaux and Oudegeest were instructed to negotiate with the Labor and Socialist International on the subject of further action with regard to the question of the eight-hour day, international social legislation, and the mutual guarantee agreement. It was also decided that, on the occasion of the International Trade Union Congress, instead of as formerly, holding a conference of the International Trade Secretariats, the International Trade Secretariats shall be convened, with the reservation that no secretariat shall send more than three representatives. The agenda was fixed for the International Conference of Working Women, which is to take place in Vienna immediately before the International Congress of Trade Unions.

Negotiations are to be opened up with the National Federations for securing legal protection for foreign workers. The question of social attaches is to be added to the agenda of the Congress, and a British delegate is to be appointed rapporteur. A short report is to be published of the proceedings of the International Conference of Working Women at Vienna in 1923. Sassenbach is to be delegated to the Lettish Trade Union Congress of the 5th and 9th of March, and to the Yugoslavian Trade Union Congress on the 27th and 28th of April; and Jounaux to the World Congress of Bakery Workers, which will take place at Berno on the 23rd and 24th of April. The reply of the All-Russian Federation of Trade Unions on the subject of the united front was discussed. No answer is to be sent by the I.F.T.U.; the question will be referred to the next meeting of the Management Committee.

### From the Intern'l. Congress at Vienna

The International Trade Union Congress, which meets at Vienna from the 2nd to the 7th of June next, will be held in the Penzlerhaus, 20, Lothringenstrasse.

### From the Intern'l. Trade Union M'v'm't.

**Congress of Furriers/International**

The Seventeenth Congress of the Furriers International will be held at Berlin from Monday, the 28th to Wednesday the 30th of June next. The most important subject coming up for discussion is amalgamation with the International Clothing Workers' Federation.

### News From the Various Trades

**BUILDING WORKERS**

Germany.—After March 31st next, the building industry of Germany will be without any collective agreement. As seventy to eighty per cent. of the building workers are unemployed, the employers' demands are such that their acceptance would throw the unions back thirty years. They include, in fact, the lengthening of working hours being made up by 12 hours work in summer, the loss of holidays, the exclusion of apprentices from the agreement, no restriction on piece-work, etc. If the employers insist on their demands, there is a prospect of fierce conflict in the German building industry.

**MINERS**

Austria.—After months of struggle the Styrian miners have won a complete victory, with the exception of the Karl Colliery of the Alpine Montan Company, where the strike is still going on. The adjustment to the cost of living index has been obtained, and also an increase in the children's bonus. The wage rates per shift are also to be revised. No reprisals will be taken on the strikers.

**WOODWORKERS**

Germany.—On February 15th the national wage agreement for the German wood industry expired. The negotiations for the conclusion of a new agreement provide for a working week of 45 hours. The employers originally demanded 54 hours per week, and 6 hours of overtime without any higher rate of pay.

### News From the Various Countries

**CUBA**

In Cuba there is a Labor Movement which, although small so far as numbers are concerned, yet consists of class-conscious members. One of the strongest unions is the railwaymen's organization. The movement in general would gain in fighting capacity if there were more concentration. The fact that Cuba was represented only by a Government delegate at the previous International Labor Conferences at Geneva, is due to the local character of the organizations.

The Socialist Party and the trade unions issue an official journal jointly. The Labor Movement in the island adopts the standpoint of the I.F.T.U. and the Socialist Labor International.

**GERMANY**

After the introduction of the new currency, the gold basis was at once re-established when new wages agreements were concluded. Wages agreements on a gold basis have now been made for almost every branch of industry. With very few exceptions, these wages are not equal to those of pre-war days, and in some cases they show a very considerable reduction. Yet official statistics show that the most important foodstuffs have increased in price one-third since 1913-14. In the case of other articles (such as light, heating and clothing), the increase is even greater.

In three trades there has been a slight increase, namely painter, leather-workers and book-binders, but even in these cases the real wages of pre-war times have not been attained. Even those workers who are most favorably situated have suffered a reduction in the purchasing power of their wages of about one-third. It has been unfortunate for the workers that wages should have been fixed on a gold basis at a time when, owing to the terrible depreciation of the paper mark, the capacity of the trade unions to offer resistance has been reduced to its lowest point.

**SWITZERLAND**

The Executive Committee of the Swiss Federation of Trade Unions will meet at Olten on the 5th and 6th of March. It will discuss the program of activities for 1924, the Congress of the International Federation of Trade Unions at Vienna on June 2nd, the next International Labor Conference at Geneva, and also the budget for 1924 and the financial report for 1923.

**SPAIN**

Urged by the Labor representatives of the Institute for Social Reforms, the Spanish Directory has adopted a resolution to appoint a commission to study new Labor legislation. The Commission will first of all study legislation dealing with workmen's accidents, factory inspection, labor conflicts and the State authorities and public services which are concerned with Labor questions. The Commission consists of one representative of the employers, one representative of the other members of the Council of Administration of the Institute for Social Reforms. The Director of the Institute and two officials of the Ministry of War and the Admiralty will assist the Commission with technical information on questions concerning their departments.

### The Compensation Act Stands

The provincial government has decided to drop for the present its Workmen's Compensation Board bill, which provided for a board of review to deal with "problem cases." This action is taken in deference to the views of Labor representatives, although the premier is still convinced that the proposed amendments are in the interests of the workers. He points out the great expansion of business done by the board, and the consequent enlargement of its organization will be imperative before any prolonged lapse of time. In the meantime, however, the act will be administered as in the past, without change.

This will be welcome news to the workers. Rightly or wrongly, they were suspicious of the new proposals, fearing the encroachments of politics and the possibility of legal entanglements. The board should be kept as free from complications of this kind as possible. Though there have been cases of dissatisfaction with past decisions, they have been comparatively few, and the agitation aroused by the prospect of any alteration in methods is sufficient to establish the popularity of the board with those whom it is especially intended to benefit.

### Workers Present Legislative Program

**Ontario Executive of Trades Congress of Canada and Executive of Labor Educational Association Meet Premier and Cabinet Ministers**

The provincial executive committee of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, and the executive committee of the Labor Educational Association of Ontario, interviewed the Ontario government recently and laid before the cabinet council the program of desired legislation, based upon the decisions of the annual conventions of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada and the Labor Educational Association of Ontario.

The workers' delegation comprised James A. Sullivan of Hamilton; Jas. M. O'Brien, of Windsor; E. Ingles, of London; James P. Marsh, Joseph Marks, Wm. Varley and W. T. Powlesland of Toronto; and E. W. A. O'Dell, of Hamilton. They were received by Hon. T. Howard Ferguson, premier; Hon. W. H. Nickle, attorney-general; Hon. John Martin, minister of agriculture; Hon. J. Lyons and Hon. C. McCrea.

1. Definite action to give effect to such decisions of the annual conferences of the international labor organizations as have been considered to come within the jurisdiction of the provincial legislature.

This includes:—

(a) Enactment of an eight-hour day law for industrial and commercial undertakings.

(b) Legislation for the further protection of women and children in industrial and commercial undertakings and agriculture.

(c) Co-operation with other provinces so as to make possible ratification, by Canada, of these draft conventions and recommendations.

(d) Bringing of all young persons, irrespective of sex, under the minimum wage act.

2. Enactment of legislation making compulsory the insertion of fair wage clause in all contracts given by the government or any commission under its direction or in works aided by government funds, and, in the meantime, the fair wage resolution of the legislation, passed in the year 1906, be put in effect.

**Immigration and Colonization**

3. (a) All placements of immigrants to be made through the provincial government employment service.

(b) Canadian citizens be given equal opportunity in any provincial colonization scheme.

**Unemployment**

4. That immediate steps be taken to relieve the existing unemployment.

**Workmen's Compensation Act**

5. To so amend said act that all workers, no matter for whom they may be employed, shall be allowed the benefit of compensation.

**Mothers' Allowance Act**

6. Amend said act to include widows with one child.

**Election Act**

7. (a) Proportional representation.

(b) Election day a public holiday.

(c) One man, one vote.

(d) Abolition of property qualifications for voting on money by-law.

**Stationary and Hoisting Engineers' Act**

8. For the appointment of more inspectors, and that section of the act dealing with the registration of steam plant owners be enforced as a means of revenue for the department and a check on the operators of said plants.

**Factory Act**

9. That the government of Ontario be asked to appoint enough inspectors so that the Factory act can be properly enforced in the planing mills, woodworking plants and various other factories.

**One Man Cars**

10. That the government be requested to enact legislation requiring a motorman and conductor on all cars.

**Act to Define the Vocation of Barbers**

11. Stated period of apprenticeship. Standard of sanitation as desired by the barbers in the interest of public health and sanitation.

**Juvenile Employment**

12. Request the government and school authorities to provide for the appointment of vocational officers with junior divisions, officers of the employment service of Canada, to furnish the fullest possible vocational guidance to those leaving school to become wage earners.

**Municipal Act**

13. Municipal act be amended so that the practice of competition between the various towns and cities of location of industries by granting a fixed assessment, and subsidies be done away with.

**Ontario Savings Office**

14. The Ontario Savings Office has met a long-felt want of the working people of this province, who have invested their savings knowing that it

is secure. We request the government to continue with the Ontario Savings Office.

**Other Matters**

That the federal and provincial governments make provisions for the care of those unemployed so the municipalities shall not be expected to maintain persons who have been induced to come to Canada by alluring advertisements of the government.

In addition to the above, we request legislation of the following subjects.

Amendments to Factory act, reducing the maximum hours for women and children to forty-eight hours per week.

Provisions for the rehabilitation of injured industrial workers under the Workmen's Compensation Board authority.

The enforcement of the Building Trade Protection act.

Regulation of electric wiring construction.

Labor representation on appointed commissions, and especially the Hydro Electric commission.

Reiteration of our demands for public ownership and operation of all public utilities.

We strongly support the present Adolescent School Attendance act and request its fullest application.

### Toronto St. R'ly. Men Sign Contract

**Provision for Continuation of Present Wage Scale for Two Years**

Toronto, Ont.—The Transportation Commission and the street railway employees have reached an agreement which provides for the continuation of the present scale of wages for the next two years. The demands of the men that they be given two weeks vacation a year with pay, that each crew taking out a car be guaranteed a full eight hours pay, and the shop repair and shed men be given an increase of five cents per hour was not conceded. The only change in the agreement provides that "extra" men will be able to earn a minimum of \$29.50 per month.

### Head of Union for 15 Years; Resigns

**Mr. J. Valentine Quits as Holders' President—May Get \$2,000 Pension**

Hamilton, Ont.—Mr. Joseph F. Valentine, for upward of fifteen years president of the International Molders' Union of North America, has resigned on account of failing health. 1st Vice-president Michael Keough has been named by the Executive Council to succeed Mr. Valentine. J. H. Barnett, of Toronto, for many years 2nd International Vice-president now becomes 2nd Vice-president. Mr. Valentine, who succeeded the late Mr. Martin Fox as president of the I.M.U., has not had good health for some years. A referendum of the entire membership will be taken, the executive having recommended that Mr. Valentine be given a retiring pension of \$2,000 per year.

### New Contract at Indian Cove Mine

Sydney Mines, N.S.—Robert Baxter and Dalrymple, U.M.W. of A. officers, were in town recently in connection with labor questions concerning the employees of the Indian Cove Coal Company. It is understood the miners of the Indian Cove Company have signed a new contract with the U.M.W. along similar lines to that drawn up at the wage conference at Montreal recently. The new wage contract has been accepted by about 125 miners employed with the Indian Cove Company.

### Living Cost Considered by Wage Board

(Continued from page 1)

Members of the board were anxious that an agreement might be reached that would be recognized by all parties concerned.

**In Other Cities**

Mr. Jennings pointed to the fact that in agreements made by the street railwaymen's union with the cities of Edmonton, Calgary, Windsor, Guelph and other municipalities only the union was recognized in the agreement and, but two parties were mentioned.

Reference was made to an agreement between the street railwaymen and the city of Port Arthur, which brought the reply from Mr. Jennings that the association did not have any agreement with Port Arthur.

Mr. Jennings declared emphatically that he was not advocating the closed shop.

Some discussion occurred as to which agreement was actually being considered by the board of arbitration, and it was suggested that the board adjourn to such time that all parties were supplied with copies from the department of the minister of labor. This course was not favored, however, and various agreements and proposed agreements were submitted, including exhibit number 1, being the original demands of the men; exhibit number 2, the existing agreement between the city of Fort William and between number 966; number 3, agreement known as number 24025 and number 4 as agreement 24028.

Several clauses were under discussion from the standpoint of the men. The proposed agreement was submitted by Mr. Jennings, and reference was made to clauses which were duplicated by clauses in the various agreements under consideration.

**Tend to Dishonesty**

Mr. Jennings dealt at some length with the question of the privilege granted employees to ride on street cars free of charge, when said employees were not in uniform. The management, he stated, were unwilling that this concession should be enjoyed any longer. He thought the move was the first step toward dishonesty and in view of the clause permitting such privilege having existed in previous contracts, he thought that it should be continued in the new agreement. It was everywhere recognized on the North American continent, he contended.

Uniform suits should be issued each year on or before the first of May, and overcoats every second year on or before November 1st, it was stated.

The board then adjourned until the next afternoon.

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Jas. H. Ballantyne  
Deputy Minister

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Jas. T. Burke, Chief Inspector

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### Confer on New Scale Fair Wage

**Representatives of Various Labor Unions Discuss Question With Executive Council**

Montreal.—Representatives of National, International and Catholic and National Labor unions waited on the executive committee of this city and discussed a new scale wage that was recently fixed by the city. It was pointed out by representatives of the unions whose members were affected by the scale, that the one estab-

lished by the city did not agree with the minimum wage agreements the unions had made with outside contractors.

Mr. Achille LaFleur, fair wage officer, pointed out to the delegation that they did not keep their agreements as regards keeping him posted regarding wage changes. If city contractors were not paying the wage agreed upon, the city authorities should be notified at once.

The executive committee agreed to revise the wage scale in collaboration with the union men and a new scale will be drawn up in a few days.

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