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General Review of the Industrial Situation

The Labor Situation, Strikes, Prices, etc.

Some recovery from the losses recorded in the preceding month was indicated in reports from employers of labor at the beginning of February. The situation was slightly better than at the same date of last year and very much more favorable than at the commencement of February, 1923.

At the beginning of February the percentage of unemployment among members of trade unions stood at 7.5 as compared with 7.2 per cent. at the beginning of January and 7.8 per cent. at the beginning of February, 1923.

The offices of the Employment Service of Canada reported a slight increase in the business of the offices during the month of January, as compared with the preceding month while it was approximately the same as in January, 1923.

The following is a survey of employment at the end of February, 1924, as reported by the superintendents of the offices of the Employment Service of Canada.

The seasonal slackness in the construction group in the maritime provinces showed little betterment from the preceding period, no new work having been undertaken as yet. Optimism prevails, however, for renewed activities for the coming spring. Farming operations were not yet under way and few calls for workers were received. The demand in the logging group remained much as previously reported, and the camps, particularly in northern New Brunswick, were well supplied with workers. The mining industry was quiet, while manufacturing as yet showed little advancement.

In Quebec, the characteristic seasonal lull in employment conditions was reported. Contractors very shown in the building and construction groups, with only a few vacancies offered for inside workers and finishers. In the larger centres a number of men were employed casually shovelling snow after the recent storms. The logging camps were supplied with sufficient workers for the winter cut, and, apart from a few small orders, little demand was felt in this group. A revival in manufacturing industries was anticipated, especially in the metal trades and clothing industries.

In Ontario the continuance of winter conditions retarded business and delayed the opening up of employment during the month. Building and construction activities were at a standstill, with a good outlook for improvement as soon as the weather permits. Casual employment was afforded to increasing numbers of men due to the heavy storms, large gangs of workers for clearing railway lines and cutting surface drains being supplied without difficulty. Ice-cutting continued to employ large numbers of men at various points. Enquiries for general farm help were increasing in number and further expansion was expected with the approach of warmer weather. A slight curtailment of orders was reported in the logging group. At the end of February camps were well supplied with men, with few outstanding orders. The calls for tiemakers were met with difficulty, a shortage of experienced workers being evident. It is probable that requirements in this group will decline slightly until the spring demand for river drivers. The reports indicate that a vast improvement may be expected in industrial conditions, an increasing number of vacancies being afforded in the metal and clothing industries. The demand for women domestic help was very heavy with an unequal supply.

Prospects are good for employment on farms in Manitoba, an increasing number of inquiries for workers being shown. Work in all branches of construction both railway and building is of a normal nature with few permanent jobs open, the calls being mainly for casual and unskilled laborers. A steady demand for bushmen and loggers was shown, but due to the scarcity of men and the lateness of the season, the openings are not so easily filled. In the Women's Section there is still a large demand for workers for city and country, a slight improvement being noted in the number of placements in permanent work.

With the approach of spring the agricultural group in Saskatchewan is showing a slight expansion. Quietness characterized the building and construction groups, only a few calls for carpenters and laborers being received. The continued demand for men in the logging group was met satisfactorily from Regina, Saskatoon and Prince Albert. Increasing requests for women household workers for rural districts formed a considerable part of the business of the Women's Division.

While little construction work was under way in Alberta, indications point to a fairly active season. In the meantime, municipal public works continued to provide work for many. A noticeable, though slight, increase is evident in the demand in the agricultural group, with a further expansion anticipated for next month. Experienced loggers were found with difficulty to satisfy the small number of orders received at Edmonton and Lethbridge.

A slight improvement in the number of calls for farm workers was reported in British Columbia, the situation remaining approximately the same. The anticipated improvement in conditions in the building and construction group is slow in coming, and, with the exception of a few small bridge construction jobs and municipal relief works, little employment was afforded in this group. While logging operations continue fairly active in the northern sections of the province, the demand has fallen off somewhat. Difficulty is experienced in supplying tiemakers and sawyers in some localities. The demand in the domestic group remains about the same, the orders for permanent household workers being considerably in excess of the supply. Day work and casual employment for women was supplied to an increasing number.

Employers' Reports

At the beginning of February considerable revival from the losses recorded on the first of January was indicated in reports from employers received by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The improvement repeats that shown at the same time of year in 1923 and 1922, the recovery being more extensive than in the former year, but the losses that preceded it had not been so large as on February 1, 1923. The tendency in manufacturing was distinctly favorable; logging and mining also showed expansion. On the other hand, transportation, construction and trade recorded curtailment of a seasonal nature. Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia reported increased activity, while in the maritime and prairie provinces employment declined. In Ontario some 14,000 persons were added to the payrolls of the reporting firms, chiefly in the manufacturing division. The improvement in Quebec and British Columbia was also registered largely in factories; in addition, the latter recorded gains in mining. In the maritime provinces employment in iron and steel showed a decrease, partly as a result of a trade dispute in the allied coal mining industry. Seasonal dullness in construction also affected the situation. Railway transportation in the prairie provinces showed the decline incidental to this time of year, indicating reaction from the heightened activity attendant upon the movement of grain. Employment in Montreal, Hamilton and Winnipeg was in greater volume than at the beginning of January, while continued curtailment of operations was reported in Toronto, Ottawa, and Vancouver. Tobacco, railway car shops, shipyards, rolling and forging mills and other iron and steel works in Montreal recorded considerable recovery, but trade, construction and textile works continued to show contractions. A

large share of the decrease in Toronto was registered in retail stores, although the street railways also afforded less employment. On the other hand, textile, confectionery, printing and iron and steel plants reported increased activity. The largest reductions in Ottawa occurred in stores and in construction. Textile, iron and steel works in Hamilton recorded considerable additions to staffs. The improvement in Winnipeg was of a general character; the largest increases were reported in textiles. Varying conditions in different industries resulted in a very small reduction in employment in Vancouver. Construction and trade in that city were rather slack, while manufacturing as a whole showed improvement. Practically all branches of manufacturing reported some recovery from the contractions recorded early in January. The resumption of work in many iron and steel plants caused the reinstatement of nearly 5,000 workers. The most extensive increases within this division were registered in automobile and railway carshops and in shipyards, but nearly all branches shared in the revival. In textiles approximately 4,000 persons were added to the payrolls of the reporting concerns; the largest increases occurred in garment and knitting factories. Expansion on a somewhat smaller scale was indicated in sawmills, furniture, boot, shoe, pulp, paper, rubber, tobacco, hotel, non-ferrous metal, meat packing and slaughtering establishments. The trend of employment in logging continued to be favorable; mining and railway construction also recorded substantial improvement. On the other hand, transportation, building and highway construction afforded less employment than in the preceding month, and retail stores showed considerable reductions in payroll following the Christmas season.

An article elsewhere in this issue gives in some detail the employment situation as at the beginning of February, 1924.

Trade Union Reports

Slightly more unemployment than in December was registered at the end of January by the 1,522 unions from which returns were received. An aggregate membership of 156,272 persons was reported by these unions, 11,768 of whom were out of work, a percentage of 7.5 as compared with percentages of 7.2 at the end of December and with 7.8 on January 31, 1923. (Unemployment as used here has reference to involuntary idleness due to economic causes. Persons engaged in work other than their own trades or who are idle because of illness or as a direct result of strikes or lockouts are not considered as unemployed. As the number of unions making returns varies from month to month with consequent variation in membership upon which the percentage of unemployment is based it should be understood that such figures have reference only to the organizations reporting.) In Nova Scotia, Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan less work was afforded than in December. In Ontario the greater part of the inactivity was due to unemployment in the manufacturing industries and in the building trades. A better situation was shown in the remaining provinces. In comparison with January of last year all provinces except Nova Scotia, Quebec and Ontario reported more employment. During January some improvement over December was shown by the 425 unions in the manufacturing industries from which returns were tabulated. Bakers, garment and iron and steel workers were more active, but cigar makers, furniture, pulp and paper, textile and glass workers and printing tradesmen were not so fully engaged. Slightly less activity was shown in the manufacturing industries than in January of last year. Coal miners in Nova Scotia were not so busy but in Alberta slightly more employment was registered and in British Columbia no miners were reported idle. Reports tabulated from 179 unions in the building trades with a membership of 17,938 persons showed that 26.3 per cent. of the members were out of work as compared with 21.7 per cent. at the end of December, 1923. Bricklayers, masons and plasterers, carpenters and joiners, granite and stone cutters, plumbers and steamfitters, tile layers, lathers and roofers, hod carriers and building laborers and steam shovel and dredgemen all reported more idleness, but bridge and structural iron workers, electrical workers and painters, decorators and paperhangers showed some improvement. In comparison with the returns for January, 1923, bricklayers, masons and plasterers, granite and stone cutters, tile layers, lathers and roofers, steam shovel and dredgemen and plumbers and steamfitters all registered slightly less activity. The situation among transportation workers was not quite so favorable due to lessened employment for steam railway employes. In the shipping and stevedoring and street and electric railway divisions, however, more employment was afforded. Transportation workers were better employed than in January, 1923. Fishermen reported considerable idleness. Retail clerks were busier. Hotel and restaurant and theatre and stage employes were more active, but employment for stationary engineers and barbers was not so good.

Employment Office Reports

During the month of January, 1924, the offices of the Employment Service of Canada made 31,409 references to employment and effected a total of 29,868 placements. Of these, the number of placements in regular employment was 15,237, of which 12,459 were of men and 2,778 of women, and 14,631 in casual work. Applications for work registered at the offices numbered 44,613, of which 35,173 were from men and 9,440 from women. The number of vacancies notified by employers to the Service was 26,587 for men and 6,984 for women—a total of 33,571. In comparison with the preceding month this represents an increase in the number of vacancies and placements, mostly in casual work, while an increased registration of applications characteristic of the month was shown. A report in detail of the work of the offices for the month of January, 1924, will be found elsewhere in this issue.

Building Permits and Contracts Awarded

According to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, the value of building permits issued in 56 cities during January, 1924, showed a decline to \$4,921,088 from \$6,906,650 in the previous month and from \$4,057,013 in January, 1923.

According to the MacLean Building Review, issued by MacLean Building Reports, Limited, the value of the contracts awarded in Canada during February, 1924, amounted to \$21,249,000, compared with \$6,538,600 in January last, and \$13,311,800 in February, 1923. Residential building accounted for 10.5 per cent. of the February total, amounting to \$2,217,800; business building amounted to \$5,519,200, or 25.9 per cent.; industrial building to \$415,000, or 2 per cent.; and public works and utilities to \$13,097,000, or 61.6 per cent. The activity was distributed amongst the groups as follows: Ontario 80.4 per cent.; Quebec, 12.7 per cent.; western provinces, 4.6 per cent.; and the maritime provinces, 2.3 per cent. The amounts to be spent being \$17,983,200 in Ontario, \$2,697,200 in Quebec, \$498,000 in the maritime provinces, \$731,900 in British Columbia, and \$238,700 in the prairie provinces.

Production Reports

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports that the production of pig iron in Canada during January, 1924, showed an advance of 7 per cent. over the December output of 59,622 tons to 63,702 tons, and represented a marked increase over the outputs in January of the last three years. The output of basic pig iron was

39,388 tons; foundry iron mounted to 14,466 tons and malleable iron to 9,848 tons. There were five furnaces in blast at the end of January, of which two were at Hamilton, Ontario, two at Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, and one at Sydney, Nova Scotia. Two furnaces were ignited at Sydney, Nova Scotia, during the month and one was blown in at Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. There were 2,910 tons of ferro-alloys produced during the month.

The production of steel ingots and castings amounted to 41,309 tons in January as compared with 41,248 tons in December. The January production was 48,900 tons in 1923, 35,000 tons in 1922, and 40,900 tons in 1921. The output of steel ingots amounted to 38,596 tons, and steel castings to 2,703 tons.

A report from the Department's correspondent at Cobalt states that fourteen cars of silver ore were shipped during February from the Cobalt camp, containing approximately 975,792 pounds of ore, as compared with ten cars of silver ore containing 746,737 pounds in January. The Nipissing mine shipped 552 bars containing 403,624.87 ounces of silver, and The Mining Corporation of Canada shipped 53 bars containing 51,159.72 ounces of silver, making a total of 405 bars containing 456,784.59 ounces of silver shipped during the month of February, as compared with 211 bars containing 212,441.52 ounces for January.

A report from the British Columbia Forestry Branch shows that 179,216,115 feet, board measure, of timber was scaled in the province during January. The total includes Douglas fir, 100,656,869 feet; red cedar, 31,226,029 feet; spruce, 13,384,321 feet; hemlock, 20,083,196 feet; balsam, 3,405,987 feet; yellow pine, 1,356,144 feet; white pine, 1,288,541 feet; jack pine, 1,947,011 feet; larch, 3,000,935 feet; cotton wood, 211,237 feet; birch and cypress, 28,402 feet; and other species, 2,654,440 feet.

The gross earnings of the Canadian National Railways, including affiliated lines in the United States, according to a preliminary statement issued, amounted to \$18,328,491 in January, 1924, as compared with \$18,765,458 for January, 1923.

The gross earnings of the Canadian Pacific Railway for January were given in a preliminary statement as \$13,392,432 in comparison with \$13,148,911 in January, 1923.

Foreign Trade

A summary of Canadian trade prepared by the Department of Customs and Excise shows that in January, 1924, the merchandise entered for consumption amounted to \$66,468,060 as compared with \$68,085,845 in January, 1923. There was an increase of \$4,916,225 in the value of domestic merchandise exported, which amounted to \$69,575,167 in January, 1924, as compared with \$64,658,942 in the corresponding month of the previous year. For the ten months ending January the grand total of Canadian trade was \$1,641,285,624 in 1924 as compared with \$1,454,208,770 in 1923. The chief imports in January, 1924, were fibres, textiles and textile products amounting to \$16,956,348; iron and its products amounting to \$10,408,188; non-metallic minerals and products amounting to \$10,301,177; agricultural and vegetable products mainly foods amounting to \$7,122,228; and agricultural and vegetable products other than foods amounting to \$6,572,428. The chief exports during the same month were in the group of agricultural and vegetable products, mainly foods, which amounted to \$21,804,983, the next being wood, wood products and paper, amounting to \$18,258,274, followed by animals and animal products to the value of \$10,085,683. During the ten months of the fiscal year ending January, 1924, exports of agricultural and vegetable products, mainly foods, were valued at \$344,348,824; exports of wood, wood products and paper amounted to \$226,282,086; and exports of animals and animal products to \$121,603,242.

Strikes

Time loss due to industrial disputes reported to the Department during February was less than during January, 1924, but greater than during February, 1923. There were in existence at some time or other during the month 16 disputes, involving 11,518 employes and a time loss of 101,968 working days, as compared with 14 strikes in January, involving 12,793 employes and a time loss of 186,078 working days. In February, 1923, there were recorded 20 disputes involving 3,950 work-people and a time loss of 46,030 working days. Three new strikes commenced during February with a time loss of 2,497 working days. Two of the strikes commencing prior to February and all of the strikes commencing during February terminated during the month. At the end of the month, therefore, there were 11 strikes involving 812 workpeople.

Prices

Retail food prices were little changed from the levels reached in January. The cost per week of a list of twenty-nine staple foods for an average family of five in terms of the average retail prices in some sixty cities was \$10.75 at the beginning of February as compared with \$10.78 for January; \$10.53 for February, 1923; \$10.61 for February, 1922; \$14.08 for February, 1921; \$16.92 for June, 1920 (the peak); \$15.77 for February, 1920; \$12.54 for February, 1918; and \$7.75 for February, 1914. Prices of fresh eggs were substantially lower while there were smaller declines in cooking eggs, lard, fresh pork, bacon, sugar and prunes. Advances occurred in the prices of butter, cheese, potatoes, evaporated apples, tea and coffee. Including the cost of fuel and rent with that of foods the total budget averaged \$21.18 for February, as compared with \$21.23 for January; \$21.17 for February, 1923; \$21.07 for February, 1922; \$24.85 for February, 1921; \$26.92 for June, 1920 (the peak); \$24.71 for February, 1920; \$19.80 for February, 1918; and \$14.54 for February, 1914. Fuel averaged slightly lower while rents were unchanged.

The movement of wholesale prices as indicated by the index number of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics was very slight, the figure for February being 156.6 as compared with 156.7 for January; 152.6 for February, 1923; 153.5 for February, 1922; 191.1 for February, 1921; 256.9 for May, 1920 (the peak); 238.3 for February, 1920; and 290.5 for February, 1919. In the grouping according to the chief component material the Vegetable Products group, the Non-Ferrous Metal group, and the Non-Metallic Minerals group were each higher while the Animals group, the Textiles group, the Wood group and the Iron group were each lower. The Chemicals group was unchanged from the January level.

The index number based upon prices of 271 commodities in 1890-1899 as 100, published by the Department of Labor since 1910, advanced to 224.9 for February as compared with 222.7 for January; 224.2 for February, 1923; 229.5 for February, 1922; 270.1 for February, 1921; 256.6 for May, 1920 (the peak); 343.5 for February, 1919; 263.5 for February, 1918; and 136.8 for February, 1914. The groups showing advances were grains, animals and meats, fruits and vegetables, hides, leather and boots, metals, fuel and lighting, paints and oils, and drugs and chemicals; while the groups showing declines were dairy products, fish, textiles, and raw furs.

The special index of fifty commodities selected from the 271 in the departmental list advanced slightly to 155.1 for February as compared with 154.4 for January; 155.2 for February, 1923; 148.4 for February, 1922; 152.2 for February, 1921; 260.1 for May; 1920 (the peak); 237.0 for February, 1920; and 102.9 for February, 1914.

Better Education For Workers

Quebec Labor Presents Legislative Program—Suggest Persons Attend School Till 21 Years of Age

The Quebec provincial executive committee of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada recently presented a program of desired legislation to the Quebec provincial government. Gustave Franco, of Montreal, chairman of the Quebec provincial executive committee of the congress, was the spokesman. The delegation was received by Premier Taschereau and several other members of the cabinet most cordially and every consideration of their demands were promised. The list of demands and subjects for consideration included as follows:

1. Legislation emanating from the recommendations of the league of nations and international labor conference: 8-hour day, etc.
2. Sunday labor and one day rest in seven, dealing with the provincial revised statutes and law dealing with restaurant employes, this being the item of most importance on the whole agenda.
3. Education.

(a) All textbooks to be issued by the government upon the recommendations of the boards of education, and to be sold at cost price, pending their free distribution to scholars.

(c) All textbooks to be uniform throughout the province, it being one of the principal requirements for proper education.

(d) All courses in the provincial government schools, technical and others, to be given free of charge.

(e) That all persons under the age of 21, working in factories, workshops or any other places of employment, who are not able to read and write one of the two official languages of this country fluently, be compelled to attend an evening class.

(f) The laws governing education to be amended by the provincial government, to provide for a minimum salary for school teachers in keeping with the cost of living, and to permit the prosecution of school commissions which pay less than said minimum salary.

(g) A minister of education to be appointed, whose duties should consist in supervising the proper administration of school commissions, the enforcement of the program of education adopted by the provincial, Catholic and Protestant boards of education and all other and regulations pertaining to education.

4. Abolition of private employment bureaus.

5. Fair wage act and providing necessary machinery to enforce it, reference being made to carpenters' case now in appeal.

6. Surcapitalization and sale of bonds under false pretenses.

7. Appointment of the commission on minimum wage for women.

8. Housing crisis and control of articles of necessities. Commission to deal with these subjects was suggested.

9. Hygienic measures dealing with the removal of old wallpapers, abolition or control of spraying machines for painting, sanitary inspection of barber shops.

10. Daylight saving. Uniform control requested.

11. Control and establishment of cold storages.

The delegation included, besides Chairman Franco, Messrs. Pelletier, Fleury and Roberts, of the provincial executive, and Georges R. Brunet, of the pressmen, P. Griffard, R. Gervais, A. Bastien and J. Martel for the building trades.

Visits Canada on Labor's Behalf

Dr. A. W. Riddle Works on Behalf of Geneva Office

Halifax, N. S.—Dr. A. W. Riddle, Toronto, a representative of the international labor office, Geneva, Switzerland, is in Nova Scotia with regard to the work of the labor division of the League of Nations.

Dr. Riddle proposes to travel west as far as Edmonton and will have conferences with the various provincial governments en route. He has conferred with the Nova Scotia Government here.

Editorial Page of The Canadian Labor Press

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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 of Canada.
2. 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.

Making Canada an Adjunct

On the other side of the boundary line there is a sustained demand for labor at good wages, while on this side of the same line many thousands of people are unable to obtain steady employment. What is the cause of this difference? If the United States has great natural resources, excellent and extensive transportation service, and everything else to attract capital and population, has not Canada like advantages? It has all the conditions for prosperity that the United States has, save one. It has not a tariff that gives adequate protection to home industry.

And why has it not that one thing needful to the holding of its own in the economic struggle in which it is pitted against its powerful neighbor? On their own soil Canada's producers are exposed to the almost freebooting competition of exporters from high tariff countries, from cheap labor countries, from depreciated currency countries, from market-hunting countries generally. What other country of Canada's population and status is so overrun with products made in other lands? If this Dominion were in the backward state industrially of the peoples of the Middle East and the Far East, its openness to the trading enterprise of external countries might be defensible, but it is a country that had been raised by National policy to a relatively high place among the industrial communities of the world. Now its people are leaving it in hundreds of thousands annually because they have not a chance to make a living at home. The tariff odds are too heavily against Canada.

The Trail of the Wrecker

Mr. James B. McLaughlin says that when spring comes and navigation has opened up again the miners will strike on the job. What he really means is that this is what the miners will do if they follow his leadership. Whether or not any considerable number of them will take Mr. McLaughlin's advice in this regard is another question. What he is counselling is simply bald dishonesty—a dishonesty that has been condemned not only by people outside Labor organizations but by all the foremost union leaders in North America and in Britain and every other country where there is loyalty to decent standards of conduct. Labor leaders who are really devoted to Labor's interests never have anything to do with such a sinking, crooked policy as 'striking on the job.' Mr. McLaughlin is still doing his best against Labor in Cape Breton while professing to seek to serve it. He is pursuing a wrecker's course in regard to the United Mine Workers and seeking to persuade the miners to follow tactics that can bring upon them nothing but disaster.

Labor Men and Cabinet in Session

Large Delegation at Fredericton This Morning to Present Claims—Ask Amendments

Fredericton, N. B.—A large delegation from the Federation of Labor waited upon the government recently and presented replies to the requests of the Lumbermen's Association for changes in the Compensation Act, and made as well several other requests of and recommendations to the executive.

Commendation of the action of the government in appointing a commission of enquiry on the Mothers' Allowance Act and Minimum Wage Act for women and children was expressed in the final section of the memoranda submitted.

Opposition to a Moncton city bill, No. 18, now before the Legislature, giving the police magistrate additional powers with respect to the penalties for women of disorderly character, was expressed.

Development of the water powers of the country by the government under public ownership, with particular reference to Grand Falls and Petitcodiac, was also recommended, as were free school books, of which the delegation said there was immediate need in all the public schools.

Amendments to the factories and public health acts were suggested with respect to the examination and licensing of stationary engineers and regulations respecting examination and licensing of master and journeyman plumbers.

decisions of the federation of labor laws commission.

A request was made to give legislative effect to the recommendations made by the International Labor Conference with respect to an eight-hour day; the maintenance of employment service, and the abolition of private agencies; the restriction of the employment of women immediately prior to and subsequently to child birth; a prohibition to the employment of women and young persons during the night; fixing the minimum age of young persons entering industry, and providing one day's rest in seven for all workers.

Want Scale Restored
Memoranda submitted in reply to the request of the Lumbermen's Association for amendments to the Workmen's Compensation Act were very full and complete. The first request of the lumber employers was that the compensation scale of 1920 be restored, and Labor opposed this because (1) to lower the present scale of compensation would defeat the primary objects of the act to keep dependents from becoming a charge upon the community; (2) that the cost of living does not justify any reduction in the scales of compensation, and that the tendency in other places since 1920 has been to increase rather than decrease.

The Labor delegation also opposed the request of the lumbermen that the Compensation Board be reconstructed, emphasizing the fact that the administration of such important legislation should not be in the hands of one individual, and that adjudication of claims requires the judgment of at least three commissioners.

Opposition Expressed
Further opposition was expressed to the lumber employers that they be given the option to carry their own insurance, giving in each case a satisfactory guarantee by bond that the claims for compensation will be duly paid and a reasonable limit fixed on the employer's liability. The labor delegation felt that this proposal was economically unsound and quoted ex-

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amples in the State of Pennsylvania and Great Britain to sustain that contention.

The delegation expressed themselves in favor of co-operation between the board and employers in effecting practical means for the prevention of accidents, but held that where associations are formed for this purpose the workmen should have representation therein.

Hon. Premier Veniot, having made some suggestions first with reference to a maximum limit and second that there might be a contribution by the workmen to medical aid, the delegation replied to these suggestions which were made in January last, that the reason for placing a limit in the original Compensation Act was because it was thought the aggregate payroll of industry in the province would not carry a measure with unlimited compensation, but that the experience of the act has shown that industry is quite able to carry its full obligation, and they therefore submitted that fatalities and permanent disabilities should continue to be compensated without maximum limitation as at present provided in the act, and they urged as a reason that other provinces in Canada having similar legislation had not found it necessary to fix a maximum limit.

Unfairness Contended
The second suggestion of the Premier, contribution by the workmen to medical aid, they contended would be unfair to the worker: First, because the obligation for all compensation, including medical aid, is upon industry and not a personal charge upon the employer, this charge being passed on as an added cost to the consumer; second, the injured workmen or the dependents of those killed make a contribution in suffering which far exceeds the monetary contribution made by industry; third, the loss in wages, due to waiting periods and the reduced income provided by compensation, is an additional contribution already required from the worker.

In addition to the above answers to the requests of the Lumbermen's Association, the Labor delegation asked that the Compensation Act be amended so that the payments for disability lasting more than seven days, should be equal to two-thirds of the average wages of the workmen, instead of 35 per cent. as at present, but that no compensation should be less than \$10 a week or more than \$65, and two-thirds of \$125 per month, such payments to continue during the life of the workman or the duration of such liability.

Suspend Action to Decide Jury

Harbor Commission to Pay Man Weekly Allowance For One Year

Montreal, Que.—Suspension of an action under the Workmen's Compensation Act for a year to allow appraisal of permanent damages is a feature of a judgment rendered against the Montreal Harbor Commission yesterday afternoon by Mr. Justice Weir.

E. Sauvageau claimed \$3,000 as a capital sum to compensate him for injuries received while working on Harbor extension near Shed No. 2, and a like sum for loss of wages and time. He stated that he was engaged in pouring cement for flooring when he fell into an opening a distance of twelve feet and received several bruises and contusions.

The Harbor denied that he had a right to sue under the Act; and the severity of his hurts.

The Court, after hearing evidence, concluded that the man had proven temporary losses amounting to \$62, but witnesses could not appreciate the extent of his permanent injuries for lack of time to observe his condition.

Consequently the Commission was condemned to pay the man \$10.50 a week allowance until March 25, 1925, when new evidence will be heard from experts.

Advocates Building During Slow Season

Tom Moore Claims Much of Canada's Unemployment is Avoidable

Ottawa.—"A good deal of Canada's unemployment is avoidable," President Tom Moore, of the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress, told an audience here. The Labor head advocated proper distribution of work in the building trades and the preparation of estimates for public buildings

at a time that would allow building operations to be started in the slow season as means of doing away with a great deal of the present unemployment in Canada.

Mr. Moore condemned the practice of starting new work in the Spring and finishing in the Fall, which left workmen idle in the Winter months. Under a redistribution scheme he said that some works could be commenced in the Fall and advanced to a stage where they would permit of interior work being done during the Winter months.

In the maritimes and Quebec, he said, there was considerable unrest in connection with the strikes in the coal and steel works and the varying conditions.

As an example of the number of nationalities engaged in laboring in Ontario, the speaker told of a Labor meeting in Port Colborne at which thirteen languages were spoken. In some parts of the Western Provinces it was not unusual to have four or five nationalities in attendance at a meeting.

Referring to the Western Provinces he spoke mainly of the defeat of the branch lines bill in Parliament last year.

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OUR HOME PAGE

HOME BREW

Curried Fish Soup

Fish trimmings make an exceedingly tasty cold-weather soup, to which curry powder is added. For this dish you want fish trimmings, fat, herbs, apple, carrot, onion, flour, curry powder, seasoning and water.

Place your fish trimmings in a pan, with an ounce of fat, peeled and chopped, and also a tiny bunch of herbs, to be removed later. Cook for 19 minutes, then add water, and cook for a quarter of an hour. To this add four and a half cups of water mixed to a paste with cold water. Stir well in, let it come to the boil, and simmer for an hour, first removing the herbs.

Strain the soup off the fish and vegetables very carefully, and serve either as it is or with cooked rice in it.

Fish trimmings always make a good soup with vegetables and herbs, with or without the curry, and should never be wasted. Barley makes a good addition. Milk and a tiny stick of cinnamon is another addition. Parsley, finely chopped, turns the soup to a pleasant green shade, and also adds a clean and pleasant flavor.

The Voice That Spoils the Day

What's your voice like? Is it high-pitched, quick, nervous? Because the voice shows the state of health you are in, mental as well as physical health.

Children brought up in a home where the mother is nervous, anxious, over-worked, soon get her voice—a quick sharp tone that lacks all rest, and are always the less popular because of it.

A quiet voice that expresses a quiet mind, even in the midst of stress and hurry, is the most soothing thing in a home and the finest influence. Shrillness of tones, lack of quietness, these do actual harm to those around. Many a child, rising happy and contented, has its day spoiled straightaway by a mother's shrill and worried voice. It isn't a scolding voice; it's a voice that lacks inside quiet and control.

Why Always Boiled Cabbage?

Why always serve a dish of boiled cabbage until those who have to eat the vegetable get heartily tired of the sight of it?

Try a few Continental recipes, which are easily done and make no call for special skill in cooking.

Cabbage With Potatoes

The French cook parboils the cabbage, with just a pinch of carbonate of soda to bleach it. Then she chops it up very finely, and lets it dry for a few moments. She next puts the chopped cabbage into a casserole with enough stock nearly to cover it, and cooks it thoroughly, keeping it moist with the addition of stock as it soaks into the cabbage. Seasoned with salt and pepper, and served with potatoes boiled in their skins, this is one of the dishes so often offered in France after the soup and the meat course.

Cabbage (Alsatian Style)

Parboil and bleach the cabbage, then chop it finely, stew it in a saucepan with butter and a slice or two of fat bacon. Keep it moist with stock, and when well cooked, through serve with pork sausages.

Cabbage Soup as in Milan

A thick soup is always acceptable for supper. Cabbage soup, served as in Milan, is quite good. Use about three-quarters of a pound of pickled pork, which scald well in boiling water to free it from some of the salt. If preferred, take the same amount of bacon, and put it into a saucepan with five quarts of cold water. Let it come to the boil and then skim it very carefully to remove all the froth from the salt of the meat. Add four carrots cut in pieces, two onions, into one of which stick a clove, a good handful of French beans, cut in pieces, a few butter beans, and dried peas, both previously soaked, and a cabbage.

Before adding the cabbage prepare it by taking off the outer leaves if they are in the least course, blanching the cabbage, and cutting it in pieces. Take out the stem if it is coarse. Let the whole simmer gently for a good two hours or more, then add potatoes, pared, and cut in pieces, and let the soup simmer gently for fully another hour. Season with paprika. It will probably require no more salt, owing to the pork or bacon. Lay slices of stale bread fried in butter in the tureen, pour the soup over them, and serve a piece of bread in each plate of soup.

Street Railwaymen Ask for Vacation

Improvement in Conditions Will Be Urged Upon Transportation Commission

Toronto.—Fifteen hundred members of the Toronto Street Railway Employees' Union presided over by Bert Merson, chairman, on Sunday morning, dealt with the revision of the schedule of wages and conditions. It was decided to seek a renewal of the existing schedule of wages for two years, except the clause on motor and truck repairmen, for whom five cents an hour increase will be asked. The committee appointed to present the wage agreement to the city is composed as follows: Chairman Bert Merson, Joseph Tompkins, Albert Shepard, Lawrence O'Connell, Controller Gibbons and W. D. Robbins.

- (1) That men be given two weeks holidays each year.
- (2) That extra motormen and conductors be given a guarantee of a six-hour minimum work.
- (3) That scheduled crews working less than eight hours receive eight hours' pay.
- (4) That no new schedule go into effect until a choice of runs has been held in the affected division.
- (5) That motor and truck repairmen and barmen get day work according to seniority.
- (6) That barmen and trackmen be allowed extra clothing.
- (7) That motor and truck repairmen be allowed an advance of five cents an hour.

The men expressed the belief that they should be treated as civic employees, and for this reason asked for two weeks' holidays. The same request was previously refused by the commission. In reference to the six-hour minimum, the employees declare that it is unfair to ask them to spend the greater portion of the working day at the barns without compensation, and said that men grew weary waiting for a run, and if they were not there when required they ran the risk of being disciplined. General complaint was made at the fast time of the service. Difficulty, they said, was experienced with the runs reduced to the fraction of a minute to operate cars through streets dense with traffic. Platform men said that they observed no change in the time of the runs during the different seasons of the year, although the cars were affected by slippery rails in the fall and other conditions during the winter.

Kirwin Is Re-elected By C. L. Party

Hamilton.—Harry Kirwin was re-elected president of the Ontario section of the Canadian Labor Party at the annual convention on Saturday. The convention went on record as opposing the Boy Scout movement and cadet organizations, claiming that these developed the war-spirit in the young, which is not desired. A resolution was endorsed providing that the Mothers' Allowance Act be enlarged to include deserted wives, widows with one child and wives whose husbands are incapacitated.

Any change in the Workmen's Compensation Act will be opposed by the party.

Addresses Large Labor Meeting

Mr. A. E. Smith, former member of the Manitoba legislature in the Labor Forum; at the Labor Temple Labor Forum at the Labor Temple yesterday afternoon. There was an audience of nearly 400, including a number of ladies, when in a few well chosen remarks, Miss Mary MacNab, executive member of the Ontario Section of the Canadian Labor Party, introduced the speaker.

"An Educational Program for the Workers," was Mr. Smith's subject. During his instructive and informative talk he told his auditors that for seven years he preached the gospel of Jesus Christ in Brandon, Man. The speaker declared that the day of great men was gone, stating that this is a day of a great movement, and not a day of great men. Mr. Smith raised applause when he stated that the large and growing company of disciplined workers which constituted the labor movement was no longer dependent on great men to influence and mold human society.

terially within the last month, and mentioned that, since the Labor Party had assumed the reins of Government, many people who had misunderstood the labor movement were now beginning to see the new light. Proceeding, the speaker said that Canada has reached its most difficult phase of the labor movement. "Once you get through this phase, wonders and marvels will be wrought in Conservative Canada," he said, adding amid laughter, that the politicians were already distributing sugar coated pills, and that the politicians had got the farmers swallowing hard.

Spring Call for Men Seen Here

Farms, Lumber Camps and Railways Are Already Taking on Crews

Lethbridge, Alta.—Labor conditions in the city improved slightly during the past week as orders for men were received by the local employment bureau from the C. P. R. Extra gang workmen are now being engaged for summer operations. The wages offered are \$3 without board, but jobless men in the city are shy in accepting the work at that wage. During the past week 30 men and 13 women were placed in jobs. Thirteen of these men went to farms and 15 to lumber camps.

Wages Dispute at Porcupine

Timmins, Ont.—Officials of the Porcupine Miners Union will reopen the question of wages in the Porcupine district, according to information gathered subsequent to meetings held quietly during the past few days. The question is one which has cropped up regularly every spring during recent years. Last year it reached a point where a board was unable to agree. No hardship was found, but the recommendation was made that the employer should appoint a committee through which to discuss the matter with the various managers.

At the time of writing, the union officials favor a plan to revive the committee appointed a year ago, and to present revised demands. It is stated to be probable that the new demands will be comparatively moderate. Present wages in the Porcupine district are the highest of any regular mine working in Canada. The communities in the gold mining districts of northern Ontario are among the most prosperous in the country. It was intimated to the correspondent of the Herald by a miner in close touch with union affairs, that the contemplated agitation may be more for the purpose of developing new interest and increasing membership of the Porcupine Miners Union, rather than any serious hope of bringing about any important wage increase.

Oppose Changes to Workers' Act

Present Arguments Before Commission Investigating Compensation Claims

Montreal, Que.—Arguments against any radical change in the present laws governing workmen's compensation were presented to the Royal Commission inquiring into the matter recently. The main address was made on behalf of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, Quebec Branch, and consequently reflects the view of the majority of manufacturers in this province.

"Many discussions have invariably led to the conclusion that the method of controlling workmen's compensation in a manner similar to that of the present Quebec act is more satisfactory in general than any method which places society beyond the pale of the common law," ran the argument. "Discussions, however, have led to the belief that while the present law is fundamentally correct it may be improved in certain respects."

The main points which the Canadian Manufacturers' Association mentions are:

- 1.—No just cause for removing from the common law the contentious questions as affecting a particular class of the community.
 - 2.—No sympathy with state control of any kind of insurance.
- All members of the commission were present this morning, and there were probably two hundred persons in the audience at the Montreal technical school, including employers and representatives of labor. The commission is composed of Justice Ernest Roy, chairman; J. A. Bothwell of Bromptonville; G. A. Brousseau of Quebec and Gas Franq of Montreal.

Contending the case for the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, Mr. Jenkins of the steel company of Canada said that the matter of workmen's compensation is highly important to all the people of the province.

"Very large sums of money are involved," he declared, "and without being an undue tax on industry it may be handled so as to give fair and adequate compensation to an injured workman. This is the condition which we all desire."

Labor Prospects Show Improvement

R. A. Rigg Declares They Are Best Now in Four Year Period

Winnipeg, Man.—Conditions in the Dominion of Canada, as evidenced through our employment offices throughout the country, are better today than they have been at any time during the last four years. The whisper of death will not be found here next year.

This is the statement made by R. A. Rigg, director of employment service, department of labor, Ottawa, in an interview at the Fort Garry Hotel. Mr. Rigg is on his way east from Edmonton.

Vacancies More Numerous

During 1923 the total number of vacancies notified at his offices throughout Canada was 540,980, or 71,092 more than those of 1922. The total number of placements was 462,552, which exceeds the previous by 9,036. These figures, he said, reflect the increased activities of the labor offices and at the same time they show a decided improvement in the labor situation in Canada.

A function of his branch, he said, was to move labor from one part of the country to another where it was most needed. The railroads give a reduction of 2.70 cents a mile to help carry out this work. Last year his department transported 3,331 laborers under this scheme.

Canada's exports last year amounted to more than a billion dollars, and more than 50 per cent. of this was manufactured or semi-manufactured goods. The value of the country's exports was \$130,000,000 greater than her imports.

Reds Meet McLachlan at C.N.R. Station

Sydney Post, N. S.—James B. McLachlan, former secretary-treasurer of District 26, United Mine Workers who has been released from Dorchester penitentiary on ticket-of-leave, where he had been serving a sentence of two years for seditious libel, arrived in the city this morning. The released officer was met at the railway station by former vice-president, Alex. S. McIntyre of Glace Bay, and some 60 or 70 of McLachlan's supporters from the colliery districts.

The mining town delegation arrived on two special tram cars, but they were a few minutes late to make connections with the express, and were not at the depot when McLachlan got off the express. They left the special cars at the car barns and proceeded down the C. N. R. tracks as far as Prince street, headed by two pipers and one or two vocalists who sang the "Red Flag." The delegation proceeded up Prince street to the Steelworkers' hall, where Mr. McLachlan was welcomed. Among the speakers were Forman Wayne, M. P. P., and Alderman M. A. McKenzie. The former secretary of the U. M. W. had very little to say beyond expressing his thanks to his friends for their welcome. Shortly after the contingent left on two special cars for Glace Bay, where McLachlan was welcomed at the Savoy theatre by about 1,000 miners, most of whom belonged to the colliery night shift.

Operators and Miners Are Silent

Both Sides Met in Secret Conclave for a Few Hours on Friday Morning and Again Today

Calgary Alberta, Alta.—Miners and operators have agreed unanimously to adopt the "I have nothing to say attitude" to the press, with regard to what progress, if any, has been made at the conference over the new contract.

They sat in secret conclave for a few hours in the morning, but each side went their own way in the afternoon.

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noon; each holding a meeting amongst themselves, promising that they would again meet on Saturday morning to further go into things.

William Sherman gave a very enlightening interview to The Albertan last night. He said: "I have nothing to say."

R. M. Young, commissioner and official spokesman for the operators, also gave an interview equally as enlightening. He said: "I have nothing to say."

What has happened with regard to the new contract so far in the conference is not known, officially; what is likely to happen can be merely conjectured.

Unofficially, though nevertheless reliable, it is known that very little was accomplished. Practically nothing has been accomplished. The adjustments of inequalities has taken a lot of time, in discussion, which has not been the means of bringing miners and operators any closer together; the matter of the length of contract has been rather lightly touched on, and the operators have been trying to sidetrack the main issue of the proposals of the miners, that of the reduction of \$1.15 a day.

The miners on their side, have merely been "stalling," trying to draw the operators out to where they will admit that they are agreeable to continue the present wage, if all the adjustments are dropped.

Labor Council Is Against Oleo

Opposed to Any Change in Laws Banning the Product After March 31st

Saskatoon, Sask.—The Trades and Labor Council of this city endorsed a resolution of the Saskatchewan Home-makers' Clubs who have gone on record "as being opposed to any change in the present laws and regulations of Canada prohibiting the importation, manufacture or sale of oleomargarine in the Dominion after March 31, 1924."

The delegates carried on a long and vigorous discussion before the final decision was reached. A copy of the resolution will be forwarded to the Minister of Agriculture.

Views Varied

Horace Nixon went into a lengthy description of oleomargarine and pointed out just how inferior the product was to butter. Rev. J. A. Donnell was the chief opposer of the resolution, taking the same stand as he took at the February meeting. Rev. Mr. Donnell thought the fats used in the manufacture of oleomargarine were similar to those used in lard, and were perfectly good fats. Milking conditions on some farms were not of the best, he said. Any and every inference which the trades council would aid in lowering the standard of living of the worker. This inference, he thought, would eventually lower the standard of living. Substitutes for lard were allowed and therefore why not butter?

Gerald Deatly said that the Home-makers were looking at the matter as being interested in the welfare of the people. He said the average worker had not the facilities or, in many cases, the ability to enquire into the value of oleomargarine as a food.

Toronto.—In a statement issued by David Dickson, business agent of the Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners, denies contemplated affiliation of that body with the United Brotherhood, a resolution having been passed by the Canadian executive board to the effect that it would be folly to have anything to do with the U. B. but that efforts will be made to build up the Canadian organization.

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Austria

Reciprocal Unemployment Support—According to an agreement made between the Austrian Republic and the Swiss Federal State, each state assures to the other the same treatment of unemployed as would be accorded them in the state to which they owe native allegiance.

Unemployment—From June to October, 1923, unemployment in Austria showed a gradual decrease, but November, 1923, marked the beginning of a period of increase, 2,615 persons joining the ranks of the unemployed during that month. Inasmuch as the municipality of Vienna continued in its efforts to revive the building trades, that city showed a decrease, rather than an increase, in the number of idle workmen.

Brazil

Immigration Legislation—As a result of the severe agricultural labor shortage throughout the northern states of Brazil, a bill is now pending before the Brazilian Chamber of Deputies, providing for the establishment of European immigration colonies in the states from Bahia north. Free third-class passage aboard the steamers of the Lloyd Brasileiro S. S. Line from European ports to a port in Brazil will be afforded to prospective immigrants, as well as attractive guarantees of land, good housing and sanitary conditions.

England

Boilermakers' Strike—After continuing for a year and causing an estimated loss to the country of about eight million dollars, the boilermakers' strike now shows signs of settlement.

Trade Disputes Decrease—Trade disputes involving stoppage of work showed a great decrease in December, 1923, as compared with the previous month.

Unemployment—Liverpool—For the first time in many months, unemployment in the Liverpool district, during December, 1923, decreased. The decline is said to be due to the great exodus from that part of England to the United States, and the increase in foreign and domestic trade.

Germany

Unemployment—Sixty official Saxony employment bureaus report that in December, 1923, there were 273,000 unemployed persons in Saxony. In the City of Dresden, there were 58,000 idle on January 4, 1924.

Wages Paid in Food—A number of firms in the Dresden district are paying their workmen in foodstuffs instead of marks.

Sweden

Emigration—Statistics on emigration from Sweden show that the emigration of last year was the largest in 20 years, the estimate being that 26,000 persons left Sweden during the year 1923.

Unemployment—The number of Sweden's unemployed dropped during the year 1923 from 45,000 at the beginning of January to 13,000 at the end of December. The cost of living index fell from 183 to 176.

Canada

Emigration—An abatement in the movement of emigrants from the Maritime Provinces to the United States, as of the close of 1923, is reported by the Canadian Press, which also states that emigrants from those provinces, who moved to the United States a year or more ago, are beginning to return to their homeland.

China

Shipbuilding Activity—With modern machinery, secured chiefly from the United States and Europe, and experienced and technical workmen from the United States and Great Britain, shipbuilding in Hong Kong is said to have been very active during the year 1923.

Cuba

Railroad Strike—A general strike on the lines of the Cuba Railroad Company on December 19, 1923, virtually shut up all freight and passenger traffic between Santa Clara and the eastern portion of the island, until January 5, 1924, when settlement was effected.

Czecho-Slovakia

Unemployment—Unemployment in Czecho-Slovakia has practically reached a standstill, but the indications are that an increase may be expected in the near future, especially in the iron and steel industries.

Unemployment Subsidies—During the early part of December, 1923, the Czecho-Slovak Government presented a bill to Parliament requesting a further sum of 140,000,000 crowns for unemployment subsidies for the remainder of the calendar year, 1923. The sum of 250,000,000 crowns, previously appropriated, had been exhausted by September 30, 1923.

Germany

Eight-Hour Day Preserved—The principle of the eight-hour day, which has been the subject of vigorous attacks by industrialists in recent months, is preserved in the decree of December 21, 1923, promulgated by the Government under the "Enabling Act."

Mexico

Unemployment—A general decrease in unemployment, on account of the resumption of mining operations and increased agricultural developments, is reported from Ciudad Juarez, Mexico.

Spain

Railway Labor Courts—According to the Official Gazette, of December 24, 1923, a decree has been issued establishing courts for the settlement of questions that may arise between railway companies and their employees. An appeal lies from the decision of these courts to the Government, whose dictum is to be final.

Labor Units Want Hydro Development

Moncton, N.B.—The regular semi-monthly meeting of the Moncton Central Amalgamated Labor Union was held in the Labor Temple last week. A. D. Goguen, president, was in the chair.

A letter was read from the Canadian Brotherhood of Railroad Employees, Eastern Star Division, No. 5, naming their delegates for 1924 as follows:

P. L. Barnes, George E. Lowe, T. S. Bord, George Peters, Kenneth Gilmore.

The letter was received and the delegates seated.

The committee on the Petitionnaire Development reported as follows:

To whom it may concern:

Whereas, the possibility of obtaining an abundance of electrical energy through the harnessing of the tides in the Petitcodiac and Memramcook rivers has received much attention recently and has been considered practical by parties competent to express opinions thereon;

And, whereas, in our opinion the development of a project such as this would mean a great deal to the economic development of the Maritime Provinces and be of much benefit to the whole population;

Therefore, resolved that we, the M. C. A. L. U., do hereby endorse the same and pledge it our support.

And, further, believing that the benefits to be derived from the development of a utility such as this, are properly the heritage of children still unborn, and in view of the experiences of other provinces with regard to the development of water powers, Ontario in particular, we strongly urge that the project be carried out under public ownership and supplied to the consumer at cost, in that way promoting the greatest good to the greatest number for the longest time.

(Signed)

J. A. GODFREY,
W. R. ROGERS,
H. H. STUART.

The resolutions brought out a vigorous discussion in which C. H. Cameron, ex-Ald. L. MacKinnon, the members of the committee, Charles Rollins and others took part.

Mr. Cameron wanted to make sure that private parties would not get control of the big utility.

Mr. MacKinnon declared himself in full sympathy with public ownership. The people of Moncton had only themselves to blame that they had not had direct control of the dyke locally. They should have bought out the local power company when they had a chance to do so at cost plus 5 per cent interest. The New Brunswick government were on the right track developing water powers under public ownership and operation. Public ownership in Ontario had been vastly more beneficial to the public than has the privately owned plants in the United States.

The resolution was adopted unanimously and copies ordered sent to provincial leaders, Hon. C. W. Robinson and the N.B. Federation of Labor.

W. R. ROGERS, N. SAVAGE and C. A. DIXON reported on proposed civic legislation. Report was received and adopted and referred to the incoming municipal committee to be taken up immediately with the City Council.

A recommendation to the N.B. Federation of Labor was adopted asking

for a graduated system of certificates for stationary engineers, as obtains in some provinces, as at present New Brunswick has only one class of certificate, which entitles holder to operate anything from one horsepower to 1,000 h.p. It also called for a better system of boiler inspection. It was referred to J. A. Godfrey, vice-president of the N.B. F.L. to submit to that body at its meeting at Fredericton recently.

The delegates to the N.B. F.L. were also instructed to work in favor of having certificates for and inspection of plumbers and plumbers.

Election of officers for ensuing year resulted as follows, A. R. W.

Nickel and A. D. Walker and Linah M. Stewart acting as tellers.

President, John A. Godfrey; Vice-president, Neil Savage; Recording Secretary, Charles A. Dixon; Financial Secretary, Eugene E. Sheehan; Municipal Committee: Eugene E. Sheehan, A. H. Goguen, P. L. Barnes, Neil Savage, W. R. Rogers, John I. Gratton.

Election of remaining three of municipal committees and of the other committees was postponed.

Work to Open Up Very Soon

Demand for Labor Will Commence Within a Few Weeks It is Expected

Prince Rupert, B.C.—There is not much demand for labor in the district yet, but a general opening up of industry is expected within the next few weeks by the local branch of the Employment Service of Canada. Logging camps of the Massett Timber Co. on Graham Island are reopening and several men have been taken on lately. The Trestway and Grandy camps at Alvo Arm are about to commence work and the Skogon and the Prince Rupert Logging Co. at Surf Lake expects to open up about March 1st. Sawmills in the interior, which have been closed or operating on a reduced scale during the winter, will probably be resuming shortly.

If work actually commences on some of the many building projects projected for the city this year it will make the local situation very healthy.

As soon as the snow leaves, many mining properties around Stewart will increase the scope of their operations. This may also be said of the interior.

Reduce Pay for Vancouver Laborers

Vancouver, B.C.—Laborers on civic relief work from now on will receive only 40 cents an hour, instead of 50 cents as heretofore, and in order that they may be able to make a weekly income sufficient for bare needs, the regulation regarding the limit of three days' work a week will be changed and the men allowed to work longer.

It also decided that relief work men shall labor on gangs separate from ordinary city workmen who receive the normal scale.

These decisions were reached by the city relief committee recently after Ald. Fred Rogers had complained that many of the men, given relief work, were incapable or unwilling to give the city value for the 50 cents an hour they have been paid.

Relief Officer Ireland stated that unemployment conditions in the city were still quite bad. The situation was not mended by the influx of men returning from California and the hundreds of immigrants coming from Europe. On Mr. Ireland's suggestion, relief work will continue for at least two weeks, when a further extension will be authorized if found necessary.

Set Minimum Wage For Women Workers

Board Arranges With Workers to Compile Cost-of-Living Budget

Toronto, Ont.—That wages paid to experienced female workers in the printing, paper and book binding trades in Toronto have been found, in a number of cases, to run as low as \$7.00 a week, was one of the interesting pieces of evidence produced by Chairman W. MacMillan during his review of the situation in that industry, previous to the public hearing of the Minimum Wage Board, called for the purpose of gathering additional information from employers and employees before definitely settling the minimum figure.

About 25 people were present, outside of members of the board and the press, and the employees were decidedly in the majority. In fact, all those who expressed opinions during the lively two-hour discussion declared themselves to be either workers in the industry affected or employees in other industries.

Still Undesirable Conditions

In opening the meeting, Dr. MacMillan outlined the proposed order, providing for a minimum for experienced female workers of \$12.50, and for inexperienced workers of \$10.00 to increase at the end of six months to \$11.00, and at the end of the second period to \$12.50. The proposal is to follow the lines of similar minimum wage orders operating among other factory trades in the city. At the present time, it was stated, the women employed in printing offices in Toronto were comparatively well paid, a wage of \$16.00 or \$17.00 a week being quite common, but there were still undesirable conditions obtaining, where \$7.00 and \$8.00 a week was paid to experienced workers.

Much time was given to a lively debate on the question of a living wage, and to each criticism of the board's

fixed minimum of \$12.50 the chairman patiently explained that the figure was the result of months of careful study, involving the collection of budgets and the investigation of boarding-house rates and accommodations.

Scores \$12.50 Wage

"Although I am a poor man, I would be pleased to give \$100 to anyone who can show on paper how a girl can live decently on \$12.50 a week," declared one old gentleman, who refused to give his name. One woman worker, who had been in the trade for twelve years, declared that the printing and binding industry was harder on the workers' health than in certain other industries, and therefore, allowance for this fact should be made in determining a minimum. It was finally agreed, on the invitation of Dr. MacMillan, that a group of female workers would compile a budget which they considered fair and reasonable and submit it to the board.

Less than 5 per cent. of the 150,000 women workers protected by the minimum wage law were organized, according to H. C. Fester, member of the board. During the two or three years of its existence the board had got an additional three to five million dollars in the pockets of the working girls of Ontario, and it had been proved, from various surveys taken, that wages in those few years had substantially improved, even in spite of a slightly downward trend, he said.

The question arose when Secretary Bob Mackie read a letter from Mr. Hungerford, vice-president of the C. N. R., in which he stated that the low wages was due to the surplus of such casual labor on the market, and that he did not believe it would have any effect on the wages of the permanent employees. After much discussion, a resolution was adopted on motion of Delegates W. T. McDowell, copies of which will be forwarded to the two Labor members in the federal parliament, and the Montreal, Winnipeg, and Toronto Trades and Labor Councils, asking that when the matter of the C. N. R. comes up in parliament at the next session, that the attention of the government be drawn to it.

The request of Mayor Watters that three delegates from the association be appointed to the unemployment conference to be held at the city hall on Thursday evening next, was complied with, Messrs. Capt. J. A. P. Haydon, J. R. Johnston and R. Mackie, being appointed.

Capt. Haydon gave a resume of the conference held in the G. W. V. A. board rooms on Monday evening last, which had led Mayor Watters to call the conference next week, and was hopeful it would help in some way to alleviate the unemployment conditions in the city.

He remarked that the mayor had suggested reviving the advisory unemployment committee of 1913, but

that it would not be much good if the board of control threw its recommendation in the waste paper basket as it had done before.

Some suggestions for providing employment were: completion of the civic baths; O.E.R. extensions; opening up Young street; creation of a public golf course; demolition of old buildings on Wellington; Cliff and Victoria streets by Dominion government; draining of Cave Creek; manufacture locally of necessary pipes for civic works.

On the report of the executive, the association will deputé two of its members to attend all meetings of the public school board and report proceedings back to the association.

Secretary Mackie announced also that the executive would endeavor shortly to start a series of monthly lectures and social evenings in the Pythian Hall, for the trades unionists and their friends in the city. March 21st will see the initial effort staged.

The executive went on record as not concurring with the proposed amendment by the board of control to clause 2B, Section 83 of the Methers' Pension Act, claiming it would work hardship. Instead, the association would make the act applicable to all widows, who are resident in the province of Ontario at the time of the loss of their breadwinner, providing they have at least one child, without respect to period of residence in the province.

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In addition to Mr. Piggott, addresses were given by Controller Cameron, Ald. Miller and H. Macdonald, Secretary of the Labor Department of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association. Messrs. Cameron and Miller dealt briefly with methods applicable for employment in municipalities in order to provide work, while Mr. Macdonald explained briefly the present Dominion sales tax regulations.

Peppr McClarty of Sault Ste. Marie, president of the association occupied the chair.

Make Suggestions For Securing Work

Trades and Labor Association Also Discusses Pay to Casual Laborers

Ottawa.—The action of the C. N. R. in paying certain kinds of casual labor the sum of 25 cents per hour as wages, was severely criticized again at the meeting of the Allied Trades and Labor Association by delegates, who expressed the opinion that Sir Henry Thornton would never be able to carry out his idea of creating a "Smiling Railroad," with such conditions existing. It was pointed out that much to the discredit of the Canadian railways, the New York Central Railway had paid its casual labor, i. e., snowshovelers, 29 cents per hour.

The question arose when Secretary Bob Mackie read a letter from Mr. Hungerford, vice-president of the C. N. R., in which he stated that the low wages was due to the surplus of such casual labor on the market, and that he did not believe it would have any effect on the wages of the permanent employees. After much discussion, a resolution was adopted on motion of Delegates W. T. McDowell, copies of which will be forwarded to the two Labor members in the federal parliament, and the Montreal, Winnipeg, and Toronto Trades and Labor Councils, asking that when the matter of the C. N. R. comes up in parliament at the next session, that the attention of the government be drawn to it.

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