

## ADEQUATE TARIFF PROTECTION A Necessity for Canadian Labor

Evidence of the fact that the Conservative Party of Toronto appreciates the seriousness of the situation into which Canada has been plunged by the attitude of the King Government toward the tariff and the sales tax, was adequately furnished at the King Edward Hotel, when the Liberal-Conservative Business Men's Club gathered to listen to appeals of Senator Robertson for relief from the mismanagement of the Federal Administration. For the ball-room was filled to capacity, and a large number of the members of the Ladies' Conservative Association turned out to back up the men in their attempt to bring to the attention of the public the state of affairs brought about by the King Government. The two big points at issue, which were tending towards the overthrow of industry, and which were, accordingly, driving Canadians to the United States at the rate of thousands a year, were, the speaker pointed out, the tariff and the sales tax. Both of these obstacles could be overcome, as the Senator declared that Canada should increase its population by 5,000,000 during the next fifteen years but population could not be increased unless conditions were so changed that there was employment for all who were willing to work. The way to bring about that employment was the reduction of the sales tax and the raising of the tariff wall.

**Must Forget Politics**  
"Complaining of existing conditions without suggesting a remedy is time wasted," the Senator remarked. So, for Canada's sake, let every citizen who believes in adequate tariff protection, whether he or she be Liberal or Conservative, support it and work for it. Let all those who, from conviction, believe in tariff reduction or extinction get together and stand and work and vote for what they believe in. Let us have an ending of political dishonesty and deception. My own personal view on this all-important subject, which means national prosperity or poverty, according to the way it is decided, is that, first, the general intermediate and preferential tariff rates should be arbitrarily increased by at least ten per cent. This amount will, in very many instances not offset the handicap of debased currency and other recent occurrences which have disturbed the pre-war international balance between countries, to say nothing of tariff increases of recent date against us by so many other nations. There should then be attached to the Department of Finance, probably three men, expert in their knowledge of tariff, trade and labor conditions in and out of Canada, whose business it would be to investigate the needs of any industry or any consumer's complaints as to the tariff, hear all parties concerned, and make their recommendations to the minister, who, while responsible, cannot possibly give such matters personal attention.

**Lower the Sales Tax.**  
The existing sales tax, now bearing so heavily on the common people, should be reduced to two-and-a-half per cent. The recent treaty with France, by which Canada loses annually \$800,000, according to the Finance Minister's own estimate, should be denounced and ended. There is no justice in reducing duties on silks, velvets, lace and wines to the extent of \$800,000, and making up the loss by increasing the sales tax on everything the Canadian workman must buy for himself and family. In face of the present Prime Minister's pledge to reduce the cost of living, this is a crime against our people. The revival of confidence, of trade and of industry, consequent upon the adoption of these tariff reforms, would, in my opinion, quickly stop unemployment and business failures, reduce immigration, and stimulate emigration. Great Britain has a surplus population of over 10,000,000. She has about five million people who are either without employment or dependent upon those who are without work. Hundreds of thousands of these loyal British subjects should be given opportunity to work, if Canada will adhere to its national policy of 1878 and strengthen it to meet present-day requirements.

**Not for Revenue.**  
The customs tariff serves two specific purposes, namely it protects home industries and the workmen employed therein, and affords a substantial part of a country's revenue. Great Britain, frequently but erroneously referred to as a free trade country with a population of forty-seven million people, maintains a substantial tariff chiefly for revenue purposes. For the years 1920, 1921 and 1922 the customs per capita average was \$13.87, or six hundred and fifty-five millions of dollars gross revenue collected from this source. Ninety-four per cent of this revenue came from duties imposed on cocoa, chocolate coffee, chicory, curants, and other dried fruits—rum, brandy and other spirits, sugar, glucose, tea, tobacco, and wine. On sugar, tea and tobacco alone, articles used by the masses of the people Great Britain collected in 1921 through customs duties, the sum of one hundred and nineteen thousand four hundred pounds. None of these three articles is largely produced in Great Britain, which clearly indicates that in this case, the purpose of the tariff is revenue rather than protection.

There are one million three hundred thousand unemployed workmen in Britain today, with probably three million dependents relying a substantial revenue tariff upon the necessities of life consumed by all; and without protection against foreign competition in the goods they produce at home. In other words, Britain under present world conditions and in the face of increased tariffs against her in scores of other countries, is not able any longer meet world competition at home and face the problem of protecting her home markets. Here we have the effect upon the working people, where protection of home industry is lacking.

**Contrast in U.S.**  
In the U. S., the other nation with which we are wont to make comparisons, we find a very different situation. There, with a population of one hundred and five million, seven hundred thousand, the average customs collections for the same period, namely 1920, 1921, and 1922, was \$2.85 per person, or less than

one quarter of that imposed upon the British people, and still the United States is regarded by us as a high tariff country. There they protect the home industry and tax lightly, if at all, that which they do not produce.  
"Analysing these facts one must reach the conclusion that the United States tariff policy is one for protection rather than revenue. Its operation has resulted in that great country supplying its own requirements in most part, thereby stimulating its industries and employment. Undoubtedly, the recent and present industrial, commercial and construction activity in that country, which has drawn so heavily upon our labor supply in Canada, is primarily due to the recent tariff revision made effective there.

"The industrial worker is not exposed to the keen competition of the manufactured products of those countries in which there exists a far lower wage scale, and poor living standards. Here we have a concrete example of a high tariff country actually collecting from its people one-fifth of the amount per capita that 'free trade' Britain collects from her citizens. Here we find a nation that has increased its population by one hundred million people in two hundred years, has colonized a large empire, and made of it the richest country in the world, just across the street from our front door.

**Cost of Living Lower**  
"The cost of living in the United States today is lower than in Canada, employment plentiful, and wages good, thereby maintaining a high standard of living and purchasing power. More than a hundred thousand Canadians a year are being welcomed there. The lesson which I draw from the foregoing facts is that a tariff for revenue only, as we have read so much of in Canada, may be a distinct detriment to a country, while a tariff framed to protect industries and those engaged therein, may be a blessing, and not a burden.

**Situation in Canada.**  
"In Canada, the question of taxation and immigration are intimately related to tariff policy. Tariff controversy was the fundamental cause of the recent rise of the Progressive political party in Canada.  
The speaker said the defeat of the Liberal Government in 1911 on the reciprocity issue merits mention, in that it revealed a popular expression of public opinion, indicating that the Canadian people believed in our national policy of 1878, as respects tariff.

"Following the election of 1911, the New Government pursued an aggressive immigration policy, maintained the tariff, and made no reciprocal agreement with the United States. During 1912 there came into Canada over hundred thousand immigrants from countries of the world. All found a place. There was no unemployment, apart from that arising out of seasonal occupations. During 1913, similar conditions prevailed, and then came the war.

"With it, the problems confronting Government quickly changed. New and unprecedented responsibilities presented themselves month after month during the next seven years, only two incidents of importance affecting the tariff occurred during that period. The agreement, when a union was formed in 1917, primarily for war purposes, that tariff matters would not be permitted to become controversial while the war continued, and the imposition of a 7 1/2 per cent, additional tariff duty for revenue purposes. An increase in tariff for protective purposes was at that time unimportant, as all industries were busy and all workmen were employed.

"During this period a third political party arose, whose professed purpose was an all around reduction in tariff duties and the gradual but complete elimination of tariff as between Canada and other parts of the Empire.

**Failed in Pledges.**  
"In 1919 the Liberal party held a convention and revamped its political platform, pledging itself to a substantial tariff reduction, which it has failed to fulfil since coming into office, but not into power, in 1921.

"In 1920 the Government of that time, made up as it was of adherents to both old political parties, deemed itself under obligation to restore old tariff levels, the war being over and reconstruction well on its way. In the light of events which followed, namely world wide deflation in business, coupled with tariff increases in almost every country (if not every one that participated in the war, I am convinced that the tariff level should be raised generally, the tariff level reduced to the original level, and totally abolished as quickly as possible.

"In 1921 another general election occurred, resulting in the formation of a new Government, with only a minority of the popular vote and dependent upon the support of the third party, who were and are pledged to tariff abolition. Thus a Government, pledged to tariff reduction, kept in office by a party pledged to tariff destruction, has failed, as was inevitable, to increase and maintain in force an adequate protection for Canadian industry.

"To ease its conscience, and for revenue purposes, it has in a few instances reduced the tariff by 2 1/2 per cent., and in its place thereof has added a 6 per cent. sales tax on most commodities, manufactured or imported, thus substantially increasing the cost of living to Canadian workmen, while opening the door to the goods of foreign countries made by cheap labor.

**Textiles Hard Hit**  
"Our textile industry, normally employing 70,000 hands, is languishing, being unable to meet competition of importers on goods which are the product of cheaper labor in countries having depreciated or debased currency values, which in many instances more than offset the whole tariff duty imposed. In some instances indeed, the advantage gained from these sources by the foreign manufacturers is more than double the import duty.



HON. GIDEON ROBERTSON  
Former Minister of Labor  
Who delivered a stirring and impressive address before the Toronto Conservative Association on the Tariff Question

### Garbage Men Ask Agreement From London Council

LONDON, ONT.—After a lapse of more than two years the members of the city garbage men's union have presented a request for official recognition from the city council.

City authorities acknowledged that the formal demand from the union has been received and will be submitted in due course to the members of the board of works and then to the city council for final disposition.

This is said to be the first move of its kind since 1921, and the city officials explain that the council did not enter into any agreement with the men as now appears to be requested.

"This is practically what it amounts to," one of the officials in touch with the situation explains. "The men, in their request for a formal agreement, ask for certain things, and they define the working hours, etc.

"But as we see it, they are getting now practically what they ask others than a formal agreement with the city for the current year. In other words they want an iron-clad assurance that their present working conditions, etc., will not be altered materially during the year."

During 1922 the garbage men were among the outside civic employees who were hit by the 10 per cent salary reduction instituted by ex-Mayor Cameron Wilson and his associates. The reduced wage was effective throughout the term until restored just as the council of that day went out of office.

"In 1923 Canada imported over a million yards more woolen cloth than in 1922, while our mills at home are closed or running on short time, some of them three days a week. The workmen employed therein are struggling to exist on a half-time wage; the mills stand idle, while the foreign manufacturers and the foreign workmen work and profit to supply our idle workmen's needs, while our taxation grows and our national debt increases alarmingly.

"How is the Canadian workman going to long continue to either work short time or be unemployed altogether and meet, from his decreased or depleted earnings, the new burdens of taxation now added? How is Canadian industry to survive and furnish employment if the protection necessary to enable them to compete with the foreign manufacturer is not afforded?

"Why have nearly 200,000 Canadians immigrated to the United States during last year? The correct answer is the tariff and immigration policies of that great nation, plus lack of ability or inclination, or both, on the part of Canada's Government, to boldly do the obviously right thing.

"Why where there 24,900 less workmen in Canada's various industries on December 1st, last, than were in service on November 1st, a decline of a thousand men for every working day in the month?

"Why are so many business concerns, large and small failing every week?  
"It is, in large part, because a helpless, inefficient Government, is hampered by its own unwise pledge and tied to and driven by the destructive Progressive party policy on which party the Government is dependent for existence."

### POLITICS and PEOPLE THROUGH THE TELESCOPE OF LABOR

Industrial conditions in Canada have brought into prominence our economic policy and the effect and necessity of a protective tariff, stable and adequate, to conserve and encourage our industrial development, which now leads agriculture in industry in its relation to employment makes the question of its stability, prosperity and progress of first importance to labor. Without certain and continuous employment at a fair wage labor suffers privation and deprivation, and labor's dependents are debarred from opportunity and comfort. To labor industrial prosperity is of equal, if not greater, importance than it is to capital, in that capital can be transferred to other fields of investment, while industrial workers must suffer or expatriate themselves and families from their native land, family and social ties, and with inevitable dispersion of savings and loss in home investments.

During the past two years, labor organizations from their knowledge of the migration of artisans from Canada to the United States, must realize that to remain Canadian our artisans must have a continuous and remunerative wage. There is no doubt of the migration, and that could arise only unemployment at home, for men do not desert their native land, when they are prosperous and contented. To labor then the question of Canadian industry is of first importance. A few classes of industry have been taken to illustrate what this class of employment means to Canada and Canadian labor. The figures quoted are of three years ago, and are the latest available, but the statistics for 1923 will show a vast change, in reduction of plants, employees, and wages. In 1920 these were the conditions in five classes of industry:

- Knitted goods, 127 plants, 11,465 employees, \$8,584,798.00 wages.
- Woolen textiles, 130 plants, 6,627 employees, \$5,929,281.00 wages.
- Cotton textiles, 36 plants, 58,828 employees, \$12,142,394.00 wages.
- Boots and shoes, 177 plants, 13,489 employees, \$12,075,028.00 wages.
- Agricultural implements, 99 plants, 12,838 employees, \$16,941,987.00 wages.

While statistics are not available for comparison with the position of these industries now, yet there is a certain and melancholy knowledge of conditions in the communities served by the various plants engaged in the enumerated industries. It is quite evident from these conditions that there has been a startling decrease in number of plants, number of employees, and the annual wage. In the textile trade one has only to visit the various communities established by this industry to see the loss

to Canada in population, production and wealth. In Valleyfield and Quebec City the cotton workers are walking the streets or migrating to the New England States, leaving their native land to manufacture goods for Canadian consumption. In every Ontario town where woolen and knitted goods are the chief product, there is a steady flow of native-born and Canadian trained artisans to the United States. Go into Brantford and other towns dependent on the agricultural implement business, and there will be ample evidence that tariff instability and tariff reduction are driving the best of our artisans across the International Border. It is the same in the boot and shoe industry. Visit Quebec City and see during the period of navigation thousands of European-made shoes being unloaded at the docks, while the Quebec shoe workers are living on half-time work, or have gone to Lynn, Boston and Springfield, where an adequate tariff conserves the American market for American artisans.

There can be no doubt that the major reason for industrial conditions, resulting in depression, unemployment and migration, is our tariff policy with its instability and continuous lessening of the protection afforded industry. Two years ago owing to the announced policy of tariff revision downward by the new government industry became alarmed and in that alarm there came a lack of stability and progress. This alarm was speedily justified, not by drastic cuts in production, but by reductions that small as they might be, threw the Canadian manufacturer in a desperate fight with cheap productions of Europe for the Canadian home market. In that fight the Canadian manufacturer has been a loser, and Canadian labor and industry has suffered. In agricultural implements the tariff had been reduced several times, but the final reduction has almost killed this industry. In the textile and shoe industries the last increase in the British Preference has brought a flood of British and European goods into this market, that has spelled ruin to our own plants. Great Britain is now exporting more tweeds to Canada with a population of 8,500,000 than to the United States with a population of imports of British shoes, woollens, and cottons have been such as to close Canadian mills in these industries. We are exporting artisans and importing goods.

Canadian industry cannot exist without protection.

Canada is the only country in the world that has not increased the protection to its industries since the armistice. Formerly Canada sought protection chiefly against the highly specialized industries of the United States with a monopoly of the tremendous home market. What is even more dangerous to Canada now is the products of Europe on the cost basis of a debased currency. Since the war there has therefore been double necessity for protection in Canada, and instead of an increase there has been a decrease in the protection afforded. Canada is faced with industrial stagnation and the depletion of her artisan population. This country cannot offer its markets to the world for practically nothing and pay high duties to enter other markets, and survive industrially. We are training artisans for the United States, and purchasing foreign goods, in many instances made by Canadian artisans expatriated by a weak and vacillating fiscal policy.

### Under Labor

It is the view of many that the constitutional parties prefer to see Labor assume control in Great Britain at the present time, when the government will be at best more or less of an experiment. Possibly both Liberals and Conservatives believe that men of cabinet calibre are lacking in the Labor ranks, and that by giving the parliamentarians of the newer party enough rope

they will force them to hang themselves. That may easily turn out to be a mistaken view of the abilities of labor leaders and the temper of the country. By allowing Labor to govern with the tentative support of the Liberals, the older parties are avoiding the necessity of a coalition. The man of the hour in British affairs, possibly in world affairs, is Ramsay MacDonald. On his shoulders rests the task of establishing a government sufficiently strong to compel respect in the countries of Continental Europe, where it is all-important that British prestige must not be allowed to wane. There is a general support of MacDonald's pronouncement of a moderate policy in his recent speech at Albert Hall. If he is able to control the more radical element in his party, particularly from the Scottish industrial centres, and to carry out the policy which he has outlined, the life of his government may be successful. MacDonald has announced that Labor will adopt a line on which it will be possible for Liberalism to support by confining its efforts to reforms and the establishment of peace in Europe. It will work to this end with Asquith and Lloyd George in England, and with Brian Herriot, Painleve and Loucheur in France. It will strive to make peace with Russia and restore Germany to the comity of nations. Mr. MacDonald recently said that in the accomplishment of these aims the League of Nations would be used without reserve as the main instrument for securing international justice. In this he will be standing by doctrines which the British electors expressed approval, while avoiding those things for which Labor is working, but in regard to which it is a minority party. The opinion is held in well-informed quarters that the rank and file of both the Liberal and Labor parties are not very widely separated in many of their fundamental aims and ideals and that they will easily find a common basis on which to work. At any rate Mr. MacDonald's announcement insures that Great Britain will have a stable government during the next few months, and that the Labor leaders will be given a chance to demonstrate their ability in administrative capacities. This week is expected to bring the parliamentary vote which will call Labor to control in national affairs.

**On Factory Conditions**  
TORONTO.—Charge made through the press I. Lindenberg (secretary of the Toronto Council of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, that deplorable conditions prevail in some garment shops, as far as working hours and sanitary conditions are concerned, have aroused the attention of Hon. Dr. Forbes Godfrey, minister of labor, and health. Dr. Godfrey has requested a report from the factory inspector branch of his department as to the actual conditions.

### Bookbinders Meet

HAMILTON.—At the meeting of the local Bookbinders union Joseph McKimmie, Buffalo, organizer of the international Bookbinders' union, was present and addressed the members. He gave some very helpful remarks and stated that this organization was showing wonderful revival in the way of new members.

The Hamilton local is in a splendid condition and its finances are better now than at any time since the strike of 1921. Many new members are joining the union here.



# Editorial Page of The Canadian Labor Press



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## The Canadian Labor Press

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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.
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.

## THE CANADIAN WORKMAN NEEDS PROTECTION

Of the people who are leaving Canada to make homes for themselves in the United States the remark is sometimes made that if they had not a leaning towards the latter country they would not go there. We are sure that that remark does injustice to the great majority of the men and women who are comprehended in this exodus. Of most of them this is the native country, the country of their heart's fond devotion. They leave it not willingly, but because they lack confidence in it or are hopeless as to its future, but because they are deprived of any opportunity to make their living here. To bring up a family there must be a bread winner, a man or woman who is employed in the service of production. When the breadwinner is put off the pay list, what is he to do? Is he to beg, or steal, or starve? How many good men have been frantic by the desperate pass to which unemployment has brought them! The poor fellow who has tramped all day long, sometimes on an empty stomach, and returns to his waiting family at night without a penny to provide for them, and without a word to cheer them, is one who indeed has need of the sympathy of his fellow-citizens, most of whom are themselves making ends meet, but have little means to spare for others. With no work in sight, with the landlord pressing him for the payment of rent, and with black care ever present with him, can even the most patriotic of Canadians be blamed if he goes to the United States and tries his luck there? In that country, in the industries and whose home market are protected by a tariff, he soon finds employment, and in a short time is able to send money to his family to follow him across the line. Of such a man, thus dogged by want out of his own country, thus attracted by wages to the country beside us, it is surely unjust to say that he is a weak-kneed Canadian.

The critics who blame his neighbors because they did not come to his help and charitably provide for his family are also besides the mark. It is not charity he wants, nor would charity avail in the place of work. Work and wages there must be if the majority of our people are to live. Moreover, not many people can make material contributions to the maintenance of families other than their own. No, it is upon the Dominion Government that the responsibility for keeping industrious Canadians in work lies heavily. That Government has failed to protect Canadian producers in their home markets. It has rather made it its business to put that home market largely at the service of producers in other countries, most of which countries have a protective tariff. Take the case of Canada's woollen industry. That industry has been modernized in the last ten years by a great expenditure of capital. It has trained thousands of men and women in its service with its corps of highly skilled hands and its up-to-date machinery, and it is able to turn out a class of goods that in the matter of quality will compare not unfavorably with the best of its kind that is produced elsewhere. But it has no chance in its own home market. The present Government has hit it hard by two changes in the tariff and by its liberality in the matter of valuing for customs imports from countries with a depreciated currency. In the last calendar year there were imported into this country woollen and knitted goods to the value of \$41,497,295. Is it to be wondered at that several of our woollen mills are closed down, that other are working with reduced forces, and that many skilled hands connected with the industry have been driven out of Canada to find work in the United States?

## RADICAL APPEAL FOR McLACHLAN'S RELEASE

In connection with the many numerous demands being made upon Ottawa for the release of James McLachlan, The Sydney Record sums up the situation in a recent editorial under the caption of "Courts and Sentences" the editorial follows: Trial by demand has not yet been substituted for trial by a court of justice in Canada. It would be a disastrous day for Canada if the substitution were made. Ever since the arrest of James B. McLachlan last summer demands have come from various organizations in Canada. The demands have come from various organizations but the source of inspiration has been the same in most or all cases...radical forces with the same main purposes Mr. McLachlan cherished and approving the same methods he approved. The demand is now upon Ottawa to grant Mr. McLachlan release from the prison to which he was very recently taken after affirmation, on his appeal to the full Bench of the Nova Scotia Supreme Court, of his conviction for seditious crime. The situation is one which calls for some plain comment. Mr. McLachlan committed a grave crime against the State, against the peace and good government of the State, against constitutional authority. A court of justice acting under the law decreed by the State that is, by organized society found him guilty and imposed penalty after he had been ably and vigorously defended. Nor is there room for doubt that the finding of the court had the approval of the vast majority of the people.

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It would be almost to make mock of the courts and announce the seditious action or other lawlessness may be resorted to with impunity, were a prisoner to be set free unpunished under such circumstances simply because demand for his release had been made by organizations in sympathy with his opinions. The law-abiding people, the believers in constitutional government and action, are entitled to some consideration in this country, and to some protection.

There is much more to this matter than question as to the lot of one particular offender. There is the question whether law-breaking is to be made to appear a trivial thing and thereby encouraged, and the very important question whether courts of the land are to be weakened in authority and standing with consequent endangering of the citizen's rights to impartial justice. So, too, with release of some prisoners under the parole systems. But the vital over-ruling of a court of justice by immediate remission of the sentence it found proper under the law and the facts in a case of such gravity as one of seditious offending would be a most astonishing course, and to take it would be to create an exceedingly dangerous precedent.

As far as the introduction in two local assemblies of resolutions supporting demands for Mr. McLachlan's release are unconsciously, the men sponsoring them have been doing the will of the radical faction of whom Mr. McLachlan was the leader in Cape Breton and which brought so much stress and trouble upon Cape Breton. In its original form the resolution brought before the County Council contained improper and inexcusable reflections upon the administration of justice. That, in itself, should be sufficient to warn councillors desirous of being on the right side to have nothing to do with the resolution. It may be possible to win some temporary favor in some quarters by supporting radical effort on behalf of a seditious leader, but Warden LeVatte gave his colleagues in the Council the wiser lead when he took positive and firm ground against the resolution.

## Unemployment and Governments

(Toronto Mail and Empire)  
Few men realize that a state of unemployment is a state of disease or ill health for which condition (in Canada at least) each unemployed man is 99 per cent responsible. The unemployed man quite naturally asks for relief and evidently thinks that if his stomach is filled by the effort of someone besides himself that state of unemployment will vanish. The unemployed man looks to governments to give him relief either in the form of work or food.

The Government's answer to the appeal of the unemployed was the establishing of unemployment offices in every section of Canada. The Government thus mobilized work—all available work—and today the Government holds out its sign "work on farms."

The unemployed man says in reply to this, "The wages are low. I am inexperienced. I am not fitted for farm work."

Nevertheless, the backbone, the nation's wealth production, is the farm. All production must have a basis in soil, the lakes, the forest. Shall we not as a sensible nation say to the unemployed in no uncertain terms, that our forefathers tilled the soil with meagre equipment; their hands bled from picking stones; their backs ached from pulling out stumps. Yet they stuck it out, and today we are reaping the wealth they did not remain to reap. Profits are slow coming from mother earth, but they are sure and lasting.

The Government asks the unemployed to "wait for their profits" to make their backs strong by labor, to harden their hands by constant toil; to gain for themselves a place on the land where their honest labor always has its sure returns. What can the unemployed man of 1907-08, 1914-15, 1921-22, who stooped to accept relief in the form of food, say today? He is worse off than ever, and no amount of relief can ever improve him, but the desire for relief settles down like a plague in our city. The desire for relief is soon followed by the demand for relief, and the foolish, slipshod methods of granting it only encourages the demand for it only makes the plague settle down all the more firmly, until today in Toronto a million and a half dollars spent has created a condition which must be faced as a seriously by the unemployed as by the Governments.

At the head of the Labor Department for Ontario stands a man

equipped to handle plagues. He will see that diagnosis is his first step, not diagnosis of the crowd, but diagnosis to the individual. He is asked to give a solution by a crowd of men suffering from this plague, unemployment. He will do well if he explains that there can be no crowd solution but that there is decidedly an individual solution. Each man has resources peculiar to himself. He may have a family and he may not. He may be strong and he may be weak. He may have two hands, and he may have only one. But it has been definitely and finally demonstrated that the scourge unemployment cannot be handled "en masse."

The Government's duty then is to know individually each unemployed man, and apply the remedy for his particular difficulty, just the same way that a physician would apply medical treatment. One thousand sick people in a hospital cannot be treated en masse. No more can 500 unemployed men.

The Government's machinery rounds up the jobs, and yet men will not fall in line and accept. It naturally follows then that the Government needs the machinery to diagnose each individual case of unemployment. Distasteful as this might be to the individual, it is the only sure remedy. The results of this individual diagnosis would make the Government's action sure and solid. Doubtless the results would show many unemployed to be unemployable from defects both physical and mental. These facts would be a guide to the Government in remedying individual defects and thereby removing the cause of unemployment.

The man who makes the demand to approach the Government have done a service in that they have shown the extent of the plague. Their demands for relief as a solution are an indication that they are agitators, not peace-makers. The whole problem when laid bare in all its ugliness shows that condition of affairs which is bound to follow whenever waters pertaining to the public good are left to be foisted about among a multitude of irresponsible agencies equipped with good and kind people to "carry on." What would the death rate be today if the practice of medicine was not safeguarded and in the hands of men and women carefully equipped? What would the advancement of medical science be if it were not for the man who toil ceaselessly in the laboratory?

Let the head of the Department of Labor for the Province of Ontario apply the same thoroughness to the task of curing unemployment that he and his fellows have to curing

diabetes, and this scourge, unemployment and all its weak, foolish, schemes of relief will vanish. To ask for relief in Canada is suicidal.

## A.P.P. USE TEAR BOMBS N FIGHT WITH COAL MINERS

Strikers Tried to Prevent Strike-Breakers Entering Camp.— Crowd Cleared up Use of Bombs.

Edmonton, Jan. 14.— Tear gas bombs were used by members of the Alberta provincial police during a fracas with striking miners at the Coal Valley mine, Mile 48, Coal Spur branch, which has been closed down since early in December.

According to a telegram received from Sub-Inspector Harrison, of the Edmonton division, who is in charge of the force of 20 men assembled in the strike area for the maintenance of law and order, the trouble arose when strikers assembled in a crowd and endeavored to prevent men sent from Edmonton to reopen the mines, from disembarking from the train which carried them to the mine from the main line at Edson.

The working outfit consisted of 44 men gathered up in Edmonton, who were shipped out Sunday evening in a special sleeping car attached to the regular transcontinental train. This car was shipped at Edson and brought down to Mile 48 on the usual train which serves the Coal Spur branch line.

Details of the fracas are lacking in the telegram received by Commissioner Bryan, but the telegram adds that the crowd was cleared by the use of tear gas bombs, and that the strikers have wired for a number of additional men from Mountain Park to help them.

## HUGE SUM PAID IN ALBERTA FOR COMPENSATION

Edmonton.— Disbursements last year under the compensation laws were the heaviest since the formation in August of 1918, according to figures issued by the board. During the year there was paid out in compensation the sum of \$323,360.22, and there was paid into the pension fund in addition a total of \$363,351.66. This latter sum is to meet call for pensions to the widows and families of men who met death in the industries that come under the Compensation Act.

During the twelve months 9,160 accidents were reported, of which 53 were fatal. They came from all parts of the province, the largest percentage being in mine work.

The total revenue for the year as allocated to the payment of accident claims and as set aside to the pension fund was \$660, 825.36. This means that over \$25,000 more was paid out than was collected. There is, however, a surplus in hand to meet deficiencies of this kind, and this amounts to some \$200,000.

In the year 1922 there was paid out for accidents \$275,639 and there was set aside for the pension fund \$278,759. The pension payments per month now amount to about \$8,000 and are constantly increasing, as they will for some years to come.

## Public Hearings of Compensation Probe

Royal Commission Will Visit Leading Centres  
Public hearings of the Royal Commission of the Workmen's Compensation Act will open on February 5 in Quebec. Meetings in Montreal will follow at the Court House on February 12, 13, and 14. The Commission will then proceed to Hull, opening its hearings on February 15, afterwards going on to Sherbrooke and commencing a session there on February 26. Public sessions, for which dates have yet to be fixed, will also be held at Shawinigan Falls, Chicoutimi, and if necessary at Ste. Hyacinthe. The itinerary will be extended if deemed desirable, as it is the intention of the Commission to make as complete an investigation as possible.

The Canadian Manufacturer's Association will present their case in accordance with the findings of the special committee at the various centres where public hearings are to be held. The Commission appointed comprises, Ernest Roy, Quebec, chairman; J. A. Bothwell, of the Brompton Pulp and Paper Co.; E. G. Broseau, president of the Builders' Exchange, Quebec; Gustave Franco, representing the Trades and Labor Council of Montreal, Pierre Beaulne, representing the National Catholic Unions, and Alfred Crowe, as secretary.

## A Few Thoughts on Human Nature

A teacher who was both learned and witty once said that whenever he heard people begin a sentence with "All history teaches that," he knew they were going to say something absurd. To his wise satire upon shallow students of events can be added a pendant. It is that whenever people talk about this or that being "contrary to human nature," the chances are a hundred to one they are, either deliberately or ignorantly, saying something untrue.

A certain Sir Henry Cowan, who used to call himself a Liberal Free Trader, and who has now decided to call himself a Conservative Tariff Reformer, had a letter in the "Times" of yesterday. What he calls himself is of no interest to us—or, so far as we can see, to anybody. We know what he is—one of the hard-faced men who look as if they did very well out of the war—we know, therefore, what his political attitude is likely to be.

The letter, however, contained a point of interest, Sir Henry Cowan, having sat for 16 years in the House of Commons, has heard all about Socialism, and, with a superb gesture of Podsnapery, he wipes it off the slate. For serious people there are only two parties, those between which there is no real difference, those who both aim at keeping things as they are.

The policy of the Socialist Party has the fatal defect of ignoring the fundamental facts of human nature and its panaceas therefore, lie out side the range of practical politics, and offer no effective remedies for our pressing needs.

Now, Sir Henry Cowan is not of any importance, but this common parrot-phrase which he uses is of some importance because it has found lodgement in a great many common parrot minds. It is therefore, worth a moment's examination.

The first remark to be made about it is this; human nature exists or has ever existed. Human nature is changing all the time. Once men expressed dislike or disapproval of one another with clubs or pointed arrows or large flints. Once they settled their disputes by firing pistols at one another or poking at one another with rapiers. Once they burned those who did not share their theological opinions.

These they called manifestations of human nature. To-day we reprobate and even punish such actions; they are in accord with human nature no longer. Perhaps Sir Henry Cowan would reply to this: "I am talking about human nature as it is now." We hope he would make this answer, we should then fairly corner him.

He and his like maintain that the nature of man to-day is acquisitive, that the only strong motive is greed, that the desire for superfluity is the sole spur to effort.

Has it never occurred to them that while those who possess large amounts of superfluous wealth are few, those who possess nothing are many? And did the possibility of the many never present itself to their minds as a natural, almost inevitable consequence of human nature. That, we need hardly say, is not our view of Socialism. We hold that it is bound to come because human nature is becoming more sensitive to ideas of justice and comradeship. But on Sir Henry Cowan's own showing, what he imagines to be Socialism is strictly in accordance with what he imagines to be the fundamental facts of human nature. Q. E. D.

## LUMBER CAMPS CALL FOR MEN

Statement Made 700 Needed in Blairmore, Alberta, and Crow's Nest District.

Calgary.—For the asking work awaits 700 to 800 men today in the lumbering camps in the Blairmore and Crow's Nest Pige districts as a result of the serious situation resulting from the labor troubles which have been fomented there by representatives of the Industrial Workers of the World.

I. W. Poole, of Nelson, secretary of the Mountain Lumber Manufacturers' Association, is authority for this statement, the whole matter of the labor troubles in the Crow's Nest district forming one of the principal points of discussion at the annual convention of that association in the Palliser Hotel here yesterday morning.

As the result of the agitation by what Mr. Poole terms "professionals at this sort of work," the men have been practically forced to abandon work in the territory, but at the present time there is ample police protection and workmen need not fear going into the district ready to

go to work at once, he says. A serious situation exists there at the present time as the weather is practically ideal for lumbering and with a reduced output due to no workmen and a high cost of operation, it may result in higher lumber prices in the Spring, explains Mr. Poole.

The association is continuing its convention today.

The bond markets during the month have been engaged in assimilating the unusual volume of securities released early in November,

chief among which were the Dominion Government Loan and the \$40,000,000 Province of Ontario issue. The market has pursued a fairly even course in the circumstances, without any marked trend in either direction.



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# OUR HOME PAGE

## HOME COOKING

### HOT AND GOOD SOUPS

Tomato soup is one of the best of evening dishes, served with hot biscuits fresh from the oven.

Use a white sauce as a basis for four really nourishing winter soups to make them creamy and good. If possible, not just the cooked flour and water sauce, but one using milk, margarine and flour. Mix the butter into the flour over hot water so as to cream it, and add the cold milk very gradually.

Then stir into your hot white sauce a mixture of either tinned or fresh strained tomato combined with seasoning and herbs. Stir the tomato mixture very gently into the white sauce to ensure perfect smoothness.

**And Watercress in it.**  
Potato soup mixed with watercress makes a well liked perfect dish. Cook your potatoes—three, let us say—strain (keeping the water they were cooked in), mash, and add to the mashed potatoes three breakfastfuls of the potato water. To this add two cups of chopped watercress, a cup of hot milk, seasoning, and lastly, a piece of well-stirred flour and water to thicken it.

Cauliflower soup, brown soup with glazed onions, celery soup, and chestnut soup, all make solid dishes, and all are best served, if to form a whole meal, with potato griddle cakes, hot biscuits or soda scones fresh from the oven.

### MAKING THE SINK SLIGHTLY

To make a kitchen so well planned that work is reduced to a minimum and steps saved all the time is the aim of every woman of us. Unfortunately, it is complicated by our desire to have the kitchen less of a workroom and more of a sitting room because we feed there.

No man tries to make his workroom look like a parlor. Even if he does only a little carpentering at home he has a place where he can make his bench as untidy as he likes and where he never dreams of clearing up to give the look of a parlor. But we expect our worksheds to be tidied up and look smart and nice as places to eat in with superfluous ornaments and heavy curtains and armchairs.

Slowly we shall grow to realize that we have the right to claim a worksheds for cooking and cleaning that is fitted to save us work and not to cause it.

In America they solve the meals in the kitchen problem with an "eating alcove," a set table and two benches, with high backs, like old world settles, where the family feed close to the stove, but hidden from it by those high backs. There is to be no sitting about after meals; it is a place to eat in and not more; it is a lounge elsewhere. And so the women of the house are free to get on with the washing up.

**The Ideal Arrangement.**  
To save work and steps the sink should be close to the windows with a table to hold dishes between it and the stove, on the right hand side, a draining board between it and china shelves on the left. You cook and the soiled dishes are on the table next to the sink; you wash and dry them and they are next to the cupboard where they are put away.

The space under the sink, draining board and table, may be entirely enclosed, with sliding doors to hold the pans, baking tins, and in another division, stores of groceries for cooking. Drawers, like those in chests of drawers, are also slightly and useful; shallow ones hold cutlery and plates admirably, with castors, table mats, and all odds in divisions. Others, running out on supporting grooves, may even hold china. A sliding wood partition must shut off the higher wall cupboards where, on one side, are glass and china, on the other the smaller grocery stores. The sink itself is the biggest eye-sore, but that can be shut down with a lid that hinges up to the wall as it lifts off, provided that a hole is left for the tap to drain through.

The Executive of the International Socialist Youth, which met at Hamilton on the 8th and 9th of January, resolved unanimously to give their support to the Anti-War Demonstration planned by the International Federation of Trades Unions for the third Sunday in September. In order to concentrate all the forces of all the organizations on the great demonstration of September, the usual annual gathering of the International of Socialist Youth will not take place in the year 1924. On July 31st, the day when the great war broke out, meetings of young people will be organized for the purpose of spreading the knowledge of and winning support for the International Anti-War-Day

### Sheep's Head Pie.

For this good and homely dish, soak the sheep's head in cold water and salt for a few hours, then put it into a pan. Cover with cold water, bring to the boil, pour off the water, return the head to the pan, cover with boiling water and simmer gently for about two hours.

Remove the flesh from the bones, slice the tongue and arrange in a pie dish. Add a hard-boiled egg (sliced) with some chopped ham or rolls of bacon, a little stock and seasoning (the brains can be used for an omelette or brain cake). Cover the pie with the following crust:

Eight ounces flour, six ounces margarine or lard, a few drops lemon juice or vinegar, cold water, salt. Sieve the salt and flour in a basin, add the butter, margarine, or lard (broken into pieces the size of a walnut), also the lemon juice or vinegar, mix into a dough with cold water. Turn on to a floured board, roll out thin, always rolling in one direction, fold in three, give a half turn, roll out again, fold in three, give a half turn. Repeat three times, then roll out to the size required; cover the pie and decorate. Place in a very hot oven at first, but when well risen and beginning to brown lower the heat. Serve either hot or cold.

### WORK WITHOUT WAGES

What are you doing? Nothing, you say. Don't you believe it.

If you are seated, or standing with your feet upon the floor, there is the blood to pump back to the heart, and through the system. This means lifting about 2 lbs. every six minutes. Assuming a standing or sitting position for an hour, therefore, is equivalent to lifting 20 lbs.

In addition to this there is the effort required to hold your weight, maintaining the balance. The task absorbs energy, as is proved by the fact that, when not in a reclining position, we find one position tiresome after a while. We move continually. That means more effort.

If you stretch yourself, you lift perhaps half hundredweight, this way or that, expanding and contracting numerous muscles that you never think of.

You are breathing, of course. This means an expenditure of energy that would lift 2 pounds to the ceiling every ten minutes. Multiply that and you get about 300 lbs. a day, 110,000 lbs., or 50 tons a year—to the ceiling.

The nerves are always active, conveying sensations to your mind and to other parts. In hot weather you feel languid partly because many of your nerves are overworked. After spending a few hours in a noisy crowd, you are tired for the same reason.

Hardest work of all is the task of thinking or worrying which takes place without conscious wish.

A brain worker is more exhausted than a manual worker in the same time. Imagine, then, the labor of an active man in one day. If you have something serious to occupy your mind, you are working at least as hard as he.

There are light tasks for the mind as well as heavy ones. Hence the popularity of pictures, papers, books, theatres and other amusements. With out these we should have to depend upon imagination, which implies considerable effort.

When you are doing nothing, you are really working very hard indeed. No wonder we feel worn out after a day of ease.

### Labor Party Elect Lady President

Mrs. L. M. Davenport is Honored at Last Night's Meeting

For the first time since last East Hamilton Labor Party was organized six years ago, a woman has been named president. The members of the Branch in session at the Labor Temple, honored Mrs. L. M. Davenport with the presidency of the organization. Mrs. Davenport, it will be remembered, was I.L.P. candidate for Board of Education honors in Ward 8 at the 1923 election. Other officers elected are as follows: Vice-president, Alex. Boyd; secretary, James R. Ford; financial secretary, Mrs. Woods; treasurer, William Hendrick; executive council, Miss Mary Macleah, Mrs. G. Clay, Mrs. Clay and Messrs. Boyd and Ford.

After Ald. Sam Lawrence and Ald. C. I. Aitchison had addressed the large and enthusiastic gathering, cards were played, following which the ladies served refreshments. Until further notice the branch will meet at the Labor Temple, Catherine St. north.

### TAXI DRIVERS RESENT ACTION OF EMPLOYERS

Question of Right to Join Chaffeurs Association Discussed at Protest Meeting.

Montreal taxicab drivers and other chaffeurs, organized as the Montreal Chaffeurs' Protective Association, have launched a fight against a certain taxi company in the city which is claimed to have refused its employees the right to organize. At two big meetings, the members of the association voted enthusiastically to "fight to the finish," and to take up the matter immediately with the city, provincial and federal officials.

Already a lengthy letter has been sent to the mayor, and aldermen, the mayor having replied yesterday that he would present the matter to the city council. In brief the men say:

1.—That this certain taxi cab company absolutely refuses to allow its drivers and mechanics to join the Montreal Chaffeurs' Protective Association under threat of dismissal.

2.—That the company is not living up to the provisions of chapter 195 of the revised statutes of Canada which recognizes the right of any group of workers to organize for mutual benefit.

3.—That the company in question, after sending a letter to the labor department at Ottawa giving its consent for its men to affiliate with the organization, posted notices forbidding such action.

4.—That the company compels its men to work under conditions which do not allow them a living wage.

5.—That the company has certain privileges from the city of Montreal and therefore the city officials should aid in securing just and equitable arrangement between employer and employee.

6.—That improved working conditions would have a threefold benefit—the public, the company and the workers.

7.—That the company in question instituted a system of espionage at meetings of the association in order to "spy" upon its drivers.

**Bernard Rose Addresses Men.**  
Bernard Rose, K.C., legal adviser to the Montreal Chaffeurs' Protective Association at the first meeting last night gave a comprehensive talk on "The Right to Organize," which was summarized for the early morning session. He warmly denounced the company in question; urged the men to fight, but told them to fight fair in every particular. Much of his talk was given over to a criticism of an article in the May, 1923, number of "System," by John Hertz, head of the Chicago taxi service, and compared that organization to the one under discussion here.

"You must know what to do and what not to do," declared Mr. Rose "You come into contact with Federal Provincial and civil laws almost every minute of the day. When you know what is right and do it you are protecting the public, your companies and yourselves."

"It is manifestly your right to organize to improve your lot in life and no man or corporation can come to you and say 'no.' You have a duty to the public and in the exercise of that duty and care you must earn your livelihood. Inadequate remuneration is, on the face of it, an incentive to run rapidly about the streets to the danger not only of yourselves but of the public. A man to be a good safe driver must be able to know that at the end of the week he can take home wages sufficient to keep his family, not as they should live but as they must live."

"You need permanent quarters where you can go after you have finished work for a quiet hour of social enjoyment. You young men need a guardian. Don't go into those haunts which have ruined many a life."

"So far we have had no objection from those employers who understand, need one company has openly expressed its accord with the movement, and some of its officials have visited your meetings openly and without guile. Big concerns recognize the right of its employees to organize. Has the C.P.R., the C.N.R., the Montreal Light, Heat & Power, the Tramways company, suffered because its men are organized? Indeed no. They are glad to sign agreements which preclude the possibility of labor difficulties."

"The public, I am sure, will recognize the injustice of any firm which refuses the right of every man to exercise his own prerogative. You are not children; you do not need to be told not to do this or that."

Mr. Rose went on to tell how the public would be protected and accidents cut to the minimum after the organization of the 6,000 drivers in the city had been perfected. He advised a delegation to go to Quebec and lay the facts before Premier Taschereau who is a just man.

A communication will be sent to the provincial government suggesting that inspection of motor brakes be carried out regularly in order that accidents may not occur through defective brakes.

### Inspection of Factories Vital To Worker

Miss Carmichael Gives Opinion at Reception By Council of Women.

The president and officers of the Toronto Local Council of Women held a reception on Saturday afternoon in the Pompeian room at the King Edward Hotel in honor of Miss Caroline Carmichael, President of the National Council of Women, who has recently returned from the Labor Conference in Geneva. There was a representative gathering of Toronto women in attendance, including Mrs. Hiltz, wife of the new Mayor; and Mrs. P. E. Doolittle, president of the National Chapter of the Daughters of the Empire. The guests were received by Mrs. J. Westley Bundy, president; Dr. Augusta Stowe Gallen, Mrs. R. G. Smythe and other members of the Council.

Following the reception, Miss Carmichael gave her impressions of the conference. Factory inspection was one of the principal themes of Miss Carmichael's address. For an entire week the Geneva conference discussed the subject in many different tongues, representatives of forty-two nations taking part. "At first," she said, "it seemed to me that far too much time, money and energy were given to a subject that did not appeal to me as very important." She had realized afterwards, however, that factory inspection touches most of the vital

points of modern industrial conditions. A vivid description was given by the speaker of the personalities of the different national figures attending the conference. Monsieur Albert Thomas, the director-general and chairman, presided with an Englishman on one side and a Japanese on the other, while on the other side of the table were an Albanian and a Pole, Miss Margaret Bondfield, elected to the British Parliament, and Miss Capstan Smith, assistant factory inspector for the British Government, were present at the conference.

Miss Carmichael was disappointed to find that the old pre-war jealousy exist among the nations despite the League of Nations. However, after a conversation with Captain Fowler, a representative to the conference from South Africa, she felt more hopeful. Captain Fowler had pointed out that the conference was aiming to promote the equality of women factory inspectors with men, and that such nations as China, Albania, Sam and India, were voting in unison on the matter. "With the enthusiasm of the British people whom I afterwards encountered in London," declared Miss Carmichael, "I thanked God that I had recovered my sanity on the subject and could continue my work for the League of Nations among our women of the National Council of Canada."

A delightful group of songs was contributed by Mrs. Roger Priestman. A hearty vote of thanks was extended by Dr. Augusta Stowe Gallen and seconded by Mrs. A. M. Huettis.

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Insist on Made-in-Canada products and you will bar out the competing wares of cheap, sweated, slavish labor of Europe and Asia. Low Wages make Low Ideals. Union Labor has been for years and is battling for High Ideals. High Ideals come only where the Workers are paid and treated in a highly civilized manner.

For High Ideals—for general Made-in-Canada Prosperity—Don't forget to say that all may hear: "Made-in-Canada Goods for me Every Time!"

### Oldest Language In England.

In most large towns of the united Kingdom are men whose professional duties range between finding work for Englishmen born and bred who cannot talk English, and "translating" the sermons of English priests to English congregations.

If one of our Stone Age ancestors came to life and wandered into a village one of these men could probably conduct a conversation between him and the village folk; for, as Missionaries to the deaf, they know the village language on earth.

It is a language that began before history did, and is a living one still. Briefly, it is the sign language of the Uneducated Deaf and Dumb.

While spoken languages have altered through the ages, that of signs has merely grown; at the bottom it is largely what Prehistoric man used to make out his limited vocabulary, or before he even began to use spoken words at all. Generation after generation of deaf people and their friends have perfected it, and even now there are people in England who know no other mode of communication.

Recently a missionary told me he had spent half a day in getting to a remote Sussex village, in order to comfort a dying deaf laborer who had no friends left to use the sign language to him and could not read. Dialects in Sign Language

ever makes a speech, will turn each sentence, in anything from a prayer to a humorous address, into signs understood by those present just as it is spoken.

Also, even as English has split in the course of ages into numerous dialects, "dialects" of the sign language differ in our countries and great towns. Signs are of two kinds: logical and conventional. The commoner, self-explanatory signs are the same everywhere; the bug administering to himself by the signer's crossed hands could mean nothing but "love" for instance. It is arbitrary ones that vary, those used in London differing from those of a provincial town as do the spoken dialects of Somerset and Durham.

These arbitrary signs are probably the invention of bygone deaf folk of their particular districts, and they vary from utter nonsense to something almost poetic. For example, in one great town "sister" is indicated by hooking the forefinger over the nose; in another, 50 miles distant, by touching the forehead and fighting pinching the skin on the back of the hand. The first is as meaningless as it is ugly, the second is a compound of the arbitrary and logical: a touch of the forehead indicating "a woman" the pinch "my own flesh." "A woman of my own flesh." A pretty version enough of "sister."

**Hieroglyphics in Gesture.**  
There is shrewdness in some signs. Take "dog" and "cat." For the first you snap your fingers and pat your knee commandingly. For the second you break out an imaginary crop of mousetails. Both are natural history in a nutshell; exactly

epitomizing man's humble friend and the wickered tyrant of the boudoir and back wall.

An odd side of the oldest language is this: By using it a man can speak simultaneously in what are three separate languages. At a mixed gathering of deaf and hearing people a speaker can say the same thing at the same time to three sections of his audience each of whom only understands a different mode of speech.

He will deliver his address aloud at the same time turning each sentence into signs. While those present who know signs alone "read" his gestures, deaf users of the Oral (lip-reading) system follow the movements of his lips, and people with the use of their ears hear his voice.

### Wages Must be Raised To Revive British Trade

If the powers that shape the destinies of Men (supposing there to be any such powers) had decided to destroy both the old political parties at one fell swoop and to secure the triumph of Labour, they could hardly have shaped circumstances more favourable for the forces of the New Order than they are being shaped today.

What could be more advantageous to Labour, in view of an immediate General Election, than the renewal of the attack upon Wages? The attempt to lower the railwaymen's standard of life is making a profound impression on public opinion. Now it seems the axe is being lifted to the pay of the Police. Almost the whole of the Civil Service, with the Army and the Navy, have fallen under the ban of the Anderson Committee, and are threatened with drastic "cuts"—if the present Government remains in office.

Couple the alarm thus created in the mind of every wage-earner with the fact that, if Mr. Baldwin were returned to office, he would be forced to tax food, and we have as cogent an appeal to the electorate to reject him as could possibly be devised.

We say Mr. Baldwin would be forced to tax food because all his Protectionist friends are saying openly already that, now his feet are on their pathway, they will be able without difficulty to push him further and further along. They regard him as a weak man, as, indeed, he has shown himself to be and are ready to put up with the eventual loss of Lancashire and Lord Derby for the sake of putting into practice the whole Tariff Reform programme.

Here then Labour has an opportunity such as no party ever had before. The Government and the system which it represents propose both to make our food cost us more and to leave us with less money to buy it. At the same time their measures must have the effect of preventing any revival of trade.

Should there be any who still doubt this, let them read carefully the statement on another page which we asked Mr. Frank Hodges to make on his return from the United States. This shows that the chief cause of removal of American unemployment, which was very much worse than ours, was the realization by the employers that Low Wages are an unmitigated evil and that High Wages were necessary to make trade expand.

It was the Miner's firm stand against reduction which turned back the tide of disaster and allowed the tide of prosperity to flow. Mr. Hodges quotes figures to show that between the Spring of last year and the early Summer of this there were substantial rises in almost all occupations following the success of the miners.

Up to the end of 1921 the same foolish theory which holds British employers in its grip still was accepted in America. "Wages must come down before trade could revive" was the cry. But American employers are readier than British to look at facts. They cleared their minds of cant, and they said the truth was that "Wages must go up before trade could revive."

This was acted upon, the railway companies were "sogged" to get out large orders, a general feeling of buoyancy took the place of depression, and in a little more than a year the revival had come.

If Capitalism here had learnt its lesson also, it might have got a new lease of life: "By its blind folly it has proved conclusively that there is nothing to be done with it save to sweep it away."

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# MONTHLY TRADE REVIEW

# INTERNATIONAL LABOR NEWS

## Monthly Trade Review

At a time like the present, when business conditions are uneven, it is difficult to make any statement which will apply to the Dominion as a whole. The year 1923 we look on as having been a moderately good one, with certain striking exceptions, some favourable others the reverse. We believe that 1924 is commencing with fundamental conditions sounder than they were at the beginning of 1923, and with sections of our weaker territory—the Middle West—in a vastly improved position. Finally, we see no reason why the improvement should not continue in moderate degree throughout the fall twelve months of the present year.

**British Columbia.**  
During December, the lumber business continued active, the demand being fully equal to the supply.

Prices have been fairly steady, with a slight improvement for cedar, fir and hemlock are in good demand, and there was also a moderate increase in the demand for shingles.

The mining output for 1923 is estimated to represent a value of \$39,000,000, as compared with \$35,000,000 in 1922.

According to the B.C. Packers Association, the past year's salmon pack totalled 1,337,256 cases, an increase of some 50,000 cases over 1922. The market for the "Sockeye" variety continues poor. Shipments of salted salmon and herring to the Orient continue to be quite substantial.

Agricultural conditions are unchanged, low prices resulting in very small profits for the farmer.

Large expenditures are being made on the port of Vancouver. The grain export business continues to be largely in excess of 1922, and it is predicted that 50 million bushels of the 1923 crop will be handled.

Improvement in port facilities and the large volume of outgoing freight will bring to Vancouver a share of the incoming freight business, which formerly was handled almost entirely by rail from the east.

Retailers report Vancouver holiday business to have been better than in 1922, but outside the city

sales did not show an increase. Collections are reported to be fair to good.

**Middle West (General)**  
The approximate disposition of wheat from the 1923 western crop, delivered up to December 28th, 1923, is as follows:

In store, Country elevators, December 28, 1923, 50,500,000 bus.

Shipments Ft. Wm. P.L.A. Sept. 1st to Dec. 28, 1923 183,213,909 bus.

In store Ft. Wm. P.L.A. December 28th, 1923 34,356,000 bus.

In transit Ft. Wm. P.L.A. & West (estimated) 22,417,744 bus.

Interior Terminals (estimated) 2,500,000 bus.

Vancouver shippers Sept. 1st to Dec. 28th, 1923, 10,854,257 bus.

Consumption of mills (estimated) 18,250,000 bus.

Total 322,221,910 bus.

Deducting requirements for seed, it would appear that at the beginning of the year some 90,000,000 bushels of wheat still remained in western farmers' hands.

**Alberta.**  
The shipment of wheat continued steadily during the month of December, and it is estimated that 60 per cent. of the grain had gone forward by the first week in January. Flour mills are running to capacity, and sales are reported to compare favourably with those of 1922.

Wholesale business in all lines showed a substantial increase in December, dealers reporting the following approximate increases over 1922: drygoods 15 to 25 p.c.; hardware 50 p.c.; boots and shoes 20 p.c. The outlook for the next few months is favourable.

Retailers generally report a gratifying increase in their December trade, the seasonal business in some cases being the best experience for four years. Through the liquidation of goods and a steadier market, merchants should now be in a better position than they were a year ago.

Except for a small local demand for feeders, there has been no improvement in the livestock situation which continues unsatisfactory on account of low prices. Some improvements can be looked for in 1924, as there is ample feed in the province, weather conditions so far have been favourable, and less this winter should be cut to a minimum.

Wholesale and retail houses are generally satisfied with the payment of collections during the month, but difficulty is being experienced in obtaining reductions on old outstanding.

**Saskatchewan and Manitoba.**  
The volume of business handled by manufacturing concerns during December was apparently slightly below the figure for the corresponding month last year. No marked activity is looked for in the immediate future.

Wholesale business in December was not up to expectations, and while some reports indicate a showing equal to or better than last year, turnovers have been as a rule from 1 to 15 p.c. lower. Clothing and footwear show heavy declines owing to continued mild weather.

Retail business was below December of 1922, according to most reports, but several points advise sales equal to or slightly better than last year's figures. Conditions in Saskatchewan and in Ontario, West of the Great Lakes, are more satisfactory than in Manitoba, where sales generally are reported from 20 to 25 p.c. down from last year. The holiday trade was fairly good, but was limited to a very short period.

Collection results, while perhaps slightly better than at this time last year, are not yet satisfactory, more especially in the wholesale and retail business. Current accounts are coming in fairly well, principally as a result of better discrimination in respect to credit. It is reported that mortgage payments compare favourably with last year.

Conditions in respect to employment have been good so far this winter, and there are few men unemployed in the larger cities.

**Ontario.**  
Owing to the exceptionally open weather, autumn work on the farms was facilitated, and the farmers are better prepared than usual to make an early start at field operations in the Spring. There is an abundance of fodder to carry all classes of livestock over the winter, but low prices are said to take the profit out of the business.

A slow improvement is in evidence in the manufacturing industry in certain lines have been fairly busy. Shoe manufacturers find the demand for their output, both for immediate and for Spring delivery, to be better than a year ago. Producers of automobiles have been unusually busy, and the same applies to the rubber manufacturing industry; some of the plants in the latter trade are operating three shifts of eight hours each.

December was a seasonably quiet month in the lumber trade, but retailers benefitted by the mild weather, which allowed outside construction work to be carried on until an unusually late period.

This late season, however, affected the winter business of wholesalers and retailers. Christmas trade was active, although it is probable that the value of sales per capita was lower than in 1922, cheaper goods being obviously in demand.

Collections are only fair.

## THE U. M. W. AND THE REDS

The action of the United Mine Workers of America in endorsing by an overwhelming majority the stand taken by President Lewis in opposition to the outlay strike of 1923, in Nova Scotia should have a helpful influence upon the efforts now being made to compose the differences between the Cape Breton miners and the coal company. Twice during the present convention in U.M.W.A. has challenged the action of Mr. Lewis in deposing local officials of the organization in Cape Breton and upon both occasions the President has triumphed. He has charged that thousands of dollars sent by the U.M.W.A. into Nova Scotia for relief work were used by the former officials for the circulation of propaganda of the Red Internationale of Moscow, with which the Nova Scotia extremists had had sought to ally themselves. He has unsparingly condemned the policy of striking-on-the-job which was preached and practised in Nova Scotia, and he declares that nearly every provision of the union's constitution was broken by those responsible for the strike, pumps and boilers had been deserted and sea water was entering the mines; "the honor of every member of the United Mine Workers of America was pledged to the fulfillment of our contract."

The U.M.W. has none too lustrous a record in regard to strikes and accompanying violence, and the present executive does del in resisting acts and movements of local organizations which recall some of the uglier chapters in the union's history. Had there been no red element in Nova Scotia, there might still have been wage controversies, but there would not have been the same bitterness, nor would the problems have been of the same character, because the political motive by which McLachlan and his associates were actuated would have been lacking. The contention of President Lewis that, but for McLachlan's socialistic sympathies and activities, the wage reduction in the Nova Scotia mines would not have occurred, is not as clear as it might be; a substantial cut in wages was shown to be a necessity in view of the condition of the coal market, and that necessity was acknowledged by impartial investigators. Mr. Lewis was determined to score against McLachlan, and he did score but lower production costs were essential to the operation of the coal-mining industry in Cape Breton last year, apart from the desirability of checking the red movement, and it would seem that Mr. Lewis was talking for effect and not quit, had he acted sooner, "the mines of Nova Scotia would not be working today with one cent reduction."

What he might with justice have said was that the introduction of communism as a factor in the industrial situation of Cape Breton did not make things easier for either side. If those presently in control of the United Mine Workers have set their faces resolutely against red radicalism in the mining industry, the better it will be for both miners and operators, and for the public.

The absence from the present strike situation in Cape Breton of such practices as those which so discredited the strikers of 1923 is a hopeful sign. The issue is a plain one: how much can the company afford to pay for the production of coal, having regard to market prices and prospects? If the miners exact too high a wage the coal cannot be sold except at a loss, and production will be curtailed. Representatives of the company and of the miners can effect a fair settlement if the question is fairly approached, and experience has shown that an unfair settlement—unfair to either party—does not establish harmonious relations and does not mean enduring peace in industry.

**I.W.W. BREAKS OUT IN B.C. ONCE MORE**  
VICTORIA, B.C.—The Provincial Department of Labor moved to settle the strike by which the I.W.W., after several years' inactivity, are trying up logging camps in the East Kootenay country and threatening to reduce interior lumber production seriously.

Acting on the instructions of Hon. A. M. Manson, Minister of Labor, J. D. McIven, Deputy Minister, hurried from Victoria this afternoon on his way to the scene of the trouble.

He will visit various points in the interior during the next few days to investigate fully conditions in the lumber industry, taking advantage of every opportunity to aid a settlement of the dispute between the lumberjacks and the operators. At present between 700 and 800

## Canadian Labor At Inter-Empire Conference Soon

OTTAWA.—Canadian organized labor will be represented at the coming inter-empire conference, representative both of the trades union movement and the political labor movement, which is to be held in London during the British empire exhibition. The executive of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, which has had the matter under consideration, has accepted an invitation to be represented at the conference and representatives will be chosen in due course.

The conference is regarded as one of the most important ever called under the auspices either of the trades union movement or of the political labor movement. Subjects under discussion will, to a certain extent, parallel those considered at the recent imperial conference, namely, development of inter-empire trade, emigration, status of British subjects within the empire, and so forth.

Special interest will be attached to the conference in view of the accession to power of a Labor government in Great Britain.

**Local Branch of G.I.A. to B. of L.E. Installs Officers**  
MONTON.—At a meeting in the Labor Temple offices of the Monton branch of the G.I.A. to the B. of L.E. were installed as follows: Past Pres., Mrs. J. O. McGuigan; President, Mrs. R. O. Jefferson; vice-Pres. D. Cool; Chaplain, Mrs. MacLaren; Secretary, Mrs. W. J. Gunning; Treasurer, Mrs. J. D. Cooke; Musical, Mrs. Herb. MacDonald; Marshals, Mrs. Horace Somers and Mrs. M. Trites; Insurance Sect., Mrs. Frank Cuthbertson; Pillars, Mrs. Sherlock, Mrs. Bannister, Mrs. John Stewart and Mrs. Henry Smallwood.

The installation ceremonies were carried out by Mrs. J. O. McGuigan, Past President, and Mrs. A. H. Fryers, Marshal. A large number of members of the local Engineers' Lodge No. 162, B. of L. E., were present and ex-Aid. John Stewart on behalf of the lodge presented the Grand Auxiliary with a handsomely bound Bible.

Another pleasing part of the ceremonies was the presentation by the ladies of the G.I.A. of a gold piece to Mrs. J. O. McGuigan, the retiring president, as a mark of appreciation of her services to the auxiliary.

After the ceremonies social evening was spent, dancing and games being indulged in until midnight when an excellent luncheon was served.

**Says Trade Will Oppose Masons' Pay**  
VANCOUVER.—It is officially announced that on April 1 the bricklayers, masons and plasterers of the province will demand \$1.12 1/2 an hour wages, with overtime as now, but according to the new rate. The present rate of pay is 90 cents an hour.

It was said that strenuous opposition would be made by the members of the building trades in the city to the decision of the Bricklayers', Masons' and Plasterers' Union. One member of the trade said that the builders had anticipated the coming year as a good one in the matter of construction in the city, but if the intention of the men was put into effect it would have a tendency to retard building activity. He added that it was the intention of the trade to fight the issue and the matter would receive attention at the next meeting of the Builders' Association.

**Prefer Short Time To General Lay-Off**  
MONTREAL.—The C.P.R. Angus shops will close down for four days at the end of this month to avoid the necessity of laying off men. The arrangement has been arrived at by mutual agreement between the management and the men, the men preferring short time to any displacement of their fellow workers during the difficult winter season.

Other points on the C.P.R. system have refused to be parties to similar arrangements, it is understood, and there will be a general laying off of men at the other principal shops throughout the Dominion. Angus shops is stated to be the only centre at which the men have elected to go on short time in preference to having a lay-off of men.

Shorter hours are also being adopted in the textile industry in order to keep the largest number of workers possible employed for the rest of the winter. All mills of

## men affected by the strike, Cranbrook being the centre of the troubled district.

The strike was called about the beginning of the month by the I.W.W., who, on behalf of the men, are demanding official recognition of their organization by the employers, a minimum wage of \$4 for an eight-hour day, and the release of all classes of war prisoners in the United States. The last demand is a remarkable feature of the dispute, and the I.W.W., in attempting to justify it, contend that the majority of the lumber concerns in the Interior are owned by Americans, whose Government they hold responsible for what they regard as a grievance.

The large camp operated by the O.P.R. at Yakk is the only important lumber concern in the district not affected by the strike.

**Fear Log Shortage.**  
The condition under which lumbering is carried on in the Interior country are different from those on the Coast, it was explained here today. There the logging is done in the winter, when the snow facilitates the movement of the logs, and the sawmills, which cannot be operated while the country is in the grip of frost, are dependent for their summer operations on a sufficient accumulation of logs at the end of the winter season. Unless the present dispute is brought speedily to an end the outlook for the mill next summer is very serious.

**B.C. Lumberjacks Go Out on Strike**  
WINNIPEG.—Dominion Government protection for workers now being recruited among the unemployed in the prairie provinces, to go to British Columbia logging camps, against alleged violence of striking loggers, was sought in a resolution adopted by western Canada retail lumbermen, at their convention here, today. A copy of the resolution was forwarded to Ottawa.

One thousand loggers in the Fernie, B.C., district, are now out on strike, called by I.W.W. leaders, delegates speaking to the resolution, declared. Violence already had been shown, and before unemployed from Winnipeg and further west could be taken to the camps, Government protection was required, it was said. The camps now are idle, and 1,000 men are being sought.

Resolutions supporting the Dominion Government immigration policy, advocating mixed farming, as opposed to wheat farming, and supporting the cattlemen's resolution, demanding abolition of the two cent a pound duty on cattle exported to the United States, also were adopted unanimously.

R. Skov, High River, Alberta, for four years vice-president, was elected president succeeding W. P. Dutton. Donald Konants was elected vice-president, and the following were chosen as the board of directors:

Alberta—George Bowker, Ponoka; E. W. Stacey, Medicine Hat, Saskatchewan—Geo. Fuller, Saskatoon; W. Mertz, Weyburn.

Manitoba—Roy Roberts and D. M. McNichol, both of Winnipeg.

**THE GOOD-WILL ROAD**  
It is stated that negotiations between representatives of the United Mine Workers and representatives of the British Empire Steel Corporation, in regard to wage schedules, were carried on in a sustained spirit of good-will. That is to the credit of all the negotiators. Too often, on similar occasions in the past, there has been far too little good-will. But the fact remains now that there has been failure to reach an agreement. Today, more than ever, there is need for maintenance of the spirit of good-will so that the interruption in the negotiation may be for a very brief time only and some solution of the difficulty may be reached.

To make the interruption more than momentary would be easy enough, to create a situation in which there would be both bitterness and anger would be easy; but there lies no profit for anybody in that direction. That way there lies only loss for the miners and loss for the Corporation, and loss for everybody in this part of the country. The hope for both parties to the difference, and for the public which is a vitally interesting third party, lies in a continuance of the spirit of good-will that is said to have been displayed in the negotiations so far so that there may be the most thorough exploration of every avenue to agreement. Fair examination of the other fellows' contentions always helps to bring light.

Agreement is always possible between men of good-will. That is one point for everyone to keep in mind. The other point is that continued disagreement means loss, loss, loss. A fight in which everybody loses,

no matter who wins, is about as great a piece of folly as can be imagined by the most imaginative.

the Dominion Textile Company Limited, in the Province of Quebec will run from 8 a.m. or 39 hours a week instead of from 7 a.m. or 55 hours a week as formerly, to avoid laying off men.

The large quantity of English cottons coming into the Dominion is quoted as a reason why working time has to be cut down.

**J. T. Foster Heads Labor Council**  
MONTREAL.—Pres. John T. Foster, of the Trades and Labor Council, entered upon his fourteenth term of office, when he was elected by acclamation by one of the largest gatherings of delegates which have met in the council's hall on Ontario street east for some time. Several other officers were returned without opposition, and all were greeted with applause by the various local unions. There was some competition for the offices of first vice-president and as there are several candidates for this post, a ballot will be taken at the next regular meeting of the council.

Nothing of a contentious nature was brought before the meeting, which accepted the report of the executive committee without amendment, and also approved the financial report of auditors presented by Gus Franco.

The delegates approved a protest formulated by the executive committee against the rate of wages paid by the Canadian National Railways to its casual laborers.

The executive also pointed out that according to information, quite a number of employees of the provincial Government are far from receiving living wages, and are without provision for sickness, old age, or adequate compensation in case of accident. The committee, therefore, recommended that the council request the Civil Service Commission, appointed to make a survey of salaries paid to officials, to ask the Government to raise the salaries of these employees, "especially those of the labor department, whose salaries are far from comparing favorably with those paid in most other provinces."

A communication was received from Rene Bauset, city clerk, to the effect that the Council's letter, asking that the city recognize the right of the policemen to organize, had been referred to the Department of Public Safety. It was decided to receive this letter and place it on file.

**Appealed for Funds.**  
A fruitful source of discussion before the council, the injunction restraining the garment workers, during a recent strike, was again on the tapis. Delegate Shubert appealing to the delegates for funds to help the union take the decision to a higher court. Delegate Shubert declared that his union was fighting the cause of the labor movement, in its battle against the injunction ruling, and said that the case might even go to the Privy Council, an appeal which would require thousands of dollars.

President Foster was decidedly in favor of the garment workers' cause, but reminded the delegates that the individual unions should shoulder the responsibility as far as the appeal for funds was concerned.

Gus Franco presented the financial report of the auditors, which showed a favorable balance of \$1,646.36.

Nominations for officers were then opened.

President Foster was re-elected by acclamation, as also were the following: Richard Lynch, English recording secretary; J. A. Boland, French recording secretary; Gus Franco, corresponding secretary; J. A. Girard, financial secretary; A. Gariopy, treasurer; Joseph Pelletier, statistician; L. M. Dupont, sentinel.

Elections will be held for the following offices: First vice-president, for which the nominees are J. Duquay, H. Masse, M. A. Alarie; second vice-president, W. N. Dixon, J. Ste. Marie, George Vallieres.

The following were nominated for the position of auditors, of whom three will be elected: C. H. Fraser, J. McLean, B. Drolet and C. Cooney.

**Industrial Crisis In Cape Breton**  
SYDNEY, N.S.—Whether the present acute industrial crisis in Cape Breton will result in another strike of coal miners depends entirely upon the nature of the reply which John L. Lewis will make to the advice which have been forwarded to him by the provisional officers of District 26, United Mine Workers of America.

Without international support a strike is almost impossible at this time of year, and whether Indianapolis is in a position to finance a walk-out, after the numerous debts upon the treasury through the recurring United States strikes of the past few years, is problematical.

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# INDUSTRIAL REVIEW FROM MANY SOURCES

## CAPE BRETON AGAIN

The public in this part of Canada are not without interest in the recrudescence of the labor trouble in Cape Breton, since the coal-mining industry of Nova Scotia is, or ought to be, an important economic asset. Canada's domestic coal resources, though unfortunately distant from the larger consuming markets, are all that stand between the Canadian consumer and complete dependence upon supplies of imported fuel. With labor in Canadian mines owing allegiance to the same organization as that which virtually controls United States resources, the Canadian mines cannot be regarded as a dependable safeguard from a national point of view, but the fact that they are in this country is something, and their development would, under normal conditions, contribute in no small degree to the progress and upbuilding of Canadian industry. The trouble is that normal conditions do not prevail in Cape Breton, and have not prevailed there for some years. As long ago as 1919, the then Fuel Controller, following an exhaustive study of Canadian conditions, deemed it necessary to observe that coal from the Maritime Provinces could not retain its markets unless mining operations could be held down to a competitive basis. "It is not sufficient merely to mine coal. It must also be mined at a figure that will give a reasonable return on capital invested, and at the same time will refund the investment during the life of the mine, for coal is a crop that is harvested once for all."

The owners of the Cape Breton mines have been endeavoring to produce coal upon a competitive basis, that is to say, to bring down the cost of production to a point at which the coal can be marketed successfully in competition with coal from other areas. The attempt has been attended with many difficulties, and some disorder, this being due to the uncompromising attitude of the organized miners, an attitude which, it must be said in all fairness, has not always had the endorsement of the international executive of the United Mine Workers. The wages paid in Cape Breton in 1921 were governed by an agreement entered into in Montreal in November of the previous year, and the rate was, upon an average, 146 per cent. higher than the 1914 scale. There had been an increase of 12 1/2 per cent. under this agreement, but the increase so affected the selling price that coal could not be marketed as readily as in the preceding year; there was a considerable loss in working time and the miners actually earned less than under the former and lower scale. At the end of 1921 the companies, having failed to negotiate a new agreement, gave notice of a reduction of approximately 35 per cent., and this reduction, subject to certain modifications, was confirmed by a Board of Conciliation. The miners resisted and, as a result of further conferences, the management granted some important concessions, but the extremists among the miners were still irreconcilable, and the progress of the industry continued to be hampered by discord, unrest and uncertainty.

The agreement which terminated this week was entered into as a means of terminating the strike which tied up the mines in the summer of 1922, a strike which lacked the official sanction of the union and was attended with sabotage and riotous disturbances. The settlement was based upon substantial wage increases, both to dated and contract men, and was made retroactive to July 15. As the date of its termination approached, negotiations were opened looking to a new agreement, but these negotiations were unproductive up to the time of the expiration of the 1922 contract, and the company posted notice of a wage reduction of twenty per cent., to be effective during the banking season. The miners have chosen to regard this action in the nature of a lockout, which officials of the company say was not intended, and another strike has been precipitated. The situation is unfortunate and the idleness of the miners is certain to be costly, both to the men themselves and to the community in which they live. The relations between employees and employers in this industry have been more or less strained and unsatisfactory for a considerable period, as is shown by the events recapitulated above. The much-vaunted labor laws of the Dominion have failed to bring about any lasting betterment in these relations. A Commission was appointed some time ago to inquire into conditions affecting the allied steel industry of Cape Breton, but, as far as is known that Commission has accomplished nothing of consequence to date. Both the miners and their employ-

ers appear now to be waiting for some word from the headquarters of the United Mine Workers of America, a none-too-proud position for a Canadian industry to be in. Events have shown conclusively that a patched-up peace will not remedy conditions in Cape Breton, and the present strike should be settled only upon such terms as are likely to ensure stability. Such terms should be fair to the miners, but they must necessarily be based upon market conditions; high wages are of no value to the employees if they mean a prohibitive selling price.

## Legal Eight-Hour Day Asked by Labor

That labor as an organization is keenly awake to the needs of itself, and equally well versed on the questions to come before the next session of the provincial parliament was demonstrated yesterday when a delegation from the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada and the Labor Educational Association of Ontario laid many requests before the government.

In brief the recommendations are as follows: That one-man street cars be forthwith abolished, that an eight-hour day be compulsory by law, that women and children be further protected in industry, steps immediately be taken to reduce unemployment, fair wage clauses should be inserted in all government contracts, the Workmen's Compensation Act include in its benefits all workmen whether employed by municipalities, governments and private individuals, and the Mothers' Allowance Act include widows with one child.

Satisfaction in the system of government savings banks as now in operation was expressed and the Adolescent School Attendance Act also met with generous approval by the labor men. Further recommendations were the appointment of vocational directors fully to inform youths as they left school as to the qualifications necessary in the particular line of work they intended following. Proportional representation, election day to be a holiday, one man, one vote; elimination of property qualifications for voting on money by-laws, labor representation on all appointed commissions especially the Hydro commission and the public ownership of all public utilities were all endorsed by the delegation.

## Resents Threat To Make Wage Cut

HAMILTON. — President A. Shaw presided at the building trades council meeting held in Labor temple. All trades reported large numbers out of work. The Welland canal was once again under discussion, and the suggestion by the contractor that the men accept a five-cent reduction in their wages taken up. The consensus of opinion was that it was a small piece of business on the part of the contractor to intimidate the men with such a threat that, in the event of their refusing to accept the reduction, they would be deprived of an opportunity to work for the rest of the winter. The following resolution will be sent to Premier Mackenzie King: "The Hamilton Building Trades Council having had brought to its attention that one of the contractors on the Welland canal proposed, with the consent of their employer, to reduce wages five cents per hour in order that they may carry on during the winter months; the minister of labor the Hon. James

Mulock, has already intimated that if the consent of the workers is obtained that it will certainly be satisfactory to him; "Therefore be it resolved that this Building Trades Council is much surprised at a minister of labor giving his consent to this form of intimidation. No contractor has the right to hold the threat over the workers' heads of depriving them of the opportunity to work if they do not consent to a reduction of wages. And in view of the fact that the contractors have never paid the scale of wages pertaining in the district; we cannot see any reason why the workers should be further exploited. "And be it further resolved that the attitude of the government has taken on the question of emigration in bringing thousands of people into this country, claiming there is work for all, the government should see that this work is kept going and the men fully employed, and not bludgeoned into accepting reductions in wages by unscrupulous contractors."

The election of officers for the ensuing year resulted as follows: President, A. Shaw, local 15, carpenters; vice-president, A. Pullen, local 61, sheet metal workers; corresponding secretary, A. Edgington, local 212, carpenters; financial secretary, W. Allen, local 105, painters; sergeant-at-arms, A. Dove local 2,659, carpenters; auditors, W. Shields, local 700 engineers; A. Pullen, local 61, sheet metal workers.

## World Labor to Confer

GENEVA. — An International Labor Conference has been convoked for Geneva beginning June 16. The main items of the agenda have been fixed as follows: Development of facilities for the utilization of worker's leisure. Equality of treatment for national and foreign workers as regards workmen's compensation for accidents.

Weekly suspension of work for 24 hours in glass manufacturing process where tank furnaces are used. Night work in bakeries. The conference will also be called upon to take action on the report of the Advisory Committee on Anthrax upon the report of Albert Thomas, the director of the International Labor Office, which will contain a general survey of the work of the Labor Bureau during the period from July, 1922, to the end of the year 1923.

## Unions Urge More Work Will Hold Labor Here

TORONTO. — With the hope of speeding up the building trades and thus holding more men in Canada local contractors are being reminded that on work commenced before May 1 they will be able to effect a 25 per cent. saving on wages alone. Business Secretary Walter Thorne, of the Bricklayers' and Stonemasons' Union, said yesterday that the glowing reports of high wages across the line brought back by men returning for Christmas had tended to augment the exodus of labor from Toronto. It was useless to expect the men to remain here in idleness when plenty of work was available in the United States.

## Radicals Declare Sedition Law of Canada Too Wide

HEALIFAX. — Several labor organizations of this city have organized a defence committee on behalf of J. M. McLachlin, at present serving sentence in the Dorchester penitentiary on account of his activity in the Sydney strike. J. S. Woodsworth M.P., for Winnipeg, addressed a labor mass meeting here and stressed the great injustice of which Mr. McLachlin had been the victim. The criminal code, Mr. Woodsworth contended, contained no definition of what sedition actually was with in the meaning of the law and that consequently any court might interpret it as broadly as it pleased. Foreigners in Canada charged with sedition, he claimed, had no protection under the law whatever, even though they might have become naturalized citizens. Referring to his own experience in Winnipeg, he declared that he had the honor of being the first man ever put in jail for quoting from the Old Testament. "Many people are stronger in jail than out," said Mr. Woodsworth. "Out West we have a saying that if you want to get into parliament, first get into jail on a political offence."

Cape Breton locals of the U.M.W. are preparing for a big fight in Indianapolis for the restoration of their autonomy, and an early election of district officers to replace the provisional Barrett regime now in power in Glace Bay. For the first time in years a number of locals are sending delegates to the international convention to represent the interests of district No. 26.

## Scarcity of Labor Difficulty of Year

MONTREAL. — One of the greatest difficulties experienced by members of the International Cut Stone Contractors' and Quarrymen's Association during the past year was the scarcity of labor. This position was dealt with by W. W. Drayer, president of the association, who addressed members at the sixth annual convention which opened at the Mount Royal Hotel. Representatives of the association from all parts of the United States and Canada were present. President Drayer said: "Our biggest difficulty during the year was the scarcity of labor, mechanical labor, stone cutters and machine men. This condition has, however, now been relieved by the reduction of work. But during the summer months, when everyone wanted work, it was impossible to find them."

## Labor Unions to Hold Conference in March

A conference of representatives of labor unions, political associations, and of bodies sympathetic with the aims of labor, such as the International League of Peace and Freedom of Toronto, to take place on March 1, is planned by the Labor Representation Political Association, which has given its consent to a circular to this effect to these organizations. It will probably be the first step toward the selection of delegates to the labor conference to take place in London this year under the auspices of the British Labor party, to which representatives of the labor parties of the British dominions have been invited and have been

asked to contribute to the agenda of the conference. A draft of the business to be placed before the London conference has been received from Rt. Hon. Arthur Henderson, general secretary of the British Labor party, and was considered in the preparation of the circular. The conference to be held here shortly will endeavor to arrive at conclusions upon interpartisan problems.

## Report of U.S. Commissioner of Naturalization

Sweeping changes in the naturalization laws of the United States are recommended by Raymond F. Crist, Commissioner of Naturalization, in his annual report to the Secretary of Labor. Briefly they call for a clearer definition of the special naturalization privilege granted to all honorably discharged soldiers and sailors serving during the world war to conform to peace time conditions; a uniform seaman's discharge certificate for the elimination of fraudulent naturalizations; the use of dispositions to prove residence within the same State in which petition has been filed instead of requiring physical presence of two witnesses to prove State residence; repeal of the prohibitions in the naturalization law against filing of declarations of intention and the hearing of naturalization petitions within thirty days of election days and the posting of naturalization petitions for at least ninety days before hearing; the extension of the period within which unlawfully arriving aliens may be deported for not less than five years after illegal entry and prohibition against their naturalization until at least five years continuous approved lawful residence; the enactment of a provision requiring appeal

registration and enrollment of all aliens as a means of checking the wholesale raiding of aliens into the United States and subsequently their admission to citizenship irrespective of illegal entry in the United States, to facilitate the taking of steps for the deportation of those who are barred under our immigration statutes and to legalize the admission of those found worthy of remaining, placing them in the position where they have nothing to hide so that they may take their place as worthy Americans, side by side with other Americans of similar worth; and that naturalization proceedings be brought entirely within the administrative branch of the Government and thereby relieve the judiciary of the tedious process of naturalization, with the right of appeal from the Commissioner of Naturalization or a Naturalization Commission to the appellate court of the United States in whose jurisdiction the alien petitioner resides. Commissioner Crist's recommendations for this remedial legislation are supplemented by a recital of clearly defined benefits to the candidates for citizenship and the citizenry of the country. They are based upon facts and are consistently in line with the budget plan of efficiency and economy in the administration of the "business" of the Government relating to the process of assimilating the political family of the United States. During the past year 145,084 were admitted to American citizenship, 24,874 of whom were from Italy, 22,621 from Poland, 17,953 from Russia, 16,953 from Great Britain and possessions (except Canada), 12,064 from Germany and the remainder from smaller countries and their possessions. The report shows that 24,384 were denied or rejected for various causes, most of which will be avoided in the future, according to Commissioner Crist, under the recently adopted plan for simplifying the ad-

ministrative machinery by establishing a contract between the naturalization examining force and the applicant for naturalization BEFORE he files his naturalization petition instead of after. Under this plan the field officer will be able to adjust such defects as may be disclosed by his examination and insure the filing of a petition free from the risk of dismissal because of legal defects: "In short, the Government at once becomes the 'friend' of its adopted son instead of acting in the time-old conception of hindering, rather than aiding our foreign born to become citizens."

To improve the citizenry of the country, the Bureau has supplied the public schools of 2,461 communities throughout the United States with 239,995 copies of the Federal Citizenship Text Book and its various supplements. Under the law this text book is furnished by the Government to teach English and citizenship to candidates for citizenship in attendance upon public schools. A notable feature of the report brings out the fact that 22,209 declarations of intention were filed by women under the "Cable Act" of September 22, 1922, which accorded separate citizenship rights to women. The law providing independent naturalization and citizenship for married women has resulted in the extension of women's classes all over the country. Statistics compiled subsequent to the preparation of the report show that women in attendance upon public school classes for adult immigrants averaged thirty-five per cent. of the approximately 250,000 reported to have been enrolled in 1923. In New York City alone 131 classes were conducted for women with an enrollment of 1,257, up to February 1, 1923; Hibbing, Minn. had

six American-ization home teachers each with an enrollment of over 50; Jackson, Miss. conducted classes in 37 homes; Kansas City, Kans. had 30 and similar favorable reports have come from other sections of the country. In spite of the political turmoil in Europe and the tendency, against organized government, the year's work resulting from the cooperation of the Bureau of Naturalization with municipalities throughout the country shows a high wave of optimism and an increasing spirit of Americanism in every locality where patriotic exercises for new citizens were held. Commissioner Crist points out in his report that all of these activities in so far as the cost of administration by the Bureau of Naturalization is concerned, including the cost of publishing the Citizenship Text Book, and the administration of the Naturalization law, are being paid for practically in their entirety from the fees paid by the candidates for their naturalization papers.

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