

CANADIAN LABOR PRESS

A National, Sane Labor Paper

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

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Canada's Woollen Industry is Seriously Threatened

Ruinous Competition of Foreign Wools Under Decreased Customs Tariff and Depreciated Exchange Rates Has Caused Serious Situation

By E. Stanley Bates

Another feature of competition from the imported articles is the merchandising value of the word "imported." It seems that this word has a tantalizing effect on buyers. Moreover, the trip to England and the Continent for buyers of merchandise at the expense of their firms is a very pleasant one. Purchases have to be made to justify these trips. Prior to sailing these buyers have usually investigated the offerings of domestic lines, obtaining prices and samples. Over these, they scour the markets. The orders look mighty good to the British mills to-day. It is a buyer's market. They obtain exclusive rights for Canada of certain lines from smaller manufacturers, substitute fabrics are obtained, novelties of styles and qualities are purchased, and in the great merchandising game at home they put these goods over, using the imported flavor for all it is worth.

These are serious considerations for the domestic manufacturer. He is compelled by the limitations of his market to concentrate on staple lines. Heretofore, that market has been pretty much his own. But this past few years the British goods have gotten into it as well.

Interesting Figures

The extent of the increased importations of these wools from the United Kingdom since the lowering of the tariff is shown clearly by the figures taken from the Government returns. Customs duties were reduced in June, 1922, and again in May, 1923, on the following items when imported from the United Kingdom:—

Overcoatings: The quantity imported during the eight months ending November, 1923, was 25,119 yards, compared with 123,134 yards in the corresponding period in 1922, an increase of over 100 per cent. Imports from the United Kingdom increased by 126,688 yards during this period.

Tweeds: The 1923 importations amounted to 2,914,827 yards compared with 1,741,812 yards in 1922, an increase of over 67 per cent. British imports accounted for 1,210,942 yards of this increase.

Women's and Children's Dress Goods, imported in the grey: 1923, 2,102,228 yards; 1922, 2,312,546 yards.

Imports from France in 1923 amounted to 332,156 yards compared with 111,539 yards in 1922.

Blankets: 1923, 109,936 pairs; 1922, 48,492 pairs; an increase of over 112 per cent.

In the case of wool hosiery the total quantity imported during the calendar year 1921 amounted to 234,789 dozen pairs. During the first nine months of 1922 importations amounted to 343,150 dozen pairs, and during the same period last year they amounted to 530,351 dozen pairs. Cheap woollen hosiery made in Great Britain from cheap Continental spun yarn has flooded this market during the past year. On the basis of actual poundage offerings of this hosiery have been noted here at prices below the cost of the yarn based on English quotations. Surely that is dumping, yet thousands of dozens have been imported without restriction.

The foregoing facts in regard to existing conditions in the woollen industry give some idea of the difficulties confronting our woollen manufacturers. Several large mills have been forced out of business. Few are operating profitably. The situation is steadily growing worse. As already stated, consumption of woollen goods in Canada shows no decline. The increased importations are altogether responsible. Tariff reductions and our failure to protect domestic producers against the competition from countries whose currency is depreciated in outside markets are the cause of these increases. There might be some reason for our present policy if Canadian consumers were receiving any benefit in lower prices. But such is not the case. Any advantage there might be is being absorbed by importers. It is causing a very direct national loss in production and wages.

\$70,000,000 Capital Involved

The woollen and knit goods manufacturing industries in Canada have a combined capital investment of \$70,619,580. The industry is capable of employing some 17,833 workers on salary and wages. Total salaries and wages paid in 1920 amounted to \$15,410,836. The value of production in 1920 amounted to \$77,378,001. The industry is most conservatively capital-

Anxious to Earn the Union Label

Markets in England and Australia Demand It, Employers Find

An interesting situation in the lumbering industry was made known at a recent meeting of the Vancouver Trades and Labor Council, when it was stated that some of the Vancouver woodworker employers had approached the council to learn how their plants could use the union label. It was said that the markets in England and the Antipodes for sashes and doors insisted on the goods bearing the union label.

The Carpenters' Union will endeavor to solve the matter in cases where the interested shops are not unionized. One delegate suggested that to properly earn the union label there should be a straight union connection from the felling of the tree right through the loggers, the mills, the towboats and on to the purchasers. This, it was held by others, was impractical. Another urged that Chinese, Japanese and Hindus be admitted in the unions.

The Dominion fair-wage officer notified the council of the recent federal order-in-council making more clear the powers of the minister of labor re-

We cannot give our money to foreign countries and have it too! Neither will foreign countries pay our taxes and immense overhead expenses. So why take chances? Protect Canadian industries and Canadian industries will protect Canada.

effective means for lightening this burden is the encouragement of national prosperity. Over 50 per cent. of the agricultural produce of Canada is consumed in Canada. This consumption in large part takes place in the urban centres. Prosperous cities and smaller industrial centres provide the most attractive markets for our agricultural produce. If domestic protection was being given an adequate protection and the increased importations only were being made in Canada, producers would be in a better position than they are to-day. This protection applies not only to the woollen and other industries, but to agriculture as well. Protection should be granted to the wool growers of this country. Millions of dollars worth of bacon, vegetables and fruits are imported into Canada annually that should be produced here. Such production in Canada would assist greatly in the prosperity of our farmers.

(The End)

garding the application of the fair-wage clause in agreements.

The council endorsed the Canada Labor Party and affiliated with it. A committee composed of Delegates Scribblers, Pettipiece and Bengough was selected, with power to add to the number, to appear before the City Council and protest against the contracting of the service at comfort stations; also to endeavor to ascertain the attitude of the City Council toward day or contract labor in connection with the expenditures of moneys of proposed by-laws. Delegates voiced very strong opposition to the proposal to charge a fee for use of the wash basins in the comfort stations.

A delegate with a sense of humor said there was a lost owner on the waterfront. When endeavoring to settle the fair-wage conditions of work being done on the trestle at the Spiller job the representative of the Pacific Construction Company told the labor men the work was being done by Spillers. The representative of the latter company said this was not right, the work was being done by the Harbor Board. That board, when approached, denied that it was doing the work. Meantime the work has proceeded to completion.

"Who owns it?" asked the delegate. "Harry Gale," replied a voice.

Two voices, long silent in Trades Council matters, were again heard in the discussions at the meeting. J. Kavanagh, once a prominent leader in the council, and active there when the break-up came some years ago, was admitted as a delegate from the Hodcarriers' Union. V. R. Midgely, once secretary of the council, was admitted as delegate of the Lathers' Union.

How to Safeguard Peace

If you want peace, prepare, not for war, but for peace. This seems to be the leading idea underlying the agreement which was recently concluded at Stockholm of the four northern states, Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Finland. The agreement provides that any cases of dispute arising between these countries which cannot be settled by diplomatic means, is to be submitted to arbitration.

Since war between the northern states seems to be out of the question, some might be inclined to doubt the importance of this agreement. But no one can deny that the northern states are pointing the way which must be trodden, if the idea of guaranteed international peace is ever to take practical shape. Recent experience has shown that the way chosen by the northern states, the way of limitation of armaments and of arbitration, is the one which must be adopted.

Labor Organization in Canada, 1923

Annual Report Issued by Department of Labor Shows a Slight Gain in Trade Union Membership—Decrease in Payments for Benefits by Trade Unions

The figures, published in the Thirtieth Annual Report on Labor Organization in Canada, covering the calendar year 1923 which has just been issued by the Department of Labor, indicate a check in the recession in trade union membership in the Dominion which has continued during the three-year period from 1920 to 1922. Although the year 1923 shows a loss of 25 in all classes of local branches, the combined membership increased by 1,471, the number of branches standing at 2,487 and the membership at 278,092. The trade union system in Canada is composed of (1) local branches of international organizations, (2) non-international bodies and their local branches, (3) independent units, and (4) national and Catholic unions. There are 94 international organizations with branches in Canada, and between them they represent 2,079 subordinate lodges, with a combined reported membership of 203,843. The figures indicate that there are two more international organizations operating in the Dominion than were recorded in 1922, and that the local branches have decreased by 29 and the membership by 2,207. There are eighteen of what are termed "non-international" organizations, the same number as recorded in 1922, with a total of 378 local branches and a reported membership of 34,315, a gain in branches of six and in members of 11,342. The independent units number 24, a loss of one, the reported total membership being 9,934, an increase of 871. The unions designated as "National and Catholic" number 106, the same as in 1922, but the membership, which was reported at 20,000, shows a decline of 8,335. Although the international organizations show a small loss, this group represents approximately 73 per cent. of the total trade union following in the Dominion. The membership of all classes of organized labor in Canada, as reported to the Department for the past thirteen years, has been as follows:

1911	133,132
1912	160,120
1913	175,799
1914	166,163
1915	143,343
1916	160,407
1917	204,630
1918	248,587
1919	378,047
1920	373,842
1921	313,230
1922	276,621
1923	278,092

The above figures speak for themselves. I have before me as I write the report of the proceedings of the Trades and Labor Congress, held in the city of Vancouver last year.

Resolution No. 35 is the resolution on Canadian Autonomy, which was lumped together with the resolution on Amalgamation, by the resolution committee and made a thing of "shreds and patches."

This resolution stated in part that: "There has been, since the inception of trade unionism in Canada, an ever present demand, fluctuating between mild protest and open revolt, for a larger degree of Canadian Autonomy in the growing struggle between capital and labor in Canada; and, whereas, the friction inevitably arising from this unfortunate situation creates dissension, expulsions, secession and a progressive demoralization of our movement sapping its strength and leaving it a weak, impotent weapon for working class action."

Since the Congress, the supporters of Autonomy for our trade union movement, have been charged with an attempt to disrupt, destroy and weaken industrial organization in Canada.

These supporters have endeavored to get at the facts, analyze them and determine what steps should be taken to prevent further demoralization and division, and what additional steps are necessary to build up and strengthen the trade union movement.

There is the alternative of course, adopted by our staunch "internationalists" (?) of burying their heads in the sand, letting things go hang, and shouting "liar" and "disrupter" to any who endeavor to arouse the workers from their sleeping sickness.

The figures quoted above are about as reliable as can be had, and to those who know of the close connections between the international officers and the Federal administration, it can be taken for granted that the internationalists got their fair show.

In spite of the fact that two more internationalists are operating in Canada than in 1922, membership in the internationalists has decreased by over two thousand. This is a small number it is true, approximately one per cent. decrease. The fact of outstanding importance is, however, that the so-called "non-internationalists" have increased in membership by over eleven thousand, representing an increase of over forty-five per cent. These

unions do not include the church or Catholic unions, which report a loss of over eight thousand.

We have maintained that the craft unions are weak, impotent things, and that they are fast degenerating into sick and death benefit associations. We have maintained that to overcome this the unions must be transformed into industrial unions, through the process of amalgamation of the crafts, inside a given industry, so that the workers can cope with the development of industry and the power of capital, to the end that the unions will become fighting instruments of struggle.

Here again the Communist or the left-winger is charged with causing the workers to lose confidence in trade unionism and held responsible for the workers leaving the unions. We should treat the unions as we do a sick friend whom we know is on the road West; in order to cheer him up we tell him that he seems to be improving and is looking much better.

The following statistics prove conclusively that our case is built on facts, not fiction. Almost twice as much has been spent on death and sick benefits as has been spent on fighting the boss. If the report had only been supplemented with the figures for officers' salaries, the picture would have been complete.

Expenditures for Benefits by Trade Unions

The report also gives figures showing the disbursements made by labor organizations for benefit purposes. Of the 94 international organizations operating in Canada, 62 made payments for one or more benefits, the combined expenditure amounting to \$24,176,941, the disbursements for each class of benefit being as follows:

Death Benefits	\$11,833,222
Unemployed and travelling benefits	\$1,291
Strike Benefits	\$3,542,000
Sick and Accident benefits	1,326,633
Old age pensions and other benefits	2,338,795

Five of the non-international organizations reported having disbursed \$42,235 for benefit purposes, a larger sum by 1,655 than that previously disbursed for benefits in any one year by the head offices of the non-international organizations, however, is \$2,201,788 less than the disbursements made in 1922.

Labor Conflicts in Belgium in 1923

The new Government has learnt something from the fall of its predecessor, for the new Prime Minister has recently announced through the press that no change will be made in the existing legislation with regard either to the eight-hour day or to the laws against profiteering. But the reaction has not lost its claws, however. The very last act of Moyer-soon, the minister of Labor and industry in the last cabinet, was to issue a decree, the sole object of which is to take the question of unemployment wholly out of the competence of the trade unions, and to transfer it to state officials. An unemployed person is under this decree compelled to accept work, whether or not he is paid trade union rates. The industrialists are also trying to make difficulties about the index figure. They declare that in many cases the workers consume cheap substitutes rather than good food (for instance, butter and meat) and therefore the index figure is really lower than the Government figures. This is the latest way of reducing the index figure, and therefore of lowering wages.

To Rid Labor of Unclean Element

Ways and means of ridding the labor movement of an element which Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, described as "unclean" were discussed at the recent executive session of the A. F. of L. executive. The matter came up in course of consideration of a dispute in New York City between hod carriers and building laborers and the Building Trades Council. The element Mr. Gompers described as

"prejudicial to the interests of the industry, the workmen and the contractors," but he refused in handing out the official report of the meeting after the morning session to specify as to the nature of this element.

William Green, secretary of the United Mine Workers of America, representing some 650,000 miners in North America, reported on the mining industry of the United States and Canada. The industrial situation both in the Dominion and in the United States, he reported, had improved somewhat, a greater degree of confidence being evidenced by reason of recently reached two-year agreements in the industry.

THE COMMUNIST "UNITED FRONT" IN GERMANY

There is little doubt that the conflicts within the unions between the adherents of the Socialist and Communist Parties will soon come to a head, and that the result will be an open rupture. Moscow gave the lead a month ago, and since then there has been much talk at Communist meetings and congresses of the need for "complete reconstruction" of the German trade unions under the leadership of the Communist Party. The Communist Party of Germany also has issued a manifesto pointing the same way. In this manifesto it is explicitly stated that "in the newly found organizations the good trade unionists, who often get the Communist Party into difficulties, must be kept out as much as possible. The chief thing is to have good Communist leaders, even if they are not skilled trade unionists." This is yet another example of Communist policy on the continent, that is to say, their conception of the "united front." Plans have already been made for an official congress to be held for this purpose this month.

Abitibi Wage Scale

The agreements between the Abitibi Power and Paper Company and the Labor unions for next year have been signed. With the exception of some minor points, the agreements are the same as last year, says the Brake Hustler.

This year's negotiations differ from former years in that the unions and the company dealt directly this year, and not, as in former years, simply as members of groups. International officers of the various unions sat in conference with the representatives.

The men feel satisfied with the agreement and the company as well.

Employers Liable for All Diseases

Quebec, Que.—Under the Quebec Workmen's Compensation Act, employers are not only liable for the death, in jury or lesions sustained by employees, but they are also liable under that law for diseases contracted in camps or lodgings used to accommodate their men.

Such was the decision rendered by Justice Gibson in the Superior Court, when he permitted Silva Perron and Edouard Gendron, two lumberjacks, to enter action for \$250 each against the Brown Corporation for damage said to result from typhoid fever, which they said they contracted while engaged in the camps of the company, in the northern section of Champlain County. Thirteen lumberjacks are alleged to have fallen ill this winter from typhoid and one of them died.

According to the two plaintiffs they contracted the disease from drinking water becoming polluted and they filed a petition to be permitted to take action under the Workmen's Compensation Act.

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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 Congress.
3. In the interests of the Canadian Worker, The Canadian Labor Press believes that Canadian industry needs adequate tariff protection.
4. The Canadian Labor Press advocates fair play to employer and employee.
5. The Canadian Labor Press stands for the betterment of Trade Union conditions in Canada and the welfare of our country at large.
6. The Canadian Labor Press is independent in politics and free from any political influences.

Put Canada's Wealth to Work

We would like to believe otherwise, but there is no getting away from the fact that Canada at the present time is in the throes of a terrible trade depression and why this should be is more than we can understand, for there should be no such thing as hard times and trade depressions in such a wonderful country, and a place that is known the world over as "the land of opportunity."

We attribute it to a weak link in our credit system and a holding back of capital which should be working overtime in the development of the country. There is no doubt about it that the real wealth of Canada is controlled by the minority rather than the majority, and if they hold up the cash so that it is not available for industry, the rank and file is pushed to the wall in a very short time. We can understand why capital should not want to take unnecessary risks and we will concede that the danger signals still predominate to a certain extent; it is our belief, however, that we are too conservative, and Canadian capital is just a little too bashful for its own good. If more confidence was displayed at the present time in the future of Canada, there would be better times all round, and we would soon be reflecting that air of prosperity which is so urgently needed.

We have come to the conclusion that the lack of confidence, which is killing Canada, is largely caused by the irresponsible Government now in power at Ottawa. Their attitude toward Canada's economic position is that of children given authority beyond their mental capacity and which has gone to their heads. They do not even apply the Golden Rule to their activities, for if they did, they would not allow foreign countries to manipulate our markets the way they do and flood Canada with cheap goods while Canadian workmen and Canadian industry are forced to stand idle watching other countries grab what little we have.

GIVE US A GOVERNMENT THAT WILL INSPIRE CONFIDENCE AND CANADA WILL COME BACK TO ITS OLD FORM AND THE LIGHT OF PROSPERITY WILL SHINE FORTH WITH AN ENDURANCE AND STABILITY, FOR IT IS A LIGHT THAT SHOULD NEVER GO OUT IN CANADA.

Hints for a Labor Library

I have often been asked by listeners to my indoor propaganda for a list of books to study, in order that people who have been attracted to the Party by its program should be able to understand the basic ideas of which that program is but an application. Here is the skeleton of a list—it covers a wide field, but so also does the civilization which the books explain or criticize.

A start should be made with Darwin's "Origin of Species" and "Descent of Man," with modern books of comment on the Theory of Evolution (these abound in all free libraries). This will teach the grand idea of the growth of present life-forms from small beginnings, and, above all, that "what is, was always, and always will be," but that human existence implies constant change.

Lewis Morgan's "Ancient Society" will apply all these conditions and lessons of human development to the development of society and social institutions.

It will clinch Darwin's lesson that a good race will ultimately evolve only out of a good social and economic environment.

The next standard works that should be read are Engels' "Condition of the Working Class in England," followed by Marx's "Capital." These will give definite shape to the reader's thoughts.

Lecky's "History of European Morals" will help him to apply toleration in another sphere, and, together with most of Edward Carpenter's books, will inspire the necessary rich love of humanity.

The reader should now be able to follow his own bent and select books wisely for himself, always remembering that philosophy, anthropology, mythology and most classic literature should come within his radius. The right way to study is read and digest a little each day.

A. Feinson.

Children At Sea

Minister Gives Notice of Legislation Relating to Employment of Children

Hon. James Murdock, Minister of Labor, has given notice of legislation to give effect to the convention relating to the employment of children at sea, passed at the Genoa conference of the International Labor Conference of the League of Nations.

The bill will provide "That no child under the age of fourteen years shall be employed on any ship except as permitted under such convention."

Also the bill will stipulate "that a list of persons under sixteen years of age so employed, or a register thereof, shall be kept; that penalties be imposed for violation of the proposed legislation, and that the act shall not apply where all the crew are members of the same family, or the child was lawfully employed at the commencement of the act."

Bricklayers on Strike

Hamilton, Ont.—Bricklayers went on strike here when the contractors refused to accede to their demands for \$1.25 an hour, an increase of 25 cents an hour over last year's rate. About 100 are out, it is reported, but the strike is not seriously interfering with the building program. The largest jobs are the Canadian Westinghouse extension and the \$75,000 addition to the Joseph Church. Many men of the union declared that it is necessary for them to get such a rate, when lost time during the winter months is considered. In other centres, they claim, over \$1.25 an hour is paid. Contractors refuse to discuss the situation, but announced that they would meet shortly.

Would Check Influx Unskilled Laborers

Lodge Protests With Federal and Provincial Governments

Hamilton, Ont.—Support for Mayor Hiltz and his colleagues in the Toronto City Council in seeking to have immigration policies changed so that the

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Influx of unskilled laborers will be checked, was vouchsafed by the Board of Control in this city. The board adopted a resolution in which the city assures Toronto of the fullest co-operation in an effort to have the larger centres of Canada lodge protests with the Federal and their Provincial Governments against the present policy of immigration. It was agreed by the board that in Hamilton during the winter, unemployment had been greatly aggravated by the influx of unskilled workers from the old land who could not be absorbed by industry or agriculture, with the result that they became charges of the city.

Labor in Central and South America

The I.S.T.U. has received from a competent source an account of the position of Labor in the Dominican Republic (Haiti). The report gives a good idea of conditions in Central and South America, and shows how important it is that there should be international co-operation and solidarity. The workers are apt to forget that the sufferings and strivings of their comrades in other countries always react upon themselves, however small and remote may be the country in which Labor is oppressed.

The Dominican Republic is recognized by the world as an independent State, and yet it has had an American Governor since 1915, and it is occupied by an American army. Military rule is nearly always a despotism, and Haiti is no exception of this rule. The workers may only conduct negotiations in the presence of the police, and then only on certain specified points. They have no freedom to develop trade union activities, and they may not issue their own publications in defence of their rights. In the Ministry of Health, especially, corruption is rife. The Ministry takes bribes to allow unqualified persons to practise as doctors and dentists; it squanders large sums of public money, and does not even provide hospitals and ambulance stations for the people. In general, little is done for education, and to make matters worse, the workers are suffering from severe unemployment.

The policy of the United States Government is to protect the Panama Canal, and to establish her supremacy over the whole of Central and South America. For these same reasons, she is endeavoring to force Haiti into the same subjection to which she has already reduced two of the neighboring states, namely, the island of Porto Rico, and the little Central American State of Nicaragua. At the present moment she is trying to compel Haiti to accept an agreement which is very unpopular among the large majority of the population. The agreement itself is part of an American scheme to monopolize the raw materials and agricultural produce of Central and South America; and we need hardly point out that if the United States Government is successful in carrying out this policy, the European nations will be guilty of a crime against the rights of nations. If they look on in silence at this attack upon the independence of a small nation.

The workers of the Republic have issued a manifesto protesting strongly against this aggression by American troops, and pointing out that the American military authorities are treating Haiti as though it were a conquered country. They are levying taxes, raising loans, filling the civil service posts, spending state revenues as they please, etc., etc.

The only ray of hope in this disgraceful state of things is that the Pan-American Federation of Labor is fully aware of it. The Pan-American Federation of Labor, which represents Labor in a large number of the Central and South American States, is under the presidency of Samuel Gompers, the well-known president of the American Federation of Labor. It is not likely, therefore, that the workers of America will stand idly by without

Chauffeurs Have Uniform Demands

Protective Association is Notifying All Employers

Appreciating the significance of the old adage that "In union, there is strength" the taxi drivers, chauffeurs and drivers of motor vehicles of the city have formed the Montreal Chauffeurs' Protective Association and with officials duly elected and the presentation of their purpose, views, objects and claims now in concrete form before the various employing firms and corporations of the city, the long drawn-out disputes and disagreements are expected to be on the eve of settlement.

The members of the newly formed association demand a minimum wage of \$25 per week for those who have been accredited license holders for not less than one year.

A "working week" according to the notification sent to employers must not exceed 60 hours, any extra time beyond that to be paid for on a basis of time and one-quarter.

When the amount earned as shown by the waybills during any one week exceeds the sum of \$100, Association members assert that they will demand a bonus of 15 per cent. over and above their salary.

Uniforms and caps must be supplied by the respective employers

without cost to the chauffeurs' is a clause agreement that has been sent to the owners of vehicles.

In the matter of suspension or dismissal of any member of the Association, the employer shall be required to notify the organization, advising it of the reason for such an act.

Pension Scheme Civic Employees

Toronto, Ont.—Adoption of a definite scheme to govern the pension of all Toronto civic employees resulted from a recent meeting of the special committee of the City Council.

The plan fixes pensions to be paid upon retirement at the age of 60 years, or following 20 years' service, at a minimum of \$624 and a maximum of \$2,000 per annum. Pensions are to be graded according to length of service and rate of salary.

In order to establish the fund, all employees will contribute five per cent. of their salaries, with the exception of heads of departments, who will contribute five per cent. on \$4,500. For all moneys contributed by employees the city will put up dollar for dollar.

SPEECH CLINIC IN MINNEAPOLIS

St. Mary's Hospital, Minneapolis, has opened a clinic and school for the correction of speech disorders, with special classes for children of school age during the summer vacation.

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OUR HOME PAGE

HOUSEHOLD NOTES

ICELAND BRIDES MUST BE ABLE TO COOK MEAL

An old superstition in far-off Iceland is that every bride must invite all of her friends to a dinner in her own home, and every article of food must be prepared by the bride herself. If she is successful in pleasing her guests, she not only receives praise for her own skill, but helps along her younger sisters, who are then assumed to be equally good at cooking, and consequently have a much better chance of getting married.

EARLIEST SEWING MACHINES

The earliest attempt at sewing by machinery of which there is an authentic record, was in 1755, when a machine was patented in England by Charles F. Weisenthal.

WEDDING CAKE ROMAN CUSTOM

The bride's cake of to-day, considered by many an indispensable part of the wedding supper, is a relic of an ancient Roman custom. At that time the Roman bride was expected to prepare a part at least of the wedding feast with her own hands.

VEGETARIANS CONSIDERED THE STRONGEST

Over in Belgium a series of experiments have been conducted on vegetarians and meat eaters. The tests made by the University of Brussels, are said to have shown that in endurance the eaters of vegetables surpassed the eaters of meat by from 50 to 200 per cent.

WALKING STICK NOVELTIES

Walking sticks for women are being made in an interesting variety today. Many of them have a staid, masculine appearance which betokens practical use, others are as frivolous as the crook of a Dresden shepherdess.

THE ONE-SLEEVE DRESS

The one-sleeve dress is here again. It seems to be a happy compromise between the long, tight sleeve and no sleeve at all, since one arm is quite bare and the other amply draped.

NEW LEATHER SHOES

There are shoes of elephant skin being worn in London now. It is not expected that this will become a fad because the source of supply is getting scarce.

FLANNEL COATS

Among the pleasant summer vogues to-day is that of the flannel coat in three-quarter lengths. Flannel is becoming more and more soft and velvety, though less heavy and hot than velvet. These topcoats invariably have fur collars.

THE NEW BATHING SUITS

Bathing suits may be of any material nowadays, including crepe de chine. The bathing suit, in fact, will be one of the most chic and vivid items of the summer wardrobe, whether or not its shadow pink crepe or its printed alpaca ever goes near the water.

RABBIT FUR A FAVORITE

A favorite fur for trimming summer frocks and wraps at present is sheared coney, in white. Coney is, of course, rabbit, and the sheared fur has a certain appealing lightness of quality.

THE NEW VANITY CASE

There is a distinct vogue for leather hand bags and other accessories. One result is a smart little vanity case of morocco in various colors, not much larger than a purse, yet containing all the essentials.

ported at a greater cost than they can be employed in Nova Scotia. Legislation protecting the insurance fraternity had been passed only a few days ago he said, and other classes seemingly able to get all the legislation they desired but "the poor workman has to suffer always."

D. W. Morrison, Cape Breton, believed that the measure was eminently worthy of favorable consideration, particularly as it concerned the steel plant. Steel workers in the United States had the eight hour day. Surely, he thought, the legislation in its wisdom would see merit in the measure that was designed to give the workmen a more equitable working condition.

Formen Way, Labor, Cape Breton, expressed surprise that some of the members who had recommended that three months hoist had not stated their reasons to the House. Steelworkers were working 11 hours daily, 12 hours nightly and 24 hour shifts every fortnight. The corporation had promised some time ago that when the United States Steel works put the eight hour day into operation they would follow suit. They have the law in the United States now by agreement with the operating companies, but they have no such regulation here.

Year after year, he declared, the legislature is surrounding the professional class with safeguards and not only that, he said, but they are making it increasingly difficult for members of the working class to enter professional life. He did not think the bill had been considered properly. If the government had been honest in the sentiment contained in the Speech from the Throne they had, in this bill, been given an excellent chance to make some tangible show of their desire to introduce social legislation in the interests of the workers. He believed that Canada was the only country in the world where men are asked to work such long hours. It was an unenviable form of distinction, he thought.

Premier Armstrong said he objected to Mr. Way making such sweeping statements which were not true. Mr. Way said he had made a statement as mentioned above and that it was true and he adhered to it. He asked the Premier to name a country where men were asked to work such long hours as they do in the Steel works in Sydney. Mr. Armstrong said he had understood Mr. Way to say there was no other country wherein legislation was not in ef-

fect preventing men working such hours and that would not have been true. He suggested that the labor men have patience and await the report of a special commission appointed by the federal government to inquire into the advisability of amending the statutes to prevent overworking steelworkers and others.

Guelph, Ont.—Thomas McPherson, local Labor man, was elected by acclamation as School Trustee for St. James' Ward, to fill the vacancy on the Board of Education due to the retirement of A. E. Smith, who was recently appointed Secretary of the Board in succession to William Tyler. A. Wheatley, who was also nominated, withdrew. There is still one more vacancy to fill on the board, due to the death of J. M. Duff.

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Workers Are Urging Good Social Laws

In their report to President Gompers, the A. F. of L. legislative representatives singled out the proposed conscription of labor for special condemnation. The report, signed by W. C. Roberts, E. F. McGrady and Edgar Wallace names these nine "outstanding measures for which labor is contending:"

- Immigration, for the protection of the American people.
- Settlement of disputes between railroads and employes.
- Child labor amendment to the constitution.
- Workmen's compensation for the District of Columbia.
- Adjusted compensation for former service men.
- Adequate wages for school teachers in the District of Columbia.
- Extension of the vocational rehabilitation act.
- Reclassification.
- Adequate wages for postal employes.

Another Bill Is Given the Hoist

Measure To Provide 8-Hour Day For Building Trades Throws Out

A recommendation from the committee giving a three months hoist to the measure introduced by Joseph Steele, Labor, Cape Breton, giving an eight hour day to members of the building trades and steel workers in Nova Scotia, met with such strenuous opposition at this afternoon's session of the Legislature, Assembly that the debate was adjourned at six o'clock and did not resume at the evening session.

When the recommendation of the committee was reported to the House this afternoon, calling for a hoist to be given Mr. Steele's eight hour bill, the Cape Breton member moved an amendment that the bill go back to committee. He said it was evident that government did not appreciate the value of Nova Scotia workmen and he feared that the time would come when they would realize this to their regret. This was a measure resigned to make the lot of certain workmen more agreeable and would tend to keep the best workmen in the province. If it were thrown out it would only hasten the time when skilled workmen would have to be im-

ports against this provision. In some way the Federal Council of churches has been led into opposing that feature of the Johnson bill. It says that it would be a case of bad faith to pass a law that would abolish the "gentlemen's agreement."

"The gentlemen's agreement" is not a treaty. It leaves to Japan the issuing of passports to those who intend coming to the United States. No one has ever seen this "gentlemen's agreement," and it is believed to be on the same order as "gentlemen's agreements" between corporations for profiteering purposes or for determining wages and the blacklisting of labor.

"It is a verbal agreement. Japan is said to have given a pledge to issue no passports to laborers. However, they come in here as merchants, students or under other classification, but soon throw off their disguise and become laborers."

"There are 100,000 Japanese in California alone. The Federal Council of Churches is also urging that the Japanese come under the 2 per cent. quota. President Gompers has made a protest to that organization and it is hoped that the influences that led it into such error will be exposed."

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Labor News From Coast to Coast

"OUR OVERSEAS COLUMN"

AUSTRIA

Unemployment—Since June, 1922, the upward trend in unemployment in Austria, varying from 92,789, at the close of that month, to 126,734, at the beginning of this Spring, has been decidedly unfavorable.

CHILE

Labor Disputes—A strike of the Valparaiso lightermen, stevedores and seamen, and a lockout of 10,000 building trades mechanics, by the building contractors, are examples of a general restlessness of Chilean employers and workers which is largely due, it is said, to the gradual shrinkage in the purchasing power of the peso.

COLUMBIA

Bureau of Labor—Decree No. 537, of April 14, 1924, provides that there shall be created in the Ministry of Industries a section which shall be known as the "Bureau of Labor," which shall be charged with the strict carrying out of the provisions of Law 53 of 1923, and having jurisdiction in all matters related with Labor legislation and with strikes.

COSTA RICA

Skilled Labor Shortage—Increased building activities, due to the replacing of structure destroyed by earthquakes, have caused a scarcity of skilled labor, particularly in the building trades, so that wages have increased within the last two months by about one half.

CUBA

Immigration—Of the total number of immigrants entering the port of Antilla during the quarter ended March 31st, 1924, 5,653, or over ninety-six per cent., were made up of Haitian laborers, recruited in the Republic of Haiti for the Cuban sugar mills.

DENMARK

Unemployment—During March, 1924 the number of unemployed persons in Denmark decreased from 57,600 to 49,954.

Seamen's Wage Agreement—It is reported that an agreement, which will remain effective until April 1st, 1925, has been reached between the shipowners and the mates' and marine engineers' organizations, under which the latter will receive a wage increase of 5 per cent., together with certain advantages regarding termination of service, etc.

ENGLAND

Shipyard Workers' Strike Settled—The shipyard workers of Southampton, who returned to work, and the lockout of the Employers' Federation has been withdrawn. This action terminates a strike disorder, the consequences of which had spread into Scotland.

Lost Working Days—From January 1st to March 31st, 1924, over 2,000,000 working days were lost, as compared with 1,300,000 for the same period of the year 1923.

Packing-case Makers Strike—Demanding 2d. per hour more than the present wages, which employers stated that they could not accede to, 300 packing-case makers declared a strike on May 2nd. Five firms are involved, and shippers to the United States report a slowing up of shipments because of the strike.

Says Big Number Without Jobs Here

Many Come From Lumber Districts Looking for Employment

St. John, N.B.—At the office of the Employment Service of Canada, at 85½ Prince William Street, a large number of able-bodied men were seated on the benches in the waiting room hoping for some word of employment for them.

William J. Ryan, superintendent of the local office, was busy trying to find employment for the hundreds of applicants who wish work. Superintendent Ryan explained that there were at the present time between 700 and 800 men out of employment in the city and said his office was deluged daily with men looking for work. The applicants ranged from the laborer to some real good mechanics, the latter including painters, carpenters and experts in other lines of trade. At present the only work in progress is the erection of the Stella Maria church at East St. John, the building of a wing to the Protestant Orphan Home, on the Manawagonish Road and a few other small jobs. The entire lot would not employ a hundred men. There is a trench job in the County at which country residents are being employed and the employment situation at this date is much worse than it was at the correspond-

FRANCE

Insurance—Under the laws in force in Alsace-Lorraine, laborers are insured, under State supervision, against retirement on account of age. The premiums are paid largely by the employers, although the workers are assessed for a portion thereof.

Increase Dressmakers' Wage Scale—Leading Paris dressmakers have observed the agreement made with their employees last October, by raising the latter's wages in relation to the increased cost of living.

Labor Shortage—The Ministry of Labor reports that at the close of April, 1924, there was a shortage of labor in agriculture, the metal industry, and the building trades.

Strike of Shoe Workers—Demanding increases in wages of from ten to forty per cent., workers in the shoe factories at Romans (Drome) have declared a general strike.

FINLAND

Proposed New Emigration Law—At a recent meeting of the Emigration Committee of Finland, proposals were drafted for a new emigration law, upholding the freedom of leaving the country but containing new restrictions and regulations looking to the general welfare of the emigrants both before and after leaving the fatherland.

GERMANY

Increase of Land Tillage—The high cost of vegetables and fruit has encouraged large numbers of the city population of Frankfurt to grow their own produce, and a notable revival of interest in city gardening and small farming has resulted.

Unemployment—Unemployment is reported as decreasing in the Stuttgart, Baden and Wurttemberg districts. There is an increasing demand for farm hands, and industries, in general, are said to be in need of skilled workers of all kinds.

German-Austrian Unemployment Agreement—Effective March 3rd, 1924 the German-Austrian Reciprocal Unemployment Agreement of 1921 was supplemented by terms which authorize unemployment relief to be granted by each country to unemployed nationals of the other country residing permanently within its boundaries, provided such unemployed persons are entitled to relief under the laws of the country in which they reside.

IRISH FREE STATE

Unemployment—President Cosgrave in a recent speech in the Dail, is quoted as saying that there were 80,000 unemployed persons in the Irish Free State, most of whom belonged to the agricultural labor class.

POLAND

Unemployment—During the first eight days of April, 1924, unemployment in Poland increased from 113,000 to 115,000 persons, but since that time the increase is stated, by the Government, to have been very small.

SWITZERLAND

Labor Treaty With Italy—During the emigration conference, the Swiss delegation discussed with the Italian Government the conclusion of a labor treaty.

ing time last year, he said. There is a new wing to be built to the St. John Infirmary which will give some employment.

The harbor work is almost nil, there are two steamers in port loading cargo as well as a couple of sailing schooners, a steamer is due to load refined sugar and this work will all be completed in the course of a couple of days.

Many Outdoors—Among the hundreds who are seeking employment in the city are many men who journey to St. John from outside points, a large number coming from lumbering districts. They say that they had been informed that there was work to be obtained in St. John. When told that there was no employment here for them, they state that they will leave the city and make their way to Montreal, where they believe there is plenty of employment.

It is pointed out that there would be plenty of city improvements which should employ a large number of men, but until a bond issue is put through by the Common Council this work cannot take place.

Unemployment Cost Workers Huge Sum

Quebec, Que.—At a meeting of unemployed men held recently under the auspices of the National Catholic Unions, the question of unemployment

as it affects this city, was discussed at some length.

Mr. M. O. Gagnon, who presided over the meeting, presented a report of the approaches made to the municipal authorities. He said that the aldermen had manifested their sympathy with the cause of the men but were unable to contribute in a practical manner toward finding a solution for the difficulty.

Mr. J. E. A. Pin, gave surprising figures to show the loss that was sustained by the men out of work and by the commerce of the city because of unemployment. The day laborers had lost \$7,500 a day in wages, or a total amount of \$900,000 since the unemployment situation became acute, while the shoe workers had lost \$250,000.

Several other speakers also delivered addresses, all of them advocating an immediate effort to solve the problem of finding work for the men.

Farmers Finding It Difficult to Get Help

Are Offering Good Wages for Skilled Men, Yet Many Workers are Seeking Jobs in Cities

While hundreds of unemployed are registered for work in the city, scores of farmers are seeking experienced farm help, but very few of those jobs are being filled.

Pay is Good

A recent bulletin dealing with farm wages paid in Ontario contained the information that from \$29 to \$49 a month, according to experience, was the prevailing scale. Board was included. In the rural districts of this section the majority of farmers are offering what the Ontario report terms the maximum, and some are paying as high as \$59 per month for skilled labor. The wage scale, it can readily be seen, is not to blame for the lack of response. The same difficulty in securing help is being experienced again this year, and a serious loss to farmers is threatened.

Fifty on File

At the office of the Dominion immigration inspector it was learned that at the present time there are fifty applications for farm help on file. For some time past it has been impossible to satisfy the demand, even though scores of immigrants have been placed. The present arrangement is that persons emigrating to Canada and who seek farm employment, are advised to get in touch with the immigration inspector upon arrival. Farmers on the other hand are requested to make known their wants to this office, and during the year scores of new arrivals have been sent to the farms. There is a shortage, however at present, and the great majority of those who have flocked to the populated centers appear to be satisfied to remain in the city and be idle rather than work on the farm.

Labor Opposes Return to Old Plan

Allied Trades Council Declares Emphatically Against Garbage Collection by Contract System

Ottawa, Ont.—Organized labor as represented by the Allied Trades and Labor Association is most emphatically opposed to any return by the city to garbage collection by contract, and to the tactics which it was

alleged certain interested parties, including pensioned off, civic employees are adopting to create a public sentiment in favor of a change to the contract system.

A strong resolution to this effect was adopted at a recent meeting of the Allied Trades and Labor Council, on the motion of President Tom Moore of the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress, which will be presented to the Board of Control by the municipal committee at once.

The subject was brought up by Delegate W. P. Jennings, who told of the statement made by Mr. D. Roy Kennedy, on behalf of the garbage contractors, to the Board of Control, to the effect that if they were given the contract, they would be able to save the taxpayers \$20,000 per annum. Delegate Jennings, alleged that the contractors had in mind to effect this saving by putting the rates of wages paid to the garbage collectors, to thirty-five cents, the same rate, as paid to coal drivers. He asserted that ex-civic employees, enjoying pensions from the city, were conducting house to house canvassing in behalf of the contractors, and that it was also apparent certain of the controllers were in favor of returning to the old order of things.

Tom Moore Opposed

President Tom Moore declared that the city would get a better garbage collection under municipal control, than by contract, and he was very much opposed to any change being made.

Delegate P. M. Draper felt that any attempt to effect a saving to the city, by reducing the wage rates of those engaged in such a job as the collection of garbage, should be fought.

"If these men get fifty-eight and sixty cents an hour for this evil smelling job, they earn every cent of it. In fact, \$1.90 per hour wouldn't be too much," said the delegate. "If there are any complaints to be made about the garbage collection the officials should be responsible and not the employees who I know personally are a hard working crew and do their work with commendable promptitude."

Delegate Patrick Green was also opposed to any change from the present system, and said it was unthinkable that the city should consider reverting to the contract system, in view of the conditions, which had prevailed when it was in vogue before. He found it peculiar that it was the old contractors who were after the job again, and that there was much lobbying in their behalf at the city hall. He knew personally a pensioned off civic official who was making himself very active in the matter.

There was considerable discussion by Delegates Draper, McDowell, Lewis, Cain and Cunningham re the employment of civic labor through the government employment bureau, the contention being that regular employees in the summer should be given the preference by the city for work available in the winter, whether it was of the relief variety or not.

CHILDREN ON THE STAGE

Efelen stage acts featuring children below the legal age for employment have been withdrawn as the result of a recent court decision in Pennsylvania. In this case the State Department of Labor and Industry, of which Royal Meeker is secretary, presented a theatrical manager who presented two children in a so-called "singing, dancing and educational act" for violation of the child-labor law. A fine of \$100 and costs was imposed.

Charter Restoration Coming, Says Green

U.S. Official Optimistic Regarding Future in Nova Scotia District

Montreal, Que.—Nova Scotia miners of District 24, will in all probability have their charter and their autonomy restored before the end of the year, in the opinion of William Green, secretary of the United Mine Workers of America, who stopped in Montreal recently to attend the session of the executive council of the American Federation of Labor held last month.

Just as soon as stable conditions are established and the principles of the United Mine Workers of America are accepted and recognized, the autonomy of the district will be restored and it will be given every right of self government, the secretary said. "In my judgement that will be some time this year."

New Chief Chosen for Service Office

W. S. Dobbs Will Have Charge of Canada Employment Bureau

Toronto, Ont.—Vacant for several months, the position of Superintendent of the Toronto office of the Employment Service of Canada has been filled by the Provincial Government. It was announced recently, by the appointment of W. S. Dobbs, formerly on the staff of the Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment, but better known because of his connection with the Amputations Club. Mr. Dobbs will assume his duties at once.

Previous Officials

The position has been vacant since W. E. Meath accepted a place upon the Federal Appeal Board of Pensions. Mr. Meath succeeded Rev. J. A. Miller, and while he held the position he brought the service to a high state of efficiency, rendering satisfaction to employers and workmen generally. Mr. Hudson followed him, performing the duties while the Provincial Government chose a successor from the host of applicants.

In assuming the position, Mr. Dobbs will be faced with an acute unemployment problem for some weeks at least, since there is nothing in the shape of work in sight to meet the demands from hundreds of men for employment. At no time during the past year have conditions been so difficult for the staff of the office and has there been less work in sight.



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Jas. H. H. Ballantyne
Deputy Minister

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G. S. Ford, Superintendent

News From the Various Trades

Building Workers

The unification is now being planned of the 115,000 organized workers in the building trade. It is hoped to bring them all into the Building Trades Council of the American Fed-

eration of Labor. At present the building trades workers are divided into two rival central bodies, and many unions have refrained from joining either of these. This centralizing action has been accelerated by the failure of the different unions when negotiating separately to maintain a standardized wage scale for the industry.

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