

## QUEBEC CATHOLIC LABOR MOVEMENT SCORED

### RACIAL AND RELIGIOUS STRIFE ARE THE POSSIBLE OUTCOME OF THE GROWTH OF QUEBEC CATHOLIC LABOR MOVEMENT, SAYS MINISTER OF LABOR

Hon. G. D. Robertson Makes It Quite Clear That Government Recognizes Only The Trades And Labor Congress Of Canada.

OTTAWA.—That racial and religious strife are the possible outcome of the growth of the Quebec Catholic Labor Movement was the warning conveyed by Hon. G. D. Robertson, Minister of Labor, to a deputation representing these organizations which met him last week.

The deputation came to submit its programme of legislation which it drafted at the convention held by the Catholic unions at Chateaufort, Que., and the items which provoked the Minister's warning was the request that the Catholic unions be given representation in the Building Trades Conference to be held in Ottawa on May 3 next.

"Last year I pleaded with your organization," declared the Minister to Abbe Fortin, who headed the labor men, "to proceed very carefully along the lines you have been following, for, if it once gets in the mind of the people that in your province for a man to get along in his work he must accept a certain religious guidance, it will not be conducive to the improvement of relations between your province and other parts of the Dominion."

"You have charged discrimination by the department against your union, yet you make it necessary for a member of your organization to be of a certain faith."

"What would be the result if the Methodists, say in Ontario, should band together and ask the employers to employ only Methodists? I am sure that not only the Catholics, but the Protestants as well, would rise against such a movement."

Abbe Fortin charged the department with recognizing only the international trade unions, despite the fact that Catholic Federated Unions in Quebec numbered between 40,000 and 50,000 members. He urged that an equal consideration be given his organization, declaring that such was being done in practically every European country where Catholic, Socialist and Protestant unions existed. He further contended that the labor section of the peace treaty made such provision.

Senator Robertson pointed out to the deputation that the Building Trades Conference referred to had not been organized by the Government, but by members of the international unions and of the builders, consequently the Minister could not dictate to either party that a third party should be admitted.

Further, he explained that the agreement of all nations subscribing to the peace treaty was that each country should recognize associations of employers and associations of labor which would give each class the greatest representation. In Canada these organizations were respectively the Canadian Manufacturers and the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress.

Ernest Lapointe, member for Quebec East, who introduced the deputation, protested against the decision of the Minister in recognizing only the international unions.

### Exposes N. C. U.



HON. G. D. ROBERTSON, Minister of Labor, whose frank statement to the leaders of the N. C. U. has created favorable comment in labor circles.

### SINCE 1912 NO AUTHORIZED RY. WORKERS STRIKE

National Agreements Greatest Factor in Establishment of Efficient Railroad Operation.

CHICAGO.—Negotiating rules and working agreements on each individual railroad of the United States as proposed by the railway executives, would cost the railroad workers more than \$5,000,000 and require the services of more than 5,000 men, it was stated before the Railroad Labor Board this week by H. M. Jewell, president of the Railway Employees' Department of the American Federation of Labor, in presenting the labor side of the controversy over national rules and agreements.

He cited figures to show that 95 per cent of the 1917 railroad shop employees of class one carriers are members of their respective craft organizations and declared that since 1912, when the railway workers' department of the American Federation of Labor was organized, there has not been a single authorized strike of federated shop employees.

"It is also significant that during this time," Mr. Jewell said, "the greatest progress toward the attainment of the national rules and working conditions and uniform rules applying alike to all railroads, was made."

"As representing the Federated Shop Crafts Employees, we hold that an agreement applying alike to all railroads will be a great, if not the greatest factor, in setting to establish efficient and economical railroad operation."

### DISCUSSION OF LABOR PROGRAM IS DECLINED

Manitoba Employers' Association Refuses to Co-operate in Enactment of Legislation.

WINNIPEG.—Charles F. Dolan, acting on instructions from the Manitoba Employers' Association, has declined to enter into further discussion on the labor programme of legislation, according to a letter sent to Premier Norris.

The letter pointed out that nearly all matters had been discussed in what the association considered a final manner last year.

The new question of the eight-hour day which was brought up by the Provincial Legislature, but is a matter of Dominion legislation, in the opinion of the association.

"With reference to your inquiry as to the attitude of the Employers' Association towards the appointment of delegates to act on a joint committee to further discuss labor legislation pending before the House, I am instructed to say that the association is not prepared to accept any such proposal, as it is not a beneficial result would follow from another conference to cover the ground dealt with last year in a manner which was thought was final. I refer to workmen's compensation, collective bargaining and anti-injunction legislation. This re-opening of questions which by negotiation cannot fail to have a most prejudicial effect on the welfare of both employers and employees in this province."

"With regard to legislation which was not discussed last year, such as the eight-hour day question, our council are of the opinion that these matters should be dealt with by the Dominion Parliament and should be dealt with by national law and not by the provinces separately."

"We wish, however, to again assure you that employers are willing to co-operate in all matters in any way affecting the public interest."

### UNEMPLOYMENT SITUATION IN MONTREAL SERIOUS AND GROWING STEADILY WORSE

J. T. Foster, Ex-president of Trades Council, Says Prospects For Coming Summer Are by No Means Bright—Railways Economizing.

MONTREAL.—The unemployment situation is very serious, and is steadily growing worse, said J. T. Foster, former president of the Montreal Trades and Labor Council, this week.

"In addition to the 1,500 men who are temporarily out of work by the closing of the Angus and Grand Trunk Shops, about 18,000 men are unemployed in the city, and many of them have had no employment for the last eight months."

The outlook for employment during the coming summer was by no means bright, he stated, and if nothing was done to relieve the situation the consequences would be disastrous. A number of small retailers had complained to him that they would be forced out of business if their customers did not soon get back to work. He stated that the increased rentals made no difference to them as they could not pay the landlord anything anyway and the result would be that many of them would not be able to collect what was due them.

Mr. Foster said that the labor men had hoped that when building started, conditions would improve, and that the great demand for office, factory and housing accommodation would furnish work for a large number of the men. He far, although from the number of building permits issued there promised to be considerable activity in building trades, this had not come to pass. Nothing was being done to speed up work by the contractors as well as the men were losing valuable time.

The weather, he claimed, was fine for digging foundations and commencing operations, but those who had contracts were not taking advantage of it. The labor situation in the clothing trades was very serious at present, but by the end of April there would be a falling off in orders and a good many workers would be laid off at least temporarily.

As far as the railway shops were concerned, the policy seemed to be to economize so far as help was concerned, and men were being laid off in the face of the fact that although a large part of the railway rolling stock was said to be out of commission.

He wished to be optimistic, he said, and thought the prospects bright for railway construction work in the spring, as it did not seem that any expensive projects would be undertaken in the face of the large deficit of the Government railways this year and the criticism which it had aroused.

### BOOT AND SHOE WORKERS' GENERAL ORGANIZER.



MR. E. W. A. O'DELL, who attended the last convention of the British Trade Union Congress at Toronto, is general organizer of the Boot and Shoe Workers' Union of Canada.

### RUSSIA'S ATTITUDE COMPLETELY CHANGED

British Premier Defends Trade Agreement With Russia.

LONDON, Eng.—Defending the Government's trade agreement with Russia, Premier Lloyd George declared in the House of Commons this afternoon that the agreement was the result of a long and arduous process, and that the attitude of the Bolshevik Government toward trade was completely changed.

"In some of the speeches which have been delivered by Mr. Churchill himself," the Premier said, "it has been claimed that the Russian Soviet Premier was beginning to realize that trade was essential. Mr. Lloyd George continued, that the Bolsheviks could not be expected to take any advantage of the original Soviet theories as unworkable."

The agreement, said the Premier, was a result of a long and arduous process, and that the attitude of the Bolshevik Government toward trade was completely changed.

He ridiculed the idea that the trading community was opposed to the agreement and asserted that the original prediction about Bolshevism which was made by the British Government was completely wrong.

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### SAYS NATIONAL AGREEMENT IS NOT TO BLAME

Root of Railroad Difficulty in the U. S. Credited to Bad Management.

CHICAGO.—The root of the railroad difficulty in the United States is not in national agreements but in the inadequate management, declared W. Jeff Lauck, consulting economist of the railroad labor organizations, in beginning presentation of railroad labor exhibits before the United States Railroad Labor Board on Tuesday.

Mr. Lauck said that the series of exhibits which he was about to present, would establish the following facts:

1. The policy of establishing national agreements or uniform rates of pay and working conditions in the transportation industry and in accordance with the best public policy, as shown by the awards of boards of arbitration, and the acts and recommendations of other official agencies during the pre-war period.

2. In other leading industries of this country collective bargaining on a national scale, and national agreements as to working conditions and relations, have been found to be the best means of stabilizing conditions, promoting industrial peace, and accelerating production.

3. That in Great Britain these facts have become so clearly recognized by both employers and employees that national agreements are encouraged by the Federation of Trades Unions as a whole, and the effort is being exerted to make them compulsory upon all employers and employees in a given industry.

4. That the former railroad administration in entering into national agreements, therefore, was in fact recognizing a tendency which had almost reached complete development prior to the war, and which was sanctioned by the opinion both within and without the transportation industry.

5. That the representatives of the railroads have given their sanction to national rates of pay and working conditions in engine and country.

6. We shall further show that the arguments of the railroads are the same which have been urged in all past years to prevent the establishment of a temporary industrial depression to destroy human standards, which are sanctioned by the thought and practice of the leading industrial nations of the world.

### EMIGRATION QUESTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED

Canadian Council of Immigration of Women to Meet at Ottawa, April 5.

OTTAWA.—The Canadian Council of Immigration of Women is expected to meet in Ottawa, April 5, in the North Building. Mrs. William Dennis, of Halifax, will preside over the council, which convenes for the formation of new aims and plans. The secretary, Mrs. R. Keel, presided recently and arrangements are to be made for carrying on her work, though it is understood a new secretary will be appointed. Among those expected to attend the meeting are: Hon. Mary E. Smith, of Vancouver; Lady Falconer and Mrs. Vincent Murray, of Toronto; Mrs. Dennis, Mrs. W. D. Speers, of Calgary; Mrs. Colin Russell, of Montreal; Mrs. M. E. Lawrence, St. John, N.B.; Mrs. Gordon Wright, Lady Pope, from Moore, and Frank MacNeil, and Mrs. Charles Robson.

### EUGENE V. DEBS CALLED TO WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON.—Eugene V. Debs, now serving a prison sentence at Atlanta for violation of the Espionage Laws, called to Washington last week and conferred with Attorney General Daugherty regarding the investigation of his case. Among those connected to the case are: Hon. W. D. Speers, of Chicago; Hon. C. W. Clegg, of St. Paul; Hon. C. E. Quinn, of St. Paul; Hon. C. E. Quinn, of St. Paul; Hon. C. E. Quinn, of St. Paul.

### DECIDE TO SECEDE FROM LABOR PARTY

Minority Faction of British Labor is Peeved.

SOUTH PORT, Eng.—The minority faction of the Independent Labor Party, the extreme wing of the British Labor party, decided at a meeting here to secede from the party and join the Communist party. The seceding element was defeated in the Independent Labor party's convention on Monday when it presented a report favoring acceptance of Moscow's conditions for affiliation with the Third International, the card vote against affiliation standing 121 to 97.

### ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR EMPLOYMENT BUREAUS OF PROVINCE OF ONTARIO

Bill Gets Second Reading - It Was Opposed by Member For Ottawa East and Others.

TORONTO.—A measure described by R. M. Warren, U.P.O. member for Renfrew, as "an innocent-looking bill" drew fire last week in the Legislature when introduced for second reading by Hon. Walter Ross.

The bill, which provided for the establishment of employment councils, both provincial and municipal, was vigorously condemned by Chas. McCree, Sodbury; J. A. Pinar, East Ottawa, and R. R. Hall, Parry Sound. All opponents of the measure took the ground that it simply tended to inaugurate a new bureaucratic system governing employment, and that it meant the abolition of private employment agencies.

Premier Durney defended the principle of the bill, which, he said, was not framed in any way for the abolition of private agencies. The machinery to be created would be without salary, the Provincial body on a per diem basis, and both purely of an advisory character. Unemployment, he said, was acute and general and he had the hope that the measure might help the situation of labor direction, especially in emergencies that might easily arise.

H. M. Dewar, Liberal Leader, criticized the bill chiefly on the score of the unlimited powers which he claimed it vested in the Government in respect of the control of employment.

The bill received second reading.

### PUBLIC SERVICE PERFORMED BY LABOR MINISTER

President Moore, of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada Endorses Labor Minister's Stand.

OTTAWA.—At a meeting of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada last week, a motion was passed expressing its approval of the stand taken by the Minister of Labor with regard to the Quebec Catholic Labor movement.

The minister wanted a deputation from the National Catholic Union that a continuance of its policy would create a religious and racial bitterness in the province of Quebec and those of other provinces.

"Our estimation," said Mr. Moore, "is that the stand taken by the Minister of Labor with regard to the Quebec Catholic Labor movement is a public service in making public the situation as it exists in a certain section of Quebec."

"The international trades union movement feels that it must be on the right ground. The One Big Union and other extremists accuse it of being dominated by a radical influence. For that reason the latter claim the right to establish a labor organization composed of those of the Catholic faith."

"As a matter of fact the international trades union movement in the Province of Quebec contains a greater number of members of the Catholic faith than does the so-called National Catholic Union."

### UNION HATING EMPLOYERS BEING 'BLED.'

BOSTON.—There is an abundance of schemes to extract funds from union hating employers, says the Boston Workers' Journal. They are constantly being devised for various professional schemers who, for suitable compensation, will undertake to smash the unions.

Fortunately there are numbers of broad and fair minded employers who will and do turn these documents over to labor representatives. Hence the unions know every offer of that kind that is made.

### RE-EDUCATION OF THE INJURED WORKMEN.

TORONTO.—The Industrial Rehabilitation Committee of the Ontario Legislature met last week and recommended that the Ontario Compensation Act be amended to provide for re-education of injured workmen in the province.

The bill when introduced will be known as the Industrial Rehabilitation Act, and is being prepared by a special committee of the Legislature. It will provide for re-education of injured workmen and will also provide for assistance in securing suitable employment.

### MANY BOOT AND SHOE MANUFACTURERS SEEK UNION STAMP.

BOSTON.—We are glad to say that there is an increasing interest in the Union Stamp. We are having inquiries from concerns not hitherto interested. More and more concerns are being made up to our wonderful proposition. We are having inquiries from concerns not hitherto interested. More and more concerns are being made up to our wonderful proposition.

### FEDERAL EMPLOYEES TO START ORGANIZING CAMPAIGN.

OTTAWA.—At a meeting of the executive of the Federal Union of 64 Associated Federal Employees of Ottawa, last week the offer of a member of the union to contribute \$50 for each prize to those bringing in the largest number of new members, was accepted. Details of the prizes and conditions will be announced later. The bonus announced was \$50,000, and a statement commending the offer was authorized for publication. It was decided to make no comment for publication upon the recent convention of the Civil Service Federation.

### BRITISH RAILWAYMEN MOVE FOR NATIONALIZATION OF RAILWAYS.

LONDON, Eng.—J. H. Thomas, president of the Railwaymen's Union introduced into the House of the Commons last week a bill for the transfer of the Railways of Great Britain to the Ministry of Transport with a view to their becoming the property of the Government.

### SAY THEY ARE FED UP ON LEFT-OVER FOOD

TORONTO.—Porters, doormen, chambermaids and bellhops who are employed in some of the larger downtown hotels at Toronto are protesting against the quality of food which is served them.

It was stated last week that the Waiters' Union will be asked to take up the matter with the managers, while the medical officer of health will also be informed as to the quality of the food which is served to the hotel help around hotels.

The reason the Waiters' Union will be asked to take up the matter is that they are the only employees who are organized. The meals which are served to hotel employees are given them in lieu of wages, and their correspondence was told by some of the originators of the protest that they would prefer to receive more wages and pay the hotel bills themselves.

They claim that the food they receive now is generally what is left over from previous days, and in some cases it is left over from the previous day for human consumption.

### BOAT AND SHOE WORKERS' WAGES AND CONDITIONS IN EUROPE.

Before General Organizer E. W. A. O'Dell, of the Boot and Shoe Workers' Union, left for Great Britain to attend the last annual convention of the British Trade Union Congress the General Executive Board of the Boot and Shoe Workers' Union commissioned him to make such investigation as he found possible into wages and working conditions of shoe workers in such European countries as he might visit on the trip.

The union operates a sick benefit and has paid out \$14,521, 13c, 6d, (\$14,521.13). An Out-of-Work fund was started in 1916, out of which there has been paid, \$39,815, 17c, 6d, (\$39,815.90).

A Political Fund is also maintained, from which fees are paid to a National Labor Party to which the union is affiliated. Payments are also made from this fund to members occupying public positions.

The National Union is not without its rival organizations. At the present time there are two organizations in the Boot and Shoe Union in the United States and in Canada.

The report of Mr. O'Dell follows:

Mr. C. L. Baines, Secretary, General Executive Board, Boot and Shoe Workers' Union, 248 Summer Street, Boston, Mass., Dear Sir and Brother:—Having been requested by the General Executive Board of the Boot and Shoe Workers' Union to make such investigation as he found possible into wages and working conditions of shoe workers in such European countries as he might visit on the trip, I have the honor to report to you the results of my investigation.

While in England, I had the opportunity, through the courtesy of the officials of the National Union of Boot and Shoe Operatives, of learning something of the operations of the above named union.

The National Union of Boot and Shoe Operatives was organized in 1874 and at the present time has 104,000 members, 80 per cent of whom are females.

Arbitration has been the policy of the union for many years. Since 1885, when they had a general strike and lockout, they have been working under what is known as the "Terms of Settlement," which was drawn up under the chairmanship of a representative of the Government, by which both sides bound

### N. S. SCHOOL TEACHERS FORM FEDERATION.

TRURO, N.S.—A representative gathering of the school teachers of Nova Scotia at the Truro Academy last week, made definite plans for a teachers' federation in the province. It was decided to approach the provincial government as a body to take up the matter of educational importance to the province. The teachers particularly deplored the fact that rural schools of the province are being closed by teachers holding low grade or permissive licenses.

### WHY NOT ADD MONEY TO PAY ROLL INSTEAD OF WAR FUND?

BOSTON.—If all the money spent in the effort to destroy union labor were added to the pay rolls, there would be much better wages and conditions of employment, according to the Shoe Workers' Journal.

Employers become very angry when it is suggested that the workers take over the control, direction and management of industry. That is just the feeling the wage matters have when employers attempt to subject workers to paternal direction and oversight in all their working life. A fair view of the other fellow's side is always helpful.

### NO JUSTIFICATION FOR WAGE REDUCTION

Boston and Shoe Workers' Journal Issues Warning.

BOSTON.—Once more we declare there is no present justification for reductions in wages, says the Shoe Workers' Journal.

Neither rents, fuel nor transportation costs have declined. There have been no reductions in food, clothing and other necessities and these are still very high and far beyond the pre-war level.

The desire of some employers to undersell some of their competitors is not a legitimate reason for reducing wages. None of them can guarantee that they will be able to employ even if they secure a reduced wage rate.

Wage earners who have suffered from a loss of work will not solve their problem by accepting reduced wages. Wage earners do not improve their condition by cutting the wage rate. The only course is to wait until business resumes normal volume and then deal with the situation as it may then exist.

### MEXICAN GOVT DEMANDS UNION MADE ARTICLES

Machinists' Organization is Compiling Information Concerning Machinery, Etc.

TORONTO.—President William H. Johnston, of the International Association of Machinists, Washington, D.C., has asked John Munro, business agent of the Toronto district, to give him the names of any firms in this locality manufacturing fire apparatus, farm machinery and implements, well drilling machinery, automobiles and tractors, who are "fair" to union labor.

Mr. Johnston says he has been asked for this information by the Mexican Government which is now on a strike basis and prepared to spend several million dollars annually in commodities needed for the development of the country.

Mr. Johnston's letter is as follows: "We are in receipt of a communication from officials of the Mexican Government who are planning to purchase all the supplies from factories fair to organized labor."

"As they desire we furnish them a list of firms in the United States and Canada engaged in the manufacture of such fire apparatus, farm machinery, well drilling machinery, automobiles and tractors, who are 'fair' to union labor. I am sure you will be able to furnish me with a list of firms who can supply the Mexican Government with the above mentioned commodities. This is a very important matter and we are sure you will be glad to assist us in this matter."

"We also have an additional request of a similar nature for union firms from whom the Mexican Government can purchase quantities of farm machinery and implements, well-drilling machinery, automobiles and tractors to the extent of several millions of dollars each year."

"We request you supply us with a list of firms who can supply the Mexican Government with the above mentioned commodities. This is a very important matter and we are sure you will be glad to assist us in this matter."

"The Mexican Government, according to officials of the machinists' organization, has struck labor conditions. This is a very important matter and we are sure you will be glad to assist us in this matter."

Editorial Page of The Canadian Labor Press

DANIEL McCANN, Manager. CHAS. W. LEWIS, Circulation Manager. J. A. F. HAYDON, M.C., Editor.

OFFICIAL ORGAN ALLIED TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL OF OTTAWA. ENDORSED BY Hamilton District Trades and Labor Council. Hamilton Building Trades Council. Associated Federal Employes (Every member a subscriber.)

The Canadian Labor Press PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY THE CANADIAN LABOR PRESS, LIMITED. Editorial Office: JOURNAL BLDG., OTTAWA. Toronto Office: 50-52 PAGE BLDG., 45 JARVIS ST. Owned and Controlled Exclusively by Organized Labor. Every Member of the Executive Staff Union Men.

C.B. OF R.E. THE "Big Smoke" of the C. B. of R. E. has issued a lengthy statement to the press in an endeavor to gain some personal glorification from opponents of the International Trades Union Movement in Canada. Mr. Tom Moore, president of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, is singled out in the "Big Smoke's" attack. However, in his endeavor to discredit the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, the "Big Smoke" of the C. B. of R. E. has made some misstatements.

The C. B. of R. E. cannot be classed among the International Trades Unions. In the last issue of the Canadian Railroad Employes' Monthly, the editor of that journal, who is also secretary-treasurer of the C. B. of R. E., has the following to say: "All Labor Unionists throughout Canada, who are opposed to international domination in their trade union affairs, and who are out to secure a full measure of National Autonomy, will rejoice that the Brotherhood has won such a splendid victory."

This is directly contradictory to the assertion that the C. B. of R. E. is an international labor organization. The "Big Smoke" in his statement says that the C. B. of R. E. had no representatives at a conference of the anti-international organization in Toronto recently with the object of forming a rival organization to the Trades and Labor Council in this city, and a rival organization to the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada. "Such a statement," he says, "has no foundation whatever in fact."

NATIONAL AGREEMENTS. DETERMINED efforts are being made in the United States to destroy the national agreements on the railroads. All of the great International Railroad Labor organizations insist on the continuance of national agreements. The railroad operators, for reasons best known to themselves, are endeavoring to destroy the trades union movement by nullifying the authority of the United States Railroad Labor Board. Canadian railroad workers are watching very carefully events on the United States railroads for it is certain sure that if national agreements are disbanded in the United States Canadian railroad operators will adopt the same procedure.

EIGHT-HOUR DAY IN MANITOBA. THE Manitoba Employers' Association has notified the Manitoba Provincial Government that they will not co-operate in the matter of social and labor legislation. Manitoba employers also state that the eight-hour day is one of Federal jurisdiction, and warned the Norris Government that they will contest any enactment of eight-hour day legislation in that province. The eight-hour day question is one that has perhaps occupied more attention than any other one so far as the workers of this country are concerned. It has been a political football for years, and Canadian workers had expected that by the adoption of the Labor Chapter of the Peace Treaty that this legislation would soon find its way onto the statute books of Canada. However, the Federal Government claims that it has no jurisdiction and that the competent authority for the enactment of this legislation is the various Provincial Governments.

The Trades and Labor Congress of Canada sug-

POLITICS AND PEOPLE THROUGH THE TELESCOPE OF LABOR

House of Commons, Ottawa, March 24, 1921. By J. A. P. Haydon. Parliament was in session 28 days before it adjourned for the Easter recess. Little legislation of a concrete nature has been enacted. Much of the time of the House of Commons has been taken in the discussion of the question of confidence in the Government. The leader of the Opposition has lost no opportunity in driving home his point that the present Government has not the confidence of the people. Hon. W. Mackenzie King has not always been on solid ground in his arguments against the Government, but whether one agrees with his views or not, he has conducted an offensive campaign up to the time the House adjourned. He was successful in the first division of the House in enlisting the support of the Agrarians. This was on the adoption of the Speech from the Throne. The leader of the Opposition moved a "want of confidence in the Government" as an amendment, and the Agrarians voted against the Government.

Just before the Easter recess, Sir George Foster moved the Government to resolve itself into a Committee for Supply to consider estimates for the Department of Trade and Commerce. Mr. King at once moved an amendment that, subject to the usual reservation respecting confidential documents, all papers, documents, etc., bearing on any branch of the public service, including the Canadian National Railways, should be made available to all the Provincial heads and settle the question.

Should this conference take place, and Canadian workers are very hopeful that such will be the case, we believe that uniform action will be decided upon. Should the conference decide unfavorably on the question then the Canadian Government may appeal to the Imperial Government and have amendments made to the British North America Act to allow the Federal Government authority to enact this legislation and thus carry out this Peace Treaty obligation.

"SELECTED" IMMIGRANTS. MUCH has been said in Canada during the past six months on the question of immigration. The Canadian Government has on many occasions stated that only farmers were being encouraged to emigrate to Canada. We have drawn to the attention of our readers from time to time the campaign being conducted in Great Britain by Immigration Recruiting Agents of the Canadian and Provincial Governments.

Recently five hundred immigrants were brought to Ontario by the Provincial Government. These immigrants, all ex-service men, were selected as fit settlers for the land by Major Clarke, the Immigration Agent for the Province of Ontario.

In the Daily Despatch, published at Manchester, on March 11, the following item appears: "The men are to be conducted personally from Liverpool by Major Clarke, who will sail with them on board the Empress of France. They are a splendid lot. Some of them have more or less private means, but the Government of Ontario undertakes to see them all settled either as farmers, OR AS FARM WORKERS, SEEKING EXPERIENCE WITH A VIEW TO SUBSEQUENT FARMING ON THEIR OWN ACCOUNT."

The Canadian Labor Press has frequently stated that there is no objection in bringing to this country farmers and farm laborers, but the above item shows that men are being brought to this country from industrial centres and being placed on the farms to meet the desire of Immigration Regulations. When one considers the wages paid to farm laborers in the Province of Ontario, at the present time—\$15.00 to \$40.00 per month—it will be considerable time before these intending farmers will have sufficient funds to allow them to take up active farming in Ontario.

That these men actually did arrive in Canada is evident by a report which appeared in the Toronto Globe on March 23, which states: "Five hundred immigrants who came to Canada on the Empress of France arrived in Toronto on Monday morning and within twenty-four hours after their arrival they were dispatched to various parts of Ontario. The party was brought out by the Provincial Government and was in charge of Major J. Clarke of the London, England, office. The newcomers were all from the British Isles."

Canadian workers are not satisfied with the present method of recruiting immigrants in Great Britain, and until the policy of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada is adopted, there will be no confidence in the Canadian Immigration Department. The Canadian Government will be doing a public service by the adoption of the workers' policy, which will assist in the building of a greater and better Canada.

NATIONAL CATHOLIC UNIONS. ELSEWHERE in this issue may be found a report of a conference held at Ottawa, during the past week, between representatives of the N.C.U. and the Labor Department. Hon. G. D. Robertson, the Minister of Labor, turned the searchlight of public gaze onto a movement that has for its purpose the destruction of the International Trades Union Movement in the Province of Quebec.

The Minister's statements have been received favorably throughout the country. Mr. Tom Moore, President of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, states that the Minister of Labor has performed a great public service in exposing this organization. Mr. F. Lafortune, a leading French-Canadian Roman Catholic of Ottawa, also commends the Minister's action.

Workers of this country should study well the attitude of Mr. Ernest Lapointe, the member for Que-

bec East. Mr. Lapointe is looked upon as a possible Premier of Canada, and is the leader of the Quebec Liberals at the present time. This fact should not be lost sight of by the workers in any future election in Canada.

IMPERIAL CONFERENCE. MR. W. A. Appleton, Secretary of the General Federation of Trades Unions, speaking at the Liverpool (England) Chamber of Commerce, recently, on the question of emigration said: "AN IMPERIAL CONFERENCE IS SHORTLY TO BE HELD. I HAVE NO WISH TO DETRACT FROM THE DIGNITY AND CAPACITY OF THE MEN THAT ARE COMING, BUT I AM CERTAIN THAT THE SOLUTION OF THE PROBLEMS OF EMIGRATION WOULD BE UNDULY DELAYED IF THE TRADES UNIONS OF THE TERRITORIES CONCERNED, WHOSE BUSINESS IT IS TO MAINTAIN WAGE STANDARDS AND DECENT CONDITIONS, ARE NOT INCLUDED IN THE CONFERENCE."

So say all of us.

SOME ONTARIO FURNITURE FACTORIES RE-OPEN ON 10-HOUR DAY BASIS. Monthly Trade Report of Carpenters Predicts Fight Against Wage Reduction in Some Parts of Province. Trade is slowly improving in most parts of the province, and it is to be hoped that within the next month most of the members will be back at work, but every member will have to be active and make himself a business agent, as the fight has already started in some places within the province to cut the wages, says the Monthly Trade Report of the Ontario Provincial Council of Carpenters. It is reported that some of the furniture factories which have been closed since the beginning of December, have started on the 10-hour day, also there has been a reduction in wages of from 15 to 25 per cent. There is no need of this; the cost of living has not come down to that extent, and the workers had to bear the brunt of when the prices were rising. The only solution to this

question is that the workers must organize and show more interest in their own condition. We are in receipt of information that France, Spain, Italy, Holland, Belgium and Germany have put the 8-hour day into law. England is considering the matter. Canada is passing the buck at the present time to the provinces. The whole reason is that the Canadian worker does not seem interested. The Building Trades have enjoyed the 8-hour day for some years, but there are plenty of other trades who are still working 10 hours. It is up to every worker to get busy and show the employers that we want more than a bare existence, and that we are interested in our fellowmen. The best time for doing anything is the present; attend your meetings; get the other fellow to join, and do your share, then the other fellow will do his.

BOOT AND SHOE. Continued From Page One. used in the construction of shoes is the same as used in the United States and Canada. I did, however, see some machines of German and Norwegian origin. My impression is that hand work, that is to say, operations done by hand, is more prevalent in Europe than on this side of the Atlantic. Trade is extremely bad in the United Kingdom and as a consequence unemployment is prevalent in the shoe industry, practically all of the factories operating below normal. This matter has its effect upon the growth of the National Union. Cost of living in England has risen 143 per cent. The Local Union Headquarters were visited by Secretary Position and myself in both the above mentioned cities, and most courteous treatment was accorded. In company with E. L. Pouton, I attended the 18th National Congress of the Federation of Leather Workers of France, held in the General Federation of Labor Hall, Paris, from September 29 to September 30. The opening session was rather short, the appointment of committees being the only business dealt with. No address of welcome were delivered. There were 78 delegates present, also fraternal delegates from Belgium, Alsatia-Lorraine, Great Britain and Germany. Immediately upon the opening of the second session of the congress, fraternal delegates were called upon to make their addresses, which outlined the work being carried on by their several countries. Considerable time was spent discussing whether or not the press should be admitted, and I gathered that it developed into a discussion as to whether they should take part in the Third Internationals at Moscow. After two days' discussion, no decision was apparently reached on this matter. Political matters occupied the greater time of the gathering, almost to the exclusion of industrial matters. In fact, it was only the last day that industrial matters were discussed. The congress decided to increase the dues from 1 franc (\$1.25) to 4 francs (\$5.00). A proposal was made that female members should pay half this amount, but was not carried. Dues were increased from 1 franc 50 centimes

(\$2.25) to 4 francs (\$7.77) per day, travelling assistance from 3 francs (\$3.75) to 5 francs (\$11.25). The secretary's salary was increased from 800 francs (\$154.40) per month to 1,000 francs (\$192.00). My impression is that the men in France received 3.5 francs (\$.65) to 4 francs (\$7.77) per hour and women 2.25 francs (\$.44) to 3 francs (\$5.62) per hour; that 48 hours was the average working week, with Saturday afternoons off, and that piece work was the general system. During the congress I met President Simon of the German Shoe Workers' Union, who gave me to understand that shoe workers in Germany were about 30 per cent. organized, with about 100,000 members, 47 per cent. of whom are females. The male operatives earn about 8 marks per hour (\$1.19). The cost of living is abnormally high in Germany. The cost for a family of four in 1914 was 28 marks (\$5.47) per week. In September of 1920 was 263 marks (\$62.59). President Simon gave me the following figures, which are interesting by the way, comparison in connection with the high cost of living, showing as they do the percentage of increase as between England and Germany:

Table with 3 columns: Item, England, Germany. Rows include Food, Clothing, Lodging, Coal, Gas.

Before this year is over Europe will be one Great Soviet Republic. -Manifesto of Communist International, April 29, 1920.

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# RETAIL CLERKS SEEK 100 P. C. ORGANIZATION

### Ottawa Salespeople Urged to Join Only Movement Which Will Protect Them.

OTTAWA—Local Union No. 353 of the Retail Clerks, International Protective Association, are conducting an organization campaign throughout the Capital City. Sales people in all of the retail stores in the City of Ottawa are urged to identify themselves with an organization that stands for the protection of its members at all times.

The following appeal has been issued by the local organization and every retail store should see that sales people, not now members of the retail clerks' organization, are acquainted with the facts and urged to become members of the organization with the least possible delay. The appeal follows:

We beg to call your attention to a question, which you will undoubtedly think worth your while to consider.

At the present time when we hear so much concerning the reduction of wages, the question assumes importance to every sales person.

Would you, as salespeople, be willing to accept lower wages than you are receiving? Could you accept a reduction and be able to meet the demands of present-day prices?

Unless you are willing to have your wages cut there is no time to lose in fortifying your position, for the attempt will be made with our people the same as is being done in other craft.

Government has already been started to put wage reductions into effect in the retail industry and this is accomplished by discharging present employees under the guise of cutting operating expenses, and then hiring others at a smaller wage.

This scheme cannot be denied on the part of the retail employers, and for the enlightenment of the sales people we quote the following paragraph from a very prominent trade journal of a recent issue in reviewing trade conditions:

"Retailers deny stories about laying off salespeople and reducing wages. They claim they need all the help they have and are putting on additional workers. What may happen after the holidays, however, is indicated by the fact that the new salespeople are being hired at a lower wage than has been formerly offered."

gathering statistics and he has found that the contrary is the case and he believes that this can be proven.

"It is true," said Mr. MacNeil, "that the price of food, motor cars, cross-stitching and expensive garments may have come down some in price, but that does not help the average man who does not buy these things. The price of rent is certainly on the up grade, the price of ordinary clothing, the price of the automobile, the price of the radio, there has been no reduction in the price of common foods, such as brown sugar, brown and many other articles that I might name."

Mr. MacNeil pointed out that with rent prices going up and with clothing remaining stationary, the only thing on which a poor man could save money was in the purchase of food.

In consequence he bought less food or food of an inferior quality. And he submitted that this was not in the interests of any one; food is the last thing on which a man or a family should be obliged to skimp.

Mr. MacNeil is not in a position to announce his newly prepared schedule as to the cost of living until he has first submitted it to the Parliamentary Committee.

Asked if the new figures had any bearing on the cost of living which cut in the civil service bonus, Mr. MacNeil stated that the G.W.V.A. did not take any part in the civil service bonus. The figures were prepared solely in connection with the request of the G.W.V.A. for a higher pension rate, and the figures submitted would have a considerable bearing on this matter.

Of course, cost of living figures apply equally to all men with a fixed income at the present time.

OTTAWA—President Tom Moore of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, has issued the following statement:

"The decision handed out by Mr. Justice Ross, on March 14, restoring to the Canadian Brotherhood of Railway Employees the right of affiliation to the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada will not be accepted, and, therefore, as soon as the Canadian Brotherhood of Railway Employees pay their per capita tax to the Congress they will again have the right to claim to be members in accordance with the decision of the court."

"Labor organizations have not been built by relegating to judges and courts the right to say who shall or who shall not become members, and there is no doubt that at the forthcoming convention in Winnipeg the members of the Trades and Labor Congress will decide for itself as to whether the Canadian Brotherhood of Railway Employees is to remain in affiliation with the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada."

# CARNEGIE'S PLEA FOR SHORT DAY REINFORCED BY BRITISH TESTS

### Tuberculosis Among Cigarmakers Greatly Decreased by Eight-hour Maximum, Says Wolf—Where American Steel Industry Lags.

"High wages are well enough, but they are not to be compared with steady employment. . . . I am told the men in our day and even to this day, (1914) prefer two to three turns, but three turns are sure to come. . . . Eight hours will be the rule—eight for work, eight for sleep, and eight for rest and recreation. Labor is usually helpless against capital. The employer, perhaps, decides to shut up the shops; he ceases to make profits for a short time. There is no change in his habits, food, clothing, pleasures—the agonizing fear of want. Contrast this with his workman, whose lessening means of subsistence torment him. He has few comforts, scarcely the necessities for his wife and children in health and for the sick little ones no proper treatment. It is not as they need to guard, but helpless labor."

—From the Autobiography of Andrew Carnegie. The steel industry that lags back from joining the eight-hour day procession. Many of its leaders, most of them, in fact, seem to echo Mr. Carnegie's sentiment. But so far as putting it into practice, the industry appears to regard it as Utopian, something in a dream after setting the alarm clock for the 12 or 14-hour turn as usual. In the last week or two steel men have registered enthusiasm for their eight-hour day—finishing in the next reel, however, but butting a few "buns."

Stock Arguments Used. Interesting it is, to say the least, to examine some of the stock arguments in the light furnished by history. Objection No. 1 is that the eight-hour day would put the steel business on the rocks—no available in normal times and production would dwindle while costs would advance. It looks familiar enough.

# WAGE REDUCTIONS IN BRITAIN GATHERING MOMENTUM AND TAKING DIVERS FORMS

### British Trade Union Congress Decides on Convening Conferences of Groups of Industries to Consider Question.

LONDON, Eng.—The wages reduction movement in Great Britain is gathering momentum, and is taking diverse forms. On the railways and in public services, the woolen textile industry, and other smaller trades, limited reductions are operating automatically under the sliding scale, fixed some time ago on the cost of living basis, which on March 1 fell to 141 per cent. above that of July, 1914, compared with 151 per cent. on February 1. This idea is now being extended to trades in which the workers fondly hoped, until recently, that they would succeed in converting all war increases into permanent wages. Builders' operatives are balloting on a scheme under which wages would be lowered gradually to a point well above the pre-war standard.

In the chemical trade, however, a much more drastic proposal has just been presented to the workers in the shape of an ultimatum. Employers have devised a sliding scale, which begins with wages at 1s. 6d. an hour under the existing conditions, and descends until the low pre-war labor rate of 7d. per hour is reached. They say that this will be put into operation whether the men object or not. Union officials demand a complete cessation of work until the workers are allowed to consider the proposal, which was accepted by the men when demands for increases were made, is refused.

In some other trades, employers are proposing to abolish or reduce substantially bonuses and war increases. A general conference of representatives of employers and workers in the South Wales steel and tin-plate trades recently failed to agree on the demand of the employees that bonuses should be cut by 50 per cent.

Reduction in railwaymen's wages will amount to 5s. The last revision was operative from January 1 last, when the cost of living figures for December stood at 149. The figures now published, 141, are therefore a reduction of 24 points, which, in accordance with the agreement providing for the fall or rise of 1s for every five points, will bring the men's wages down by 5s a week.

The Central Wages Board is meeting at an early date formally to approve the alteration in the sliding scale. The parliamentary committee of the Trades Union Congress had under consideration at a recent meeting the question of wage reductions, and came to the conclusion that the most satisfactory way of dealing with the matter will be by convening conference of groups of industries who are faced with the position of that kind, and that the proposal will be carried out so as to come to a common understanding as to the attitude to be taken up.

Then, of course, there is the question of the relation between long hours and ill-health. Matthew Wolf, president of the International Photo-Engravers' Union and a vice-president of the American Federation of Labor, recently cited figures on the diminishment of tuberculosis among cigarmakers. In 1888, he says, two years after the eight-hour day went in, 51 per cent. of the deaths among cigarmakers were due to tuberculosis. In 1920 it was 33 per cent., and in 1911 21 per cent.

# THOROLD STRIKERS ARRESTED UNDER VAGRANCY ACT

### Magistrate Reserved Decision on Definition of Picketing—No "Violence" or "Force" Was Used.

THOROLD.—Magistrate Munro at Thorold last week reserved decision in case of seven strikers accused under the Vagrancy Act of insulting men coming from the Beaver Board plant of Thorold, where there has been a strike for several weeks. By agreement with F. W. Griffiths, Niagara Falls, counsel for defendants, evidence in one case went for all. Provincial Inspector William Greer testified that he heard Mike Hrab, one of the defendants, call men coming out of the works, "rats and scabs." Greer was corroborated by several other provincial and Royal Mounted policemen, who swore they heard the remark.

Mr. Griffiths offered no evidence for the defence, but contended, in answering the magistrate, that men who were decent citizens engaged, when employed in decent employment, could not be described as idle and loose persons as the Vagrancy Act called for. He also quoted Court of Appeal decisions to show there could be no connection unless someone was obstructed or impeded. In this instance no one had been obstructed. Crown Attorney Cowper contended the law meant either obstruction or the use of insulting language, and asked for convictions. The magistrate said he would look up authorities and give decision in two weeks.

There wouldn't be so much objection to increasing the size of Congress if there were a chance of improving its quality.—Washington Labor.

# MINERS IN BRITAIN ON VERGE OF STRIKE

LONDON, Eng.—The national delegates to the conference of miners have rejected the proposals made by the coal mine owners for a district settlement in which wages would depend on the capacity of the individual districts to pay. The miners decided to adhere to their demands for a settlement of the controversy on a national basis. The action of the miners is regarded by the newspapers as "a declaration of war" and as likely to result in a complete cessation in mining on April 1.

A national settlement, with wages fixed on a unit basis, is declared by the mine owners to be entirely impracticable.

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VOTE—and vote—YES This is no time to add another burden to the tax-payer's load. Ontario Referendum Committee 21

# COST OF LIVING SHOWS NO DECLINE TO AVERAGE MAN

### G. W. V. A. Secretary Supports Claim of Organized Labor for No Reduction in Wages.

OTTAWA—The cost of living, as the average man is affected, is not going down. It is still on the up grade.

The above statement by Mr. E. Grant MacNeil, secretary of the Dominion Command of the Great War Veterans' Association, will be supplemented by elaborate figures and statistics which Mr. MacNeil will present in a couple of days to the parliamentary committee on pensions and readjustment.

The matter arose in this way. Mr. MacNeil some little time ago filed with the committee a statement showing that in December, 1920, the cost of living was actually 13 per cent. higher than it was in December of a year before. The members of the committee, while not accepting or disputing this statement, said that since December last there had been a very material cut in the price of necessities. Since that time Mr. MacNeil has been busy

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## PROMINENT R.C. COMMENDS HON. G. D. ROBERTSON

Mr. F. Lafortune Says International Labor Movement Not Fighting Any Church.

OTTAWA.—In a statement Mr. Frank Lafortune, past president of the Ottawa Trades and Labor Council, commended the statement by Hon. Gideon Robertson, Minister of Labor, on behalf of the Government, in refusing to give representation to the National Catholic Labor Union at the forthcoming conference of representatives of the building industry in Ottawa. Mr. Lafortune's statement is a prominent member of St. Anne's Parish and is a director of St. Anne's Coptic Society. After stating that the International Labor movement was not fighting any church or religion and was anxious to cooperate with them all, Mr. Lafortune went on to say that the Minister of Labor had done a real service to all workers by making it plain that the Government recognized the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada as the only body in Canada truly representative of the workers of every religion.

Mr. Lafortune's statement follows: "The National Catholic Union which visited Ottawa during the past week to present to the Minister of Labor the programme of their last convention held at Charlottetown, again failed in their efforts to have the Government recognize their claims to represent Labor at the forthcoming National Conference of the Building Industry, as they failed to secure similar recognition at the National Industrial Conference of September, 1919. The decision of the Minister of Labor in this respect and the reasons advanced by him are to be commended, and also the statements he made as to the dangers of the course being pursued by these unions, in attempting to divide the workers on religious grounds.

"As a Catholic and a member of International Trades Union movement, I fail to see why they expect the workers to divide into Catholic unions separating themselves from other workers employed in the same industry or trade because they choose to prefer to belong to the Protestant or some other church, and yet make no attempt to divide the Catholic employers and have them form Catholic employers' associations, and refuse to have anything to do with other employers.

## DEFICIT CANNOT BE WIPED OUT BY UNDERFEEDING RAILROAD EMPLOYEES

"Big Moguls" Must Strangle the Octopus of Debt and Transform the Nightmare Into Financial Security.

By George Pierce in the Canadian Railroader.

It is correct to say that railroad men have been astounded at the revelations of both Hon. Dr. Reid and Mr. J. L. Payne who was for so many years the chief statistician of the Department of Railways. Railroaders are interested in these things because their bread and butter is the "big money." They are interested because they are told that it is estimated that the capital liability incurred by Canada in connection with the ownership of Government railways is \$2,374,158,000, and that the annual fixed charge on capital account is \$112,350,000. When there is talk of deficits of seventy millions railroad men begin to wonder how these tremendous sums are to be sweated out of their bowed backs.

And in the reforms that are proposed we suggest forcibly that the brilliant minds of the administrators should be concentrated to better advantage on the reforms which spell efficiency through experienced and economical management, while leaving the question of a reduction of wages severely alone.

In other words, sixty thousand railroad men respectfully decline the honor of rectifying a succession of Government blunders made by both political parties, "past and present," by asking out a deficit of these proportions through the amiable process of underfeeding themselves and undernourishing their children in order to wipe out a deficit that has so many figures that we simple folk get a headache trying to decipher them.

Let the Big Moguls, who bought railways and railway systems as a child buys peanuts at a country fair, get their high-brows together and through the wizardry of finance and commercial genius strangle the octopus of debt and transform the nightmare into the dreamy elysium of financial security. All this is the special function of finance. So lead on, ye Macduffs of national ownership, but be very careful to leave the matter of our wages alone!

## CHILD SURVEY TO BE MADE IN CITY MONTREAL

Quebec Gov't Issues Instructions For Survey of All Industrial and Commercial Undertakings.

MONTREAL.—Special orders have been issued to the Quebec Provincial Government inspectors to make a survey of all industrial and commercial establishments employing children of less than 16 years of age, with a view of holding examinations into such children's ability to read and write.

The examinations will begin at once. All children to be examined must bring with them their birth or baptismal certificates.

The above action has been taken in response to complaints that in many cases children under the age of 14 years, who could neither read nor write, were being employed in various establishments throughout Montreal, contrary to the law, which requires that all children employed under this age must be in possession of a certificate showing that they can read and write.

"What is heredity? Something a father believes in till his son begins to act like a fool."—American Legion Weekly.

## BRITISH LABOR RESENTS LLOYD GEORGE'S BOGEY

British Premier's Attack on Labor Party Regarded as Forerunner of General Election.

LONDON, Eng.—(Special cable to Montreal Star).—Mr. Lloyd George's remarkable attack on the Labor party at Wednesday's political luncheon is regarded by party leaders as confirmation of their views that a general election is contemplated in the autumn or even sooner should a big industrial dispute develop.

Since Bonar Law's resignation local Labor organizations have been urged to expedite selection of candidates so that sudden dissolution would find the party ready to contest at least five hundred seats.

Regarding the Premier's assertion that the policy of a Labor Government would be dictated by "the extremist corporals and not the moderate captains," Clynes says the Premier's speech is an oratorical bogey, intended to frighten the electorate.

Arthur Henderson says, "We appreciate the Premier's desire to impress the public with the formidable position which Labor has now attained politically. We cannot, however, compliment him on the honest interpretation of Labor's standpoint. Ramsay MacDonald says the Premier's Bolshevik bogey of 1918 having failed, he is starting a new one.

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