

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.

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 R.V. 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.

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 should not be considered 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 a committee to further discuss labor legislation pending before the House, I am instructed to say that such a committee would be of no benefit.

With regard to legislation which was not discussed last year, such as the eight-hour day question, our committee is of the opinion that these matters cannot fall to the jurisdiction of 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.

OTTAWA EMPLOYING PRINTERS TO OPPOSE 44-HR. WEEK.

OTTAWA.—At a meeting of the Ottawa Employing Printers' Association last week, a motion was passed expressing condemnation of the proposal that has as a purpose the institution of a 44-hour week in print shops.

UNION HATING EMPLOYERS BEING 'BLED.'

BOSTON.—There is an abundance of evidence to show that union hating employers, says the Boston Workers' Journal, they are constantly being 'bled' by the union hating employers.

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.

MANY BOOT AND SHOE MANUFACTURERS SEEK UNION STAMP.

BOSTON.—We are glad to say that there is an increasing interest in the Union Stamp, says the Boston Workers' Journal.

FEDERAL EMPLOYEES TO START ORGANIZING CAMPAIGN.

OTTAWA.—At a meeting of the executive of the Federal Union of Public Employees last week, the offer of a member of the union to contribute \$50 for each price to those bringing in the largest number of new members, was accepted.

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.

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.

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.

PUBLIC SERVICE PERFORMED BY LABOR MINISTER

LONDON, Eng.—J. H. Thomas, president of the Railwaymen's Union introduced into the House of 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 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.

Hotel Workers Make Protest About Quality of Meals.

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.

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 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.

While in England, I had the opportunity, through the courtesy of the office 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.

SAV'S 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 conformity with custom and precedent 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.

RUSSIA'S ATTITUDE COMPLETELY CHANGED

LONDON, Eng.—Defending the Government's trade agreement with Russia, Premier Lloyd George declared in the House of Commons this afternoon that the attitude of the Bolshevik Government toward what is called capitalism.

The Russian Soviet Premier was beginning to realize that trade was essential, Mr. Lloyd George continued, that locomotives cannot be made without the machinery and that the original Soviet theories are unworkable.

The agreement, said the Premier, was a compromise recognizing the de-facto government of Russia, not a treaty of peace, claims against Russia with respect to loans or for injuries to persons.

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.

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 Boston Workers' Journal.

NO JUSTIFICATION FOR WAGE REDUCTION

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

Neither rents, fuel nor transportation costs have declined. There have been no reductions in food, clothing and other necessities.

BOOT AND SHOE WORKERS' GENERAL ORGANIZER.

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

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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. The fact that 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 made to make them compulsory upon all employers and employees in a given industry.

4. That the former railroad administration in entering into national agreements, has recognized 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 human standards in industry and shall demonstrate that the railroads are now expensively and deliberately taking advantage of a temporary industrial depression to destroy human standards.

MEXICAN GOVT DEMANDS UNION MADE ARTICLES

Mexican Government 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's letter is a communication from officials of the Mexican Government who are planning to purchase all these 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, I urgently request that where there are any such concerns in your locality that can qualify for this business you advise the grade judge by return mail, so that we can compile a list for the Mexican Government."

"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 qualify for this business under strictly union conditions."

EMIGRATION QUESTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED

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

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DECIDE TO SECEDE FROM LABOR PARTY

Minority Faction of British Labor is Peevish.

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 Independent Labor party and join the Communist party.

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 E. 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. Pinnard, East Ottawa, and R. R. Hall, Parry Sound.

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.

Decision to have Debs come to Washington, the Attorney-General said, was reached after conference with President Harding.

MOST IMMIGRANTS DURING PAST YEAR CAME FROM IRELAND.

OTTAWA.—The greatest number of immigrants into Canada during 1920 came from Ireland.

Ontario, out of the total, received from overseas 48,054, and from the United States 13,259; Quebec received 19,849; Manitoba, 13,192; Saskatchewan, 13,529; Alberta, 18,484; and British Columbia, 14,124.

APPOINTMENTS TO BE MADE TO INSURANCE ACT.

OTTAWA.—Amendments to the Insurance Act, which will allow insurance companies in Canada to issue life policies, including in the same policy insurance against accidents, are expected to be introduced in a session at which notice has been given by Mr. Henry Drayton, Minister of Finance.

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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 Unions 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 Bazaar. 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 Unions 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. Both are interested in these things because their bread and butter is the "Big Moguls." 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 \$2,714,158,000, and that the annual fixed charges 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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