

BIG STRIKE OF MINERS IN U. S.

Labor Estimates Are Reduced in the House; Proceedings Lively

HON. MR. MURDOCK

STORM CENTRE

Ramifications of the Department Were Discussed From All Angles—Curious Situation Experienced—The Civil Service Commission Discussed the Genoa Conference.

Ottawa, March 31—The civil government estimates of the department of labor were reduced tonight from \$195,040 for salaries to \$180,000 the contingencies vote of \$35,000 was unchanged. The reduction came after a day of wrangling in which members of the Conservative opposition waged savage battle with the prime minister and Hon. James Murdock, minister of labor. The first reduction moved was to \$171,640, but the prime minister finally agreed to a reduction of \$15,000 or a total of \$180,040.

The motion to reduce the estimates was first put by Hon. H. H. Stevens (Conservative, Vancouver Center) Mr. Stevens charged that the increase in the estimates was not necessary in view of Mr. Murdock's statement that thirty employees were to be discharged. The minister hotly replied that the employees in question were merely engaged in temporary capacities and that the vote asked for had nothing whatever to do with them.

Curious Situation

The committee vote on the motion coming after a day of bitter debate in which the ramifications of the department of labor were discussed from all angles, resulting in one of the most curious situations experienced in parliament. When Hon. Charles Macphail, acting chairman of the committee called for the yeas and nays, the Liberal shout of "nay" being louder than the "yeas" of the opposition the chairman declared the motion lost. Instantly some dozen or more Conservatives and Progressive members demanded a standing vote. When this count was taken the prime minister, Hon. W. S. Fielding, minister of finance, and a score or more Liberals stood swelling the total for the amendment to 120.

When the nays were asked to stand not a member rose.

Earlier in the debate proceedings were enlivened by T. L. Church, Toronto, North who criticized Mr. Murdock for making a lengthy statement issued by the late government and dealing with the benefits accruing from the civil service commission.

Mr. Murdock declared that he read the document because members of the opposition were apparently blaming him for operation of the civil service act which had been approved by the late government.

As soon as the amendment was carried Hon. J. A. Stewart carried on the discussion on the main motion inquiring whether Canadian labor was represented at the conference at Genoa. Did Mr. Murdock consider that labor was represented sufficiently by Sir Charles Gordon?

YALE SAYS THAT LLOYD GEORGE IS THE BIGGEST WORLD FIGURE

New Haven, Conn., April 1—Votes of Yale seniors for their favorite novel has disclosed "A Tale of Two Cities" easily the winner. "Crossing the Bar" was voted the favorite poem. Dickens won the vote as favorite author, with Lincoln the favorite character in history, and d'Artagnan the favorite character in fiction. The class voted for Lloyd George as the greatest world figure.

PRESENTATION TO PRESIDENT HUGH O'NEILL

Self Determination for Ireland League Honored Its Head—Disbandment of League Is Contemplated.

The regular meeting of the local branch of the Self-Determination for Ireland League of Canada and Newfoundland was held Friday evening in the A. O. H. Hall, Brunswick Street and was very largely attended. The usual routine business was transacted, the course of the evening the president, Ex-Ald. Hugh O'Neill was presented with an address and a chair as an appreciation for his untiring work. The presentation was made by the local secretary, Ald. J. T. Feeney. Various members made addresses during the evening.

This was expected to be the last meeting of the local branch, various branches throughout Canada having disbanded recently. The St. John branch disbanded within the last couple of weeks, because it was felt that everything for which a league had been organized had been brought about The Self-Determination League has declared itself in accordance with the establishment of the Irish Free State and its various branches are thus contemplating disbandment.

Another Meeting.

The local branch will hold another meeting and will then probably disband. This matter was discussed at Friday night's meeting and it was laid over to a subsequent meeting.

Week End Market

The week end market this morning was very large and prices ruled as follows: Beef, 9 cents lb, veal, 4 to 12 cents lb; mutton, 8 to 10 cents lb; pork, 15 cents lb; smoked ham, 25 cents lb; chickens, 35 cents lb; fowl, 30 cents lb; butter, 30 to 35 cents lb; eggs, 25 to 30 cents dozen; potatoes, \$1.25 barrel; carrots, \$2 barrel; beets, \$2 barrel; parsnips, \$2.50 barrel; turnips, 65 cents barrel; maple honey, 50 cents bottle; maple sugar, 35 cents lb; pigs, (month old) \$6.

Talked to Scouts.

Mr. W. Harry Allen of Penniac gave Seaman's Institute at St. John last evening a practical talk to boy scouts in the evening and exhibited eight reels of fishing scenes. He told the boys among other things, that if he was not such an old scout he would be a boy scout himself.

Condition is now Serious.

The condition of ex-Ald. Everett Johnson is now reported serious. He has been confined to his home, Union Street, ever since his injury in a fall from a staging at his residence.

The premier replied that Canada was represented by Sir Charles Gordon and by Professor Montpetit, professor of economics at the University of Montreal, who was exceptionally well versed in labor problems.

Upwards of Half a Million Men Likely to Quit Work Today

Anthracite and Bituminous Workers Concerned---Miners in Alberta and British Columbia are Likely to Join in the Walkout---Wants Present Wage Retained in Soft Coal Districts.

Indianapolis, Ind., April 1—An international strike of anthracite and bituminous coal miners became effective at midnight, and reports from numerous sections indicated that work had been stopped. In Illinois, several hundred miners quit yesterday. The officers of United Mine Workers of America said that 600,000 men joined in the general walkout.

Indications this morning pointed to a cessation of work in the mines of Alberta and eastern British Columbia.

The demands of the strikers in the United States are briefly that the present basic wages be retained in the soft coal fields and that the anthracite tonnage workers receive a twenty per cent increase with one dollar a day advance being given to the anthracite day workers.

THE PRESENT PAY

The basic rates for the soft coal workers range from \$1.08 to \$1.11 a ton for pick mining, and the day men receive \$7.50 a day. Exact tonnage rates in the anthracite fields are said by the union to be lower than in the soft coal district, and the anthracite day men received from \$4.20 to \$5.60 a day.

Aside from the wage question, the fight of the miners in the soft coal field is directed toward preserving the union's system of bargaining that has grown up during the last forty years.

In the past wages have been fixed by an interstate contract applying to western Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois, with contracts for other soft coal fields being based on the interstate contract.

The contract question, however, is not an issue in the anthracite districts. In addition to reduction in wages, the soft coal operators have refused to continue the interstate method of contract making. Reductions proposed by the operators generally amount to forty per cent of the prevailing scales, or a return to the wages established by contracts made in 1916. Some operators also insist in the abolition of the union's check-off plan by which operators deduct union dues from the miners' wages.

EVANGELIST TORRIE DRAWS MANY PEOPLE

Rev. A. Torrie, who is conducting the evangelistic services in the George Street Baptist Church was born in Ontario. His parents are High land Scotch who settled in the province of Ontario. When Mr. Torrie went to school for the first time as a lad he could not speak the English language as he had been taught nothing but Gaelic. He comes of a sturdy race and has a fine physique. While at College Mr. Torrie was a leading athlete, and this serves him well now in his strenuous work as an evangelist. He does not spare himself in his services. He fine physical appearance and manly presentation of the gospel appeal to men. Mr. Torrie is a man of education. He is a graduate of Woodstock College and of MacMaster University, Toronto, and is conversant with the best thought of the day. Mrs. Torrie ably assists her husband and showed herself last night a very pleasing soloist.

The Evangelists were greeted on their second night with a large audience, the main church and the gallery being well filled. The good impression which Mr. Torrie made on the opening night of the campaign was deepened last night.

The song service at the opening is very popular and Mr. Torrie is an expert at conducting it. The sermon was a clear and clever presentation of the truth that Jesus Christ is the

TOURISTS FROM TORONTO WERE BEATEN 2 TO 1

Boston, March 31—The Westminster, hockey champions of the United States, defeated a Canadian team announced as the Torontos by a score of 2 to 1 tonight. The Canadians came here to fill the dates originally assigned for an international series between the Granites, Canadian champions, and Westminster for the world title. The Granites were refused permission to come, but several of their players were members of the team that played tonight. The winning goal was scored by Captain Downing of Westminster in the last period after goal-keeper Britton of the Torontos had stopped the puck but allowed it to roll by.

Returned from Boston

Mrs. F. B. Edgecombe and Mrs. R. N. MacCunn have returned from a trip to Boston.

Clergyman Weds.

Rev. T. Spencer Crisp, of Young's Cove, was married to Miss B. Faye, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sandford Hallett, Lower Windsor, Carleton county, on March 15.

Way and the Truth and the Life. The preacher uses simple language and his sentences stick. Much interest is being shown in the meetings.

The Prospect is now Brighter for Peace in Troubled Ireland

BOARD OF TRADE TO COOPERATE WITH MONTREAL

Opposed to Dual Control of St. Lawrence Waterways—Advertising Train Wanted in France.

The local Board of Trade has been in receipt of two communications from Leon Lorrain, Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, Montreal. One asks the cooperation of the local body in opposing the dual control of the St. Lawrence river under the St. Lawrence Deep Waterways Scheme.

Various reasons for organized opposition are given. One contention is that the damming of the St. Lawrence in accordance with this scheme would render useless, canals worth \$100,000,000. A resolution opposing this dual control, which was passed at a meeting of the Montreal Chamber of Commerce has been forwarded to the local Board of Trade. Any attempts to allow the United States to secure partial control of the St. Lawrence in return for certain concessions, are to be resisted to the utmost.

Montreal Suggestion

The other communication asks the local Board to cooperate with the Montreal Chamber of Commerce in bringing pressure to bear in compelling the Federal Government to take advantage of the offer made by the French government, allowing a Canadian exhibition train to travel free over the French railway lines. A French exhibition train travelled through Canada last year and the results obtained were most beneficial. It is claimed that a Canadian exhibition train travelling through France in conjunction with a properly conducted exhibition at Paris a privilege also granted free to Canada by the French government, would do much in securing a fair share of French trade for Canadian manufacturers, tradesmen and agriculturists.

Both of these communications will be dealt with at the next meeting of the Board of Trade and in all likelihood the local body will cooperate with the Montreal Chamber of Commerce in both measures.

Presentation Friday Afternoon.

Friday afternoon in honor of Miss Edith Carten who is leaving Tuesday to train for a nurse in the Montreal General Hospital, Miss Nella Hawthorne entertained at an afternoon tea. Miss Carten was presented with an umbrella as a token of the esteem in which she is held by her many friends.

Still Alarm.

The fire truck answered a still alarm Friday afternoon from the residence of Ivan McKnight, University Avenue. A grass fire was the cause. No damage outside the scorching of a few fence posts, resulted.

GOOD WORK BY

MR. CHURCHILL

The Colonial Secretary is Given Much Well Deserved Praise Attitude of DeValera, and His Followers Gives Cause for Anxiety—Articles of Agreement.

London, March 31—Troubled Irish history today entered a new phase with the double achievement of the Free State bill safely reaching the statute book and the conclusion of the agreement between the north and the south and the imperial government opening a better prospect for eventual Irish unity.

If Premier Lloyd George was the hero of the Irish treaty, Winston Spencer Churchill, secretary for the colonies, is admittedly the hero of Thursday's agreement. Mr. Churchill has been the recipient of universal tributes of praise and admiration, beginning with Joseph Devlin's speech in the house of Commons on Thursday evening as mainly responsible for bringing the opposing parties in Ireland together.

Praise From Chamberlain.

Austen Chamberlain, in a speech delivered tonight in Birmingham, joined in the chorus of plaudits when he said of the colonial secretary: "Mr. Churchill displayed patience and parliamentary skill which places him right in the forefront of the parliamentary leaders."

Warning voices, however, are heard in the press, especially in Belfast, and Mr. Churchill himself in the House of Commons today begged the house not to indulge in optimistic delusions but on the whole the disposition seems to be to take a hopeful view of the situation.

In Dublin today the signing of the agreement was received with great rejoicing. There seemed to be an impression that Michael Collins, head of the provisional government in Ireland and Sir James Craig, the Ulster premier, would hardly have signed the agreement without first having arrived at a tacit understanding as to how best to deal with the admittedly difficult problem of activities of the Irish republican army in Ulster.

De Valera's Followers.

The attitudes of the followers of Eamon De Valera gives the greatest excuse for anxiety but on this subject little reliable opinion could be obtained today.

Sir James Craig will arrive in Belfast tomorrow. He will immediately consult his cabinet and make a statement to the Ulster parliament on Tuesday Sir William Coates, lord mayor of Belfast, today referred to the agreement during a meeting of the Belfast corporation and expressed the hope that every person in the community would do his utmost to assist in putting it into operation.

Article Six.

A despatch to the Press Association from Dublin says the followers of Eamon De Valera are gravely concerned over what is implied in article (Continued on page four)

LOCK OUT MILLION MEN IN THE TRADES IN BRITAIN

London, April 1—Lockout notices for 47 unions outside the Amalgamated Engineering Union have been posted by the engineering employers. They are of a week's duration, so that by Thursday next well over a million men will be idle. This figure includes the engineers who are already locked out and the shipbuilders now striking against a wage reduction. In the shipyards today the strike order was generally obeyed but all of the yards are not closed.