

CO-ORDINATION DRAWS LABORITES TO CAPITAL

Coming Together Presages Bettering of Conditions in the Near Future.

WILL PROCESS EXTEND

Hoped Will to Co-operate Will Be Followed by Workers to All Trades.

Special to The Star.

Ottawa, Dec. 5.—A coming together in a preliminary way on uncontroversial matters. This marks the extent of the present co-operation between labor and capital as it appears in the joint manifesto to the Government signed by representatives of labor, technical organizations and the Canadian Manufacturers' Association.

The "pinch line"—the point where a conflict of interests would arise—has not been reached. Those who have taken part in the negotiations believe that this pinch-line may be pushed back farther than would have appeared likely a short time ago. Representatives of organized labor who signed the joint statement feel they represent majority opinion in the trade unions and in the Trades and Labor Congress by thus moving in the direction of co-operation with employers rather than of warfare. They admit there is an element of labor which considers a show-down unnecessary, but they think it is a minority group.

Improved Industrial Relations.

The origin of this particular "rap-prochement" is to be found in the Canadian Manufacturers' Association. Its reconstruction committee has met on one or two occasions with the labor sub-committee of the reconstruction committee of the Cabinet. On this sub-committee were, among others, representatives of organized labor. The latter found that some of the ideas presented by the manufacturers tending towards improved industrial relations in conjunction with general prosperity for the country, appealed to them as reasonable. A suggestion that these should form the basis for an approach towards understanding was accepted informally and tentative conferences began.

With Experiment Develop?

It is obvious that the joint proposals as published do not mean very much, touching as they do, only the fringe. The question is how far the process can and will be extended. Will the experiment develop or will it remains stationary? What will the rank and file of labor think of the whole affair?

The proposal covered in the manifesto included the establishment of a bureau of public welfare to deal with health, housing, etc., a survey of imports, domestic treatment of raw materials, scientific and industrial research, **immigration**, including "serious consideration of further restriction of undesirable immigrants," public works, technical education, land settlement, employment bureaus and development of water power.

Many Vital Problems Left.

There is no mention here of wages or hours of labor, of dilution in labor, of unemployment insurance or special out-of-work benefit, of old age pensions and sickness insurance or of the democratization of industry issues, which either are won or are being vitally contested in Great Britain and which the workers of Canada too are seriously pondering in these days.

Official labor's attitude is one thing at a time. Let labor and capital find common ground they say and seek to enlarge it gradually, as they continue to know and trust each other better. Labor representatives say that even this preliminary program, if carried out, would benefit the workingmen as well as held the nation as a whole. Health sanitation, town planning, housing, technical education, employment bureau, all these things would improve the lot of the workers, and they are glad

to see the manufacturers joining hands with them for their advocacy.

Survey of Imports.

Other less obvious planks they also think affect labor. "Survey" of imports," for example. Labor spokesmen agree that if certain articles hitherto imported can be manufactured in Canada it is to the mutual advantage of both labor and capital that the change should be made. Official labor's view, and this too seems to be shared by the manufacturers, is that the extent and richness of Canada's natural resources, preclude any serious unemployment situation. Mining and lumbering they point out, can be carried on even in the winter and the latter particularly they hope can absorb much unskilled labor which otherwise would be adrift. They also believe the activity in railway equipment and in shipbuilding with the underlying stability and buoyancy of the steel industry will help to stabilize employment.

Co-Ordination An Aid.

At any rate, they are convinced that whether the situation be good or bad co-ordination of interest as far as possible between employers and employed will be a strengthening factor. The leaders hope that this example of a will to co-operate, may be followed, not only by organized labor in individual trades and industries, but also by unorganized workers.