

CANADA

AT WAR

DOMINION HAS HAD FEW LABOR TROUBLES SINCE

WAR OUTBREAK

Appeal of Minister of Labor Brings Good Results.

None More Loyal Than the Workingmen of Canada.

AT the outbreak of the war, Hon. T. W. Crothers, Minister of Labor, publicly appealed to both employers and workers to make more than ordinary efforts to secure amicable settlement of such differences as must inevitably occur from time to time. The Minister's appeal for co-operation has met with a splendid response, as the records of the Department of Labor show that during the past twelve months the number of strikes has been much less than during any equal period since such statistics have been compiled in this country.

Soon Were Settled.

The few strikes reported have been comparatively unimportant and were quickly ended. The coal-mining industry in Canada has always been prolific in strikes, but since the outbreak of the war has been practically free of this trouble.



HON. T. W. CROTHERS.

Sketch by McConnell.

On Vancouver Island a coal strike had been waged for a long period, but this was formally called off at the outbreak of the war. In March last the agreement between the Western Coal Operators' Association and the United Mine Workers of America in the Fernie-Lethbridge district terminated and for the first time on record was renewed without any interruption of work.

A Unique Situation.

The situation in Canada in these matters is the more remarkable and the more satisfactory when it is realized that in countries where, as in Great Britain and Germany for instance, war conditions are more acute than in Canada, disputes of the gravest nature have from time to time flamed up. The United States, too, although free from the evil of actual war, has been profoundly affected by the situation in Europe. Press reports do not indicate that the strenuous times through which we are passing have materially eased the tension between capital and labor, and the past few months have seen many dangerous and difficult strikes, with violent disturbances in not a few cases. Canada seems in fact fortunately unique in its comparative freedom from strikes.

Co-operation of Unions.

The officials of the Labor Department bear cordial witness to the generous and energetic co-operation of officials of labor unions in preventing and settling labour troubles. Without departing from the principles of trades unionism they have given an excellent support to the Labor Department in preventing industrial disruption during the war. The returns also show that besides reservists of different countries, the trades unions have furnished thousands of enlisted men, and in every case the man who has gone on active service has been exempted from penalties in the way of dues or insurance.

bounty system of the previous administration by which millions of dollars were paid out to the big steel and other manufacturers. The situation in connection with the production of zinc, however, has been extraordinary, and special measures have been taken by the Government to meet an urgent situation which seriously affected the manufacture of ammunition in Canada.

Supply Endangered.

Before the outbreak of the war zinc sold at about eight cents per pound. Since that time the price has risen steadily until now it is forty cents and grave fears were entertained that the supply might be cut off, as at present the sources of supply lie outside of Canada. It was therefore necessary that there should be a Canadian supply, but Canadian producers were unwilling to go to the large expense of installing refineries unless insured against the fall of zinc prices, which is inevitable after the close of the war. A committee of the Government, under the chairmanship of Hon. W. T. White, has been working on the subject and has decided to offer a limited bounty as follows:

Bounties on a sliding scale not exceeding two cents per pound will be granted upon production in Canada from Canadian ores of zinc containing not more than 2 per cent. impurities, when the standard price of zinc in London, England, falls below £33 per ton of 2,000 pounds, provided that bounties shall not be payable on zinc produced before the expiration of the war or after the 31st day of July, 1917, or on zinc contracted for the Shell Committee at a price of 8 cents or over per pound. Total amount of bounty to be paid not to exceed \$400,000.

CANADIAN PENSION RATES THE HIGHEST

Generous Treatment Assured Our Returning Soldiers.

Some critics of the Government have been complaining that the rates of pay and the pensions for Canadian soldiers are not higher. To these critics it may be pointed out that the rates granted to Canadian soldiers are higher than those of any other country except Australia, and equal to those of that country. For a married soldier and his wife the total monthly rate for a Canadian private is \$50; in Australia, \$52.50. For the unmarried private or the private without dependents the Australian rates are a little more generous, but with this exception the Canadian rates compare very favorably with them. Rates of pay for the rank and file of the British Army are only about one-half that of the Canadian while in European armies where there is compulsory service the rates are but a mere pittance.

Pensions the Highest.

The pension rates paid by Canada are easily the highest in the world. They are higher than the Australian and a third and more higher than the English rate, and higher also than those paid in the United States army. In addition it is pointed out that the pension does not represent all that will be done for the men. The pension is merely a minimum allowance that will prevent a man from experiencing hardship. The Government, however, provides convalescent homes, or if the invalided or incapacitated soldier goes to his own home it provides an attendant to wheel him about or take care of him. After the war it is expected that in various ways assistance will be given to incapacitated men, according to their need over and above the pension.

NO OCCASION FOR DRASTIC ACTION

Increase in Prices Does Not Justify Government Control.

While information collected shows that prices are still slowly advancing, there has been no violent upward movement and no occasion for any drastic action on the part of the authorities to control prices. It is interesting to note in this connection that the Australian Commonwealth, as well as most of the states of the Commonwealth, following different lines, took steps immediately on the outbreak of war for the actual con-