

ADVOCATES LIMITING INVESTMENT DIVIDEND

Winnipeg Employer Presents Radical Plan to Industrial Relations Commission.

ELIMINATE CAPITAL

F. A. Wellwood Suggests Government Equalize Spendable Income of Individuals.

By MAIN JOHNSON.
Special to The Star.

Winnipeg, May 13.—Whatever else the Winnipeg sessions of the Industrial Relations Commission have accomplished, they have brought to light one thoroughly radical proposal from an employer. F. E. Wellwood not only suggested a board of directors where owners of the capital would have one-third representation and a limitation of dividends to two per cent, but he also suggested that by taxation or some other method, private capital in his own company and throughout Canada should be progressively eliminated within a period of twenty years.

Represents \$100,000 Capital.
Mr. Wellwood, who read from a typewritten statement, said he and other signatories to the memorandum represented the ownership of the majority part of a capital of over \$100,000 employed in his concern. The number of employees was thirty-five. The business was engaged in the manufacture of mattresses, felts, and similar commodities.

Mr. Wellwood said he had called together his employees that very day and had read to them the terms of his proposal to be submitted to the commission. They had received it with enthusiasm. There had been no usual and prevalent unrest among his employees, but no actual industrial dispute.

The memorandum recognized that under the present system of industry and society and the unequal distribution of wealth and hardship, the government would have to take drastic action to equalize "the annual spendable income of individuals in the Dominion."

Ready to Lose Capital.

Cross-questioned by the Commissioners, Mr. Wellwood said he thought the present system was "top heavy." He personally would be prepared to see his capital paid off in twenty annual instalments. He was quite prepared to live on a salary, and he wanted to see everyone become a producer. He didn't think there was the necessity for incentive of profit.

He gave it as his opinion that if rewards were equalized, men would be contented. The men themselves probably felt they could all have automobiles, like employers now. He himself felt it was more likely that he, like them, would have to be content with a bicycle.

Both With One Outlook.

The relation of labor and returned soldiers was brought directly to the attention of the Commission by J. O. Newton of the Great War Veterans. One out of ten soldiers had the same outlook as the laboring men, for they belonged to the same class, but there was one difference between them—their attitude to alien enemies. Many of the latter were members of unions who hesitated about taking action against them. On the other hand, returned soldiers, union men and others, simply would not work alongside undesirable enemies. The soldiers did not want to have a permanent dispute with Labor, and therefore were asking the Dominion Government to deport not all enemy aliens, but all undesirable in that class.

For three months there had been an Alien Investigation Board operating in Winnipeg. In that time, 2,650 uses had been brought before the board, and 394 had been found undesirable, including aliens who had kept out naturalization papers by fraud. It was estimated that of the 10,000 enemy aliens registered by the police in Canada, 94,500 would be undesirable.

Not Educated Men.

Mr. Newton didn't have a high opinion of the "Powers that be" in Ottawa. If you went to see them, you felt they were not thoroughly educated men, but that they were uneducated, without a wide grasp of affairs. They were also apathetic.

Returned soldiers, according to Mr. Newton's interpretation, thought that Labor and Capital essential to industry. They did not like extreme capitalists, especially profiteers, nor did they like extreme labor men, those, for instance, who were talking out something like a Russian Soviet Republic for Canada. In reply to John W. Bruce, Mr. Newton said he did not object to labor agitators trying to improve labor's status. What he was objecting to was advocacy of "Soviet intrigues." Mr. Bruce: "Has the Soviet been proved to be a failure?" Mr. Newton: "We don't know."

Three Directors To Control Plants

Special to The Star.

Winnipeg, May 13.—Before the Industrial Relations Commission yesterday F. A. Wellwood presented the following plan for the joint control of industry: First, control of the business by three directors, one representing the consumers of the commodity, another the employees, and the third owners of capital employed. Second, that a survey of the plant should be taken, all stock representing water and goodwill eliminated and that "no dividend greater than two per cent per annum be paid on the actual capital employed." Third, the Government should find a way of supplementing the wages of married men or men with dependents.

Labor Ignores Commission.

The Commission again sat under the shadow of the threatened general strike. Organized Labor officially ignored the Commission in all its sessions, but a large number of labor witnesses, particularly "unskilled" men, gave their personal views.

It cannot be complained of here that the employers have not presented a case. First there was the memorandum presented by a majority of the manufacturers on Saturday, and on the concluding day, not only was there the radical Wellwood plan, but one of the leading manufacturers in the city, Ex-Mayor T. R. Deacon, presented a full case from the standpoint of a manufacturer. He is head of the Manitoba Bridge and Iron Company, and his workers are at present on strike, with all other metal workers.

"I have seen references to the passive resistance of employers to the Commission," said Mr. Deacon, "and I wanted to come and show that I was not evading the issue."

Mr. Deacon thought there was a

misapprehension among the public that, men at the head of large businesses had inherited them. In Winnipeg he didn't know a single manufacturer, who didn't start either as a workman or farmer's son. He said that he himself had been born on a rocky farm in Ontario. His father died when he was eleven years old. He went to a little ash-log school, eighteen by twenty-four feet. He was stronger and more adventurous than his brothers and sisters, and had gone into lumbering, becoming, at age of twenty, a foreman on a drive. Then of his own volition, he returned to school, matriculated and took a course in mining engineering at the University of Toronto. He built up a large practice, but, 14 years ago came to Winnipeg, where he knew at that time only one individual. He decided to establish some sort of industry, rather than engage in real estate speculation, as he had an honest and sincere desire to help in building up this western country.

Faced With Small Market.

Manufacturers, according to Mr. Deacon, had great difficulties to contend with, so much of the profit had to go back for improvements of the plant which soon had to be scrapped again. In Winnipeg, there was a small market, not more than a million and a half people at the outside, from Fort William to the mountains. Also, freight rates were against them. The freight rate on bar iron, from Hamilton to the coast has been reduced to sixty cents, while from Winnipeg to the coast it was eighty cents. There was also foreign competition. A large bridge right next to his own plant, which itself made bridges, had come from England.

In reference to unemployment, Mr. Deacon said there was an impression abroad that employers were wandering about the plant looking for the opportunity to discharge men. This was a fallacious idea. Even if man's instinct of humanity were dead in his heart, he would be a fool to adopt any such attitude. It cost a manufacturer between \$50 and \$80 to discharge a man, as it took that much to train a new man. He

"turned it down cold," saying they were not interested. Tom Moore: "You then accept the principle of the State providing capital. Why not make it general?" Mr. Deacon: "If the Government wants to take over my plant, they can have it." Moore: "But what about general principle?" Deacon: "I don't think it is good to eliminate private enterprise. Everything would become stagnant. There must be the element of gain and profit. That's part of human nature. You could see it among the blacks in Africa and even among the Eskimos." John W. Bruce: "Aren't you preaching the doctrine of the survival of the fittest?"

Manufacturers Not Wealthy.
Mr. Deacon thought there was a foolish idea that manufacturers were wealthy. He didn't know of any manufacturer who would go to California in the winter, and he had never been able to go himself, but he saw merchants and insurance agents, professional men, and judges going there.

One of the chief causes of the trouble was all the host of middlemen. It was they and not manufacturers who were making money. In reference to discontent, Mr. Deacon thought that improvements in the present system could be made, but "we'll never be able to establish a nation of lotus-eaters, north of parallel forty-nine. Here we have to work. As for communism, the original Indians on this continent had it, but even then some were better hunters than others, and were elected chiefs. Property, it is true, was held in common, but as a race they didn't achieve much progress."

Foresaw Collapse.

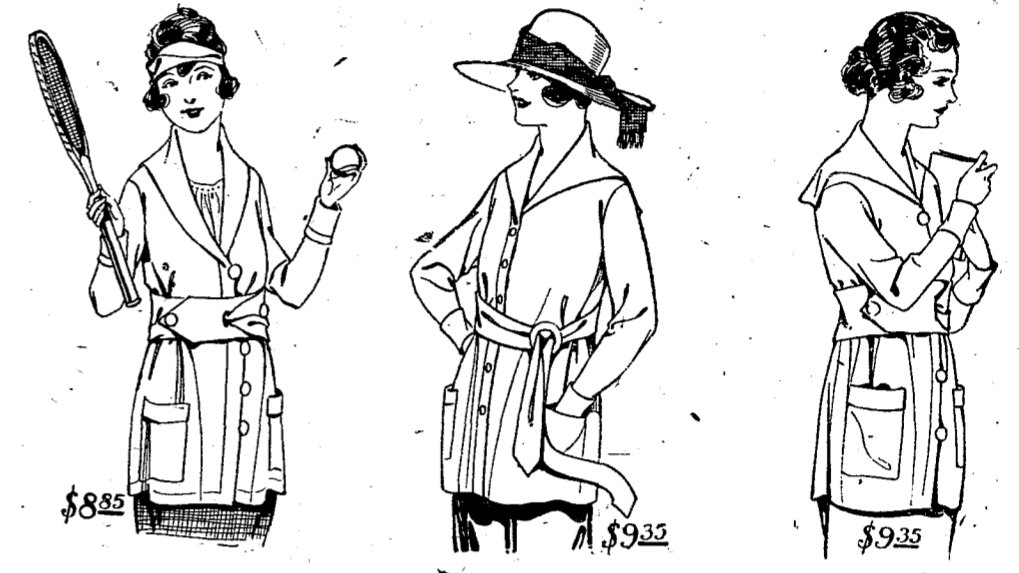
Mr. Deacon said that two years ago he foresaw what was coming, and that after war there would be more or less of collapse in business, such as occurs sooner or later after each war. He himself had suggested that, in the present situation, the State should loan money to the soldiers, not only on good land, but to take stock in industrial companies. They would at once become shareholders with voting powers. He had thought that the farmers, too, might co-operate in some general plan, but when submitted to them, they had

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one of the causes of the present unrest. In answer to a question Mr. Deacon said his was an "open shop." He also said that, on general lines, he endorsed the proposal for joint councils submitted by Mr. Hugg. Representative Fisher, of the Scottish Co-Operative Society, presented a picture of co-operation actually in working order. His association had 3,000,000 members. It sold in Great Britain, but if bought throughout the world. The capital came from the members and there was no profit. There was merely a rebate at the end of the year on purchases made during that time. All were employees and there were no employers. He felt the element of personal gain was certainly not necessary as an incentive.



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A sweater of pure wool, with new roll collar, belt crossing in front, and turn-back cuffs. Colors are apple green, saxe blue, purple, black, maize, and lavender. Greatly reduced \$8.85 to

We illustrate three of the very good styles offered at \$9.35. One style, in maize, purple, and rose is made with sailor collar and sash with ring fastener. Another coat has a broad belt crossed at front. This is shown in maize, saxe blue, lavender, apple green, and purple. The other coat is a light weight sweater in saxe with maize trimming, Paddy with white, and maize with brown. At \$9.35 these are much below regular prices.

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Shampoo	Reg. 50c .23	25c Carter's Liver Pills	.. 15	50c Parisian Sage	.. 33	75c Sage and Sulphur	.. 48
Cherryola	Reg. 25c .18	25c Shiloh Cough Cure	.. 16	35c Castile Balm	.. 24	85c Italian Balm	.. 24
Tooth Paste	Reg. 25c .18	25c Norway Pine Syrup	.. 16	50c Canadian Hair Dye	.. 33	50c Pond's Vanishing Cream	.. 30
		60c Chase's Ointment	.. 37	50c Purify Massage Cream	.. 33	50c Velnor Shampoo	.. 33
		\$1.00 Nuxated Iron	.. 67	50c Milkweed Cream	.. 39		
		\$1.00 Pinkham's Compound	.. 77				
		75c Scott's Emulsion	.. 65				
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