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CONFERENCE ON COST OF LIVING COMMENCES WORK

(Continued from page one)
upon the methods of taxation *in effect in Great Britain, the United States and Canada, respectively, with the idea of showing the economic effect of the three types of revenue raising.

Mr. T. F. King referred to the very evident spirit of co-operation shown by the representatives present and their willingness to work together for the success of the purpose of the Conference. From this good spirit he believed there could not help but come a successful issue for the Conference.

Mr. N. McKinnon referred to the attention given by the Miners' Union to the question of the cost of living. The members of the Union, in common with all workers, had found the H. C. L. a pressing problem. They found living costs a serious matter, and after going into the whole question very carefully and very thoroughly, their opinion was that so far as the situation here was concerned the only possible help at the immediate present would be an increase in wages.

Mr. D. Ostrosser made reply to Mr. Devaney's comparison of prices of boots here and in Iroquois Falls. While not handling the lines specified by Mr. Devaney, Mr. Ostrosser thought that the prices here compared very favorably with those at the Falls. The changes in styles (something beyond the control of the local merchants) was one of the factors in keeping up the prices. People would not buy boots out of fashion and the loss entailed by any boots left over from year to year had of course to be provided for. He also showed that the cost of leather of all

kinds had greatly advanced, and this with the well-known advances in the price of labor, etc., fully explained any advances made in the selling price of boots and shoes.

Mr. L. S. Newton, in referring to the general increase in the cost of living, compared prices of pork and beef before the war and now, showing that the increase in the cost of these commodities was about 300 per cent. Mr. Newton proceeded to show that the purchasing power of the dollar to-day was away below what it was before the war and still further below its purchasing power years before that.

A motion by Mr. Dougall to the effect that the Conference request the Government to place an embargo on all foodstuffs did not carry.

On motion of Dr. McInnis, seconded by Mr. Devaney, two committees of five members each appointed, the first to enquire into the costs of telephone service, transportation and lights, and the second to deal with the price of foodstuffs and any other matters in connection with the high cost of living, these committees to be representative.

The Committee re Transportation, Telephone and Lights Costs—Dr. McInnis, Board of Trade; W. DeFau, Timmins Council; P. O'Neill, Labor; J. T. Macgregor, G. W. V. A.; Geo. N. Deckert, Mines.

Committee to Enquire into the Price of Foodstuffs, etc.—Mr. Devaney, Board of Trade; Mr. Longmore, Timmins Council; Mr. McKinnon, Labor; Mr. Macaulay, G. W. V. A.; Mr. Laux, Mines.

On motion of Mr. T. F. King, seconded by Mr. D. Ostrosser it was resolved that a committee of four be appointed, one to represent the Mines, one to represent the G. W. V. A., one to represent the Board of Trade and one to represent Labor this committee to act as a central committee and receive reports of other committees and report at the next meeting.

Committee of Four—J. W. Reed, Board of Trade; L. S. Newton, Labor; A. F. Brigham, Mines; Geo. A. Smith, G. W. V. A.

On motion of Dr. McInnis, seconded by Mr. Ostrosser, the Conference adjourned to meet again this (Wednesday) evening.

AGITATION FOR RAILWAY FOR SHINING TREE CAMP

An agitation for the railway connection with the Shiningtree Gold Camp is being vigorously carried on by The Toronto World. The World suggests that the T. & N. O. build from Timmins to the C. N. R. near Sudbury, passing through the Shiningtree Camp. Such a line, The World points out, would shorten the distance from the Porcupine Camp to Toronto by 85 miles. It would also pass directly through the Shiningtree district and it could also take in the Goganda silver camp and serve the Matatehewan gold area. "The mines will pay for the railway many times over," says The World, "but the mines cannot be developed without adequate transportation. In reply to this agitation Hon G. Howard Ferguson last week told The World that considerable improvement had been made to the roads leading to the Shiningtree Camp. A thorough examination of the district had also been made and all possible was being done to assist this new camp. "We believe the Shiningtree Camp to be a fairly good one," Mr. Ferguson said, "and we have spent a large sum of money to assist transportation there." The World is not exactly satisfied with this. The World wants a railroad, not good roads, and The World wants that railroad railroaded through fight away. The Government, certainly, has its own difficulties in knowing what to do sometimes to help the mining camps. When it decided, after considerable agitation had taken place, to construct a railway into the Kirkland Lake Camp, it found great opposition suddenly arise to this procedure, the call being then for motor roads for the Kirkland Lake Camp, the railroad being classed as less necessary. Good roads, the Government was solemnly assured were of greater importance than immediate railway connection. When now it is attempted to give good roads to the Shiningtree Camp it is found that it is a railroad that is desired. No wonder the Government is worried. The Government, however, might do well to take a tip or a tumble, and see that the mining camps have both good roads locally and close railways connection. It will pay the Province in the long run to spend money and thought on all the mining districts of the great North Land. Every dollar sensibly invested up here by the Government will bring rich returns to the Province, directly and indirectly.

Last month is officially recorded as the hottest June in the past 25 years. The North Land had more than its share of this heat, the thermometer on more than one occasion running up beyond 90.



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