

## Italian Industries In Critical State; 150,000 Men Idle

### Many Leading Factories Are Compelled to Shut Down and Others Are Running on Reduced Wage Scales

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MILAN, April 2.—The industrial situation in Italy has reached a crisis. The number of unemployed has now reached 150,000 and more than 500,000 are working at reduced wages and on short shifts. The Michelin works at Turin have closed down, and the Galileo establishment at Florence and other metallurgical plants are seriously affected by the paralysis. Two more large factories here, the Officine Freius and the Officine Dubose, have shut their doors. The former is a foundry that supplies nearly all the gasoline motors produced in Italy and the latter is the principal loom-manufacturing plant, making machinery for Biella and other great weaving centers in this country. The Fiat motor works has served notice on 1,500 more men, the third batch to be laid off within a few months.

Rumors are afloat that the Iva steel works near Naples, the biggest Italian corporation next to Ansaldo, may soon be closed. The Iva company is capitalized at 300,000,000 lire. When no dividends were paid last year the price of the stock dropped to 30 per cent of its previous value.

Italian textile mills are in similar difficulties. The cotton factories owned by Crespi at Capriate that employ 4,000 hands have been closed, as have also the Caprotti mills at Bergamo, where nearly as many persons are employed. Another industry that is suffering

heavily is the manufacture of boots and shoes, which grew enormously during the war. Forty such establishments have been started in Italy since 1915. Their production more than tripled the output of footwear in Italy before the war.

Pig iron production has decreased 60 per cent in the last eighteen months and foundries are now selling castings at less than their cost. Many plants are operating at a heavy loss.

The only engineering works still busy are those constructing railway material which is being ordered generously by the government.

The shipyards are suffering because of an oversupply of tonnage. After the recent riots in Trieste the big shipbuilding yards at San Marco shut down, throwing 3,000 men out of work. The Socialists have appealed frantically to Parliament for the alleviation of the distress among the workers and are demanding that the government intervene. No mention is made by the Socialists of the fact that their own reckless campaign among the working classes has deprived Italian industry of orders and credit from abroad.

### Coal Men Granted Writ

#### Temporary Injunction Against Daugherty in Conspiracy Case

WASHINGTON, April 2.—A temporary injunction against Attorney General Daugherty and his subordinates, returnable April 12, was granted today in the District Supreme Court here, restraining them from requiring the presence of certain officers of the National Coal Association before the Federal Court in Indianapolis in answer to pending indictments there alleging conspiracy to restrict coal production.

The injunction covers Daniel B. Wertz, president of the association; John D. A. Morrow, vice-president, and Robert W. Couffer, Chicago manager. It applies to certain Federal legal officials in Indiana, Delaware, Pennsylvania and Illinois, as well as the District of Columbia.

The Federal grand jury in Indianapolis returned indictments against 226 persons, but the petitioners for the injunction asserted that the association never did business in Indiana and was not subject to jurisdiction of the Federal Court there.

## Plans Act to Mediate All Rail Disputes

Continued from page one

An executive session after the conference with the managers, at the termination of which they notified the company's officials that the proposed wage reduction was not acceptable to the men. The managers then asked if the employees would consider any other proposals for a cut, and the brotherhood official answered in the negative. The conference closed after representatives of both sides had voted to submit the case to the Railroad Labor Board.

Today's conference was the second of a series between representatives of the road and its employees. The maintenance of way and structures and unskilled forces refused to accept re-

ductions of from 16 to 25 per cent on Wednesday.

The next session will be held Monday, when the shop crafts representatives are to go into conference with the managers.

### \$3,733,816,186 Paid

#### Last Year as Rail Wages

WASHINGTON, April 2.—Railroad wages for 1920 amounted to \$3,733,816,186, the Interstate Commerce Commission announced today. Wages for the first quarter of the year were \$795,615,330, for the second \$801,093,938, for the third \$1,052,109,451, and for the fourth \$982,606,787 with the retroactive increase of July 20 amounting to approximately \$102,419,650 to be added in the total.

Wages for the first two quarters were on the basis of pay prevailing before the increases granted by the Railway Labor Board. The carriers were asked to exclude the retroactive pay from the quarterly reports in order not to distort the comparison of averages, the commissioner explained in making the figures public. Reports of back pay, the commission

said, are not quite complete and therefore the figures are somewhat below those to appear in the final annual report.

### New York Freight Rate Order

#### Altered to Equal Interstate

WASHINGTON, April 2.—Orders of the Interstate Commerce Commission increasing state freight and passenger rates in New York and Iowa were changed today to permit the railroads to maintain the same rates within the state as are in effect in interstate traffic. The recent orders of the commission on state rates were so phrased as to compel higher rates in some states than the interstate rates in effect in the same territory.

Changes in the orders similarly affecting some thirty other states will be issued in the near future.

### Judge Lindsay Gets Stay

DENVER, April 2.—Execution of sentence upon Judge Ben B. Lindsay, of the Juvenile Court, for contempt of court was postponed today until Monday. The judge was fined \$500, and the Supreme Court at Washington recently refused to review the case.

## Builders' Wage Blamed For Housing Shortage

### Real Estate Man Says Two-thirds of Construction Cost Is Rep- resented by Labor

Allan Robinson, president of a realty company, in an open letter to the Building Trades Council of this city yesterday says there will be no substantial decrease in building costs so long as wages are continued at their present levels. He lays the lack of building operations and unemployment to that cause.

In his letter he says that one-half of the entire cost of a building is represented by wages of labor on the site, and that although the other half of the cost represents materials the labor of producing these materials is another factor. "Taking this into consideration," he says, "at the lowest estimate two-thirds of the cost of every home represents wages."

Referring to the decreased efficiency of labor in the building trades, he

says: "In a development I was personally familiar with, bricklayers laid between 600 and 1,000 bricks a day, whereas in pre-war time they laid 1,500 to 2,000."

"If labor will make the building of homes possible there will be no lack of employment among the building trades men. Furthermore, the abnormally high rents that labor pays for its housing accommodations will not fall until homes are provided to meet their full demand."

### Munson Liner Held Up

#### By Buenos Ayres Strike

### Shooting of Fireman Causes Port Workers Union to Stop Unloading Ship

BUENOS AYRES, April 2.—The Port Workers Union here has held up all work in discharging the cargo and the reloading of the Munson Line steamer Martha Washington since her arrival here on March 27 because of the refusal of the line to accede to the demands of the union in behalf of the

ship's fireman, which grew out of a shooting of one of the firemen in a struggle with the steamer's master's arms.

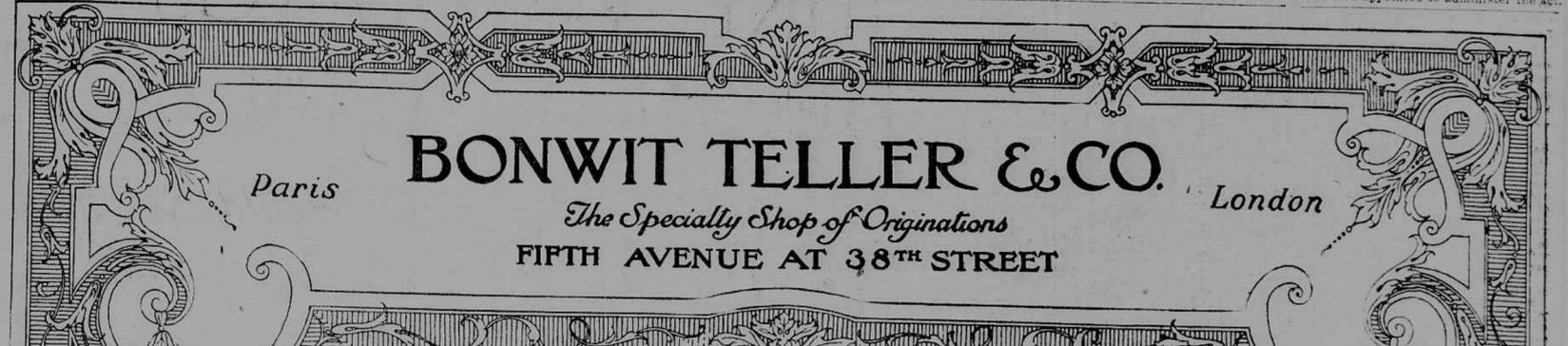
It is alleged the fireman on retreating from shore leave began firing his revolver promiscuously, two of the shots passing close to Chief Officer Ross. The master at arms attempted to subdue the fireman, who during the tussle, was wounded. He is expected to recover. Ross and the master at arms were arrested, but the former was released.

The Port Workers Union intervened and demanded that the captain pay off firemen who wished to leave the ship. The fireman alleged that they have been brutally treated. The company objected.

The union announces that the boycott will continue. The United States Consulate has refused to deal with the union.

### Liquor Act Effective May 1

VICTORIA, B. C., April 2.—British Columbia's new liquor control law became effective May 1, government officials said today. A board of commissioners, one a returned soldier, will be appointed to administer the act.



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Refinement and elegance are expressed on the beautiful second floor of this shop in WOMEN'S FROCKS and GOWNS that have the cachet of Paris—in WOMEN'S COATS and CAPES of a distinguished type—in WOMEN'S SUITS developed in individualized versions of the mode—in sumptuous FURS featuring Russian Sable, Marten, Silver and Blue Foxes.

The verve and esprit of youth are splendidly characterized on the beautiful third floor, in apparel for the JEUNE FILLE and the PETITE WOMAN. Frocks and gowns, tailored suits, coats, capes for school and college wear and for the debutante. Modes that are removed many degrees from the usual and that possess the refreshing attributes of simplicity and good taste in treatment and color scheme.

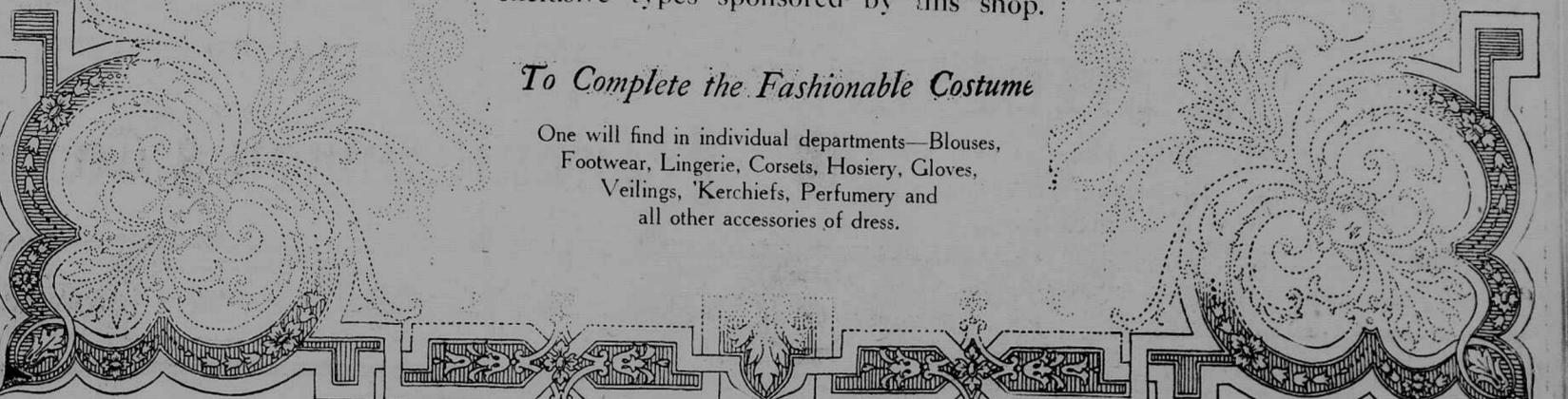
FRENCH HATS & REPRODUCTIONS—3d Floor  
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