

low wages that may be paid to other labor in a period of temporary depression and unemployment. It is but just that railroad management have indicated no desire for such a result.

In a statistical table based on the figures on wages and the cost of living by the Department of Labor, which is incorporated in the report of the board declared that while the cost of living in March, 1921 (last available Government figures), was approximately 17.2 per cent over that of December, 1917, the hourly rate of pay for maintenance of way employees under the present decision will be 69.4 per cent above the hourly rates of December, 1917, and the purchasing power of the wages of employees affected by the present decision will be 44.5 per cent over the purchasing power of their wages in 1917.

Common Labor Classes. Under the terms of the decision the classes designated as "common labor" and estimated to number 12,740, were cut five cents an hour. Labor of a similar class employed around shops, round houses, yards and terminals, numbering 31,249, also were cut five cents an hour. Drivages, tenders and assistants, pile drivers, ditching and hoisting engineers, firemen, etc., were cut five cents an hour. They number 29,748. Section, track and maintenance foremen and assistant foremen were cut three cents an hour.

Among other classes were mechanics in the maintenance of way department, except those under the shop crafts and mechanics in the shops, except those under the shop crafts. Mechanics in these same departments, except those under the shop crafts agreement, were cut one cent an hour. It was emphasized, however, that all of the minimum rates will not apply in a uniform manner throughout the country, but will be affected by local conditions.

The decision, it was said, before the announcement of the cut in freight rates, but was held up to permit the completion of the minority decision so that both could be issued simultaneously. Railroad labor organizations listed as parties to the dispute include, besides the United Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees and Railway Shop Laborers, the International Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Foremen's Association, International Brotherhood of Stationary Firemen and Blower Brothers, Association of Railway and Steamship Clerks, Freight Handlers, Express and Station Employees and the American Federation of Railroad Workers.

The classes of employees and the cut authorized in each case follow: Bridge, building, painter, construction, mason and concrete, water supply and plumber foremen, except certain and mechanical helpers in these same departments except those that come within the scope of agreements with the federated shop crafts—decrease of 1 cent an hour. Track laborers and all common laborers in the maintenance of way department and in and around shops and roundhouses not otherwise provided for—decrease of 5 cents an hour.

Drawbridge tenders and assistants, pile drivers, ditching and hoisting firemen, pumper engineers and pumpers, crossing watermen, firemen and lamp men and tenders—decrease of five cents an hour. Laborers employed in and around shops and roundhouses, such as engine watchmen and wipers, fire builders, ashmen, etc., except those coming under certain provisions of the decrease of last July, and coal chute men—decrease of five cents an hour.

miscellaneous classes of foremen and other employees not specifically listed, it is provided that an amount be deducted, equal to the decrease specified for the respective classes to which the miscellaneous classes referred to are analogous.

Disappointing Opinion. The dissenting opinion was signed by the three latter members of the board, A. C. Wharton, Albert Phillips and W. L. McMenimen. The opinion gives extended tables and testimony on which the labor group has established that the wage cut is not justified.

"The rates of pay established under this decision," the dissenting opinion said, "will merely perpetuate the low level of the purchasing power possessed by this large class of workers in pre-war years."

"The rates of pay established under this decision will mean annual earnings for the man who has no other source of subsistence which has been formulated, even below those of most conservative employer groups."

"These rates," the opinion declared, "are not based upon the human needs of the hundreds of thousands of families involved. They are insufficient to provide these families with the absolute essentials."

"The pre-war standard of wages perpetuated by the decision, the labor group said, "was the product of inequitable wage bargaining."

The dissenting opinion also gave figures in an effort to show the statistical value of comparative purchasing power of laborers of the class affected in December, 1917, and at present to be "unfair and misleading."

Waiting for Reductions. The decision was expected to usher in a long delayed era of expansion for the carriers, as they were said to have been suffering under the maintenance work for a long time because of the high cost of labor. The number of men now employed in this work has been estimated at about 249,000 below the number employed during the normal conditions. It was the contention of the roads in the wage hearings that the wage reductions they asked would reduce unemployment.

Labor men, while they were reluctant to be noted upon the issue, full time study the opinion, pointed out that while it applied to the largest class of railroad employees, the total of the maintenance men being more than 70 per cent of the total amount of wages paid to this group, which usually ranks as "unskilled" labor, was smaller in the total than that paid any of the other great groups whose wages are also to be raised upon by the board's decision.

If to-day's decision, it was said, were applied to all employees the general level of railroad wages would have declined to the level in effect before the \$400,000,000 increase granted by the board in 1920. Of this increase \$400,000,000 was wiped out by last year's decision, which was followed by a strike crisis, a walk-out, and a general maintenance work stoppage.

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League Likely to Admit Germany in September

LONDON, May 29 (Monday).—According to the Times the League of Nations in its September session probably will be called upon to consider the question of Germany's admission to membership in the league. The newspaper adds that the meeting of the Council of the League early in May examined into the question and that it is believed it favored Germany's admission, provided she shows good faith concerning meeting the reparations demands on May 31.

Irish Parliament Call Stirs Dublin

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Die Zeit, the organ of the industrialists, finds comfort in assuming that once the Americans subscribe real dollars to an international loan their active personal interest in German economic affairs is assured. "This would promptly end the mendacious foreign attitude to Germany, which now is clearing the situation," says Die Zeit, which at the same time brands an international loan granted for only a short period as "financial quackery," because it eventually would only precipitate further chaos, in addition to burdening Germany with heavy interest charges.

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