

## REPORT OF COMMISSIONER ON CERTAIN MATTERS RELATING TO GREAT LAKES' SHIPPING

As a result of certain disputes which arose in connection with Great Lakes' shipping in the early summer and which involved to some extent a disruption of service, a Commission was appointed by the Minister of Labour to deal with this development (LABOUR GAZETTE, July, 1938, pp. 736-7).

The report of the Commissioner on these matters is as follows:—

MONTREAL,  
November 10, 1938.

W. M. DICKSON, Esq.,  
Deputy Minister of Labour,  
Ottawa, Ont.

Re: Alleged discrimination against members of the Canadian Seamen's Union by the Mohawk Navigation Company Ltd., Inland Lines Limited and North American Transports Limited.

SIR,—I beg to submit my report as Commissioner, appointed under Order in Council No. 1383, in connection with the above entitled matter.

The first meeting was convened on July 11, 1938.—

Present:

- E. McG. Quirk, Commissioner.
- J. A. Mathewson, K.C., representing R. A. Campbell, et al.
- H. H. Harris, legal representative for the C.S.U.
- J. A. Sullivan and T. J. Hautman, C.S.U.

The second and last meeting was held on October 13, 1938.

Present:

- E. McG. Quirk, Commissioner.
- J. A. Mathewson, K.C., representing R. A. Campbell, et al.
- H. H. Harris, legal representative for the C.S.U.
- J. A. Sullivan, T. J. Hautman and Chapman, C.S.U.

During the period between the first and last meeting (three months) I was in frequent contact with Mr. J. A. Mathewson, K.C., representing the Shipping Companies under the management of Mr. R. A. Campbell, and Mr. H. H. Harris, solicitor, representing the Canadian Seamen's Union (Mr. J. A. Sullivan), in order to ascertain from them when it would be convenient to open and continue the inquiry. At the same time I did not press either of them to submit briefs or names of witnesses, nor did I arbitrarily insist that the inquiry be carried on. My principle object was to assure them that the services of the Commissioner were available at any time.

During the said three month period, however, neither Mr. Mathewson nor Mr. Harris had availed themselves of the opportunity thus offered to submit any evidence or argument in support of or in rebuttal of the matters under dispute and to consider which the Commission had issued. Moreover, Mr. Mathewson and Mr. Harris assured me at the meeting of October 13 that they were not then in a position to submit arguments as to the complaints specifically defined in the Commission. Having regard to this and to the near approach to the close of navigation the Commissioner at the second meeting proposed that the Commission should now dissolve and both Mr. Mathewson and Mr. Harris concurred in this view and agreed to submit to the Commissioner their concurrence in writing. Such letters were subsequently received and the originals forwarded to you under date of October 20, 1938.

In view of the circumstances related above, I recommend that the Commission of Inquiry under Order in Council No. 1383 of the 20th June, 1938, be dissolved.

Respectfully submitted,

E. McG. QUIRK, Commissioner.

### Minimum Wage Rates for Rubber Industry in Great Britain

The rubber manufacturing trade in Great Britain has been brought within the scope of the Trade Boards Act in order that minimum rates of wages may be established in the industry. The Minister has power to apply the Acts to any trade if he is of the opinion that no adequate machinery exists for the effective regulation of wages throughout the trade and that the rates of wages prevailing in the trade are unduly low. The rubber manufacturing trade is defined in the Order as the preparation and manufacture of rubber materials and the manufacture and repair of rubber articles in an establishment wholly or

mainly so engaged or in a department of an establishment so engaged, the rubberizing of fabrics and the regeneration of waste or used rubber. The following operations are, however, excepted: the preparation and manufacture of rubber materials and the manufacture and repair of rubber articles if the factory as a whole is mainly engaged on operations other than those included in the Order and the materials and articles are used in the manufacture or repair of articles made or repaired in the factory, not being rubber articles; the making up from rubberized fabrics of articles other than vulcanized articles; work performed by dental mechanics; manufacture of articles made from asbestos and the manufacture of electric cables.