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# Tribute to Laval University Centenary at the Industrial Relations Convention.

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# INFORMATION

## TRIBUTE TO LAVAL UNIVERSITY CENTENARY AT THE INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS CONVENTION

The seventh Industrial Relations Convention of Laval University was held at the Chateau Frontenac, Quebec, last April 21st and 22nd. This first symposium of the centennial year was devoted to wages and prices and brought together some five hundred delegates from all sectors of the labour world, civil administration and universities. The participation was made up as follows: Employers' representatives, 30%; Labour representatives, 24%; Government representatives, 25%; University representatives, 6%; Others (students, newspapermen, professionals, etc.), 15%.

For two days, quite serenely, the delegates studied under the direction of experts, the causes of inflation, its effects on wages, prices and profits and its influence on those who are the victims: the wage-earner, the contractor, the rentiers, the one who saves. The realistic attitudes of the unions and the employers toward the acuteness of this problem and their programmes of action have also been brought out. Among the cures suggested particular attention was given to the wages determination in accordance with the cost of living, to wage systems varying with productivity, to voluntary arbitration and to state control of wages and prices.

These two days of study, under the active chairmanship of Mr. Gerard Tremblay, Director of the Department of Industrial Relations, was completed by tributes from the employers, workers and government authorities to Laval University's Centenary, respectively presented by Mr. J. Art. Bédard, President of the Centre des Patrons Chrétiens, Mr. Gérard Picard, General President of the Canadian and Catholic Confederation of Labour, and the Honorables Milton F. Gregg, Federal Minister of Labour and Antonio Barrette, Minister of Labour of the Province of Quebec. All emphasized the important contribution of the Faculty of Social Sciences and its Department of Industrial Relations by their active participation in the study and solution of the economic and social problems of the present.

In his general introduction of the speakers, the Rev. Georges Henri Lévesque, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, declared that "Laval University has decided, more than ever, to put its moral and material resources to work toward a solution of the social problem."... "We must apply ourselves", he added, "to serve the common good and the University can better serve this common good because it constitutes a place, a summit, a neutral ground, where one may discuss and come to a understanding. This University is lighting up the road that we must all take together for the prosperity of the Province and of Canada."

In closing this convention, the Honorary President, His Excellency, Mgr. Maurice Roy, Archbishop of Quebec and Grand Chancellor of Laval University, made this stirring appeal for cooperation: "To you who are looking after the problems that divide mankind, I ask you to be always aware of your social responsibilities."... "I look on the future with confidence, because we have a base of Christian conscience." (1)

- (1) The works presented at the occasion of the Seventh Industrial Relations Convention and the speeches of the closing session will be bound together in a report which will be on sale shortly by the Department of Industrial Relations.