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Managing Editor
Phone 23

WEDNESDAY JULY 30TH, 1913.

THE INTERCOLONIAL

If the facts really are as the reports in the press allege them to be, the situation on the Intercolonial seems to be serious; and should the strike which the men threaten, materialize, and last for many days the consequences to the Maritime Provinces would be disastrous. The conference which took place between the General Manager and the employees, did not even result in a compromise of any sort; both parties appear to have left it, equally determined not to give in. As long as this attitude is maintained by either side, it is not of much use expecting any reasonable settlement of the differences at stake.

Without entering in any way into the rights and wrongs of the matters in dispute, or offering any comment on them, we can only express the fervent hope that some basis of agreement will be arrived at that will avert the threatened strike. This part of the country cannot afford to be without railway accommodation, and the withdrawal of the train service even for so brief a period as a day or two, would be extremely inconvenient, and if prolonged, simply disastrous. The tie up in freight alone would cause heavy loss to the merchants, while the inconvenience to passengers would be scarcely less so.

THE VALUE OF THE NATIONAL POLICY

The following despatch from Detroit, published in the New York American, gives one clear instance of what Canada has gained by the National Policy and the rejection of the Taft Laurier Reciprocity pact. The despatch reads:—
When the heads of the United States Steel Corporation learned a couple of years ago that the reciprocity pact which the Taft Administration had negotiated with Canada had been defeated by a referendum vote in Canada, they came to Detroit and picked out a spot across the river in Canada, where they could advantageously manufacture and ship steel, and bought it. They have begun work on the construction of a second Gary there. A Canadian city of some 75,000 population, and named Ojibway will be built up there within three or four years.

Had the reciprocity pact been ratified that city would have been on the American side of Detroit River, the labor would have been American. The supplies for this labor would have broadened the market of the American farmers who opposed reciprocity.

The United States Steel Corporation wanted to sell its steel to Canada and was prevented by the Canadian tariff. It wanted to buy ore and raw materials in Canada and was prevented by the American tariff. It desired the best facilities for shipping to Canadian ports and all over the world by water. It had been contemplating building a plant on the Detroit side of the river.

Agents had looked over the ground below the city, in the vicinity of the big ship building plants, and had practically decided to buy there. The Detroit River forms the best harbor on the Great Lakes, completely sheltered, yet large enough and deep enough to permit the free passage and manoeuvring of the largest steamships. The steel corporation had its plans already made, when the reciprocity pact went to vote. When it found there was to be no reciprocity it just moved across the river.

A PANEGYRIC

The Simcoe Reformer says:—The Montreal Daily Witness passes out of existence after an honorable history prevent such a rapid spread of flames

of over half a century. Its fate is another warning to put no trust in the professional moralists. The Witness has been a good newspaper, edited with exceptional ability by a most competent and trained journalist. It set up a high moral ideal for itself. Declined at all times to be bound by party exigencies, and rigorously excluded from its columns matter that, in the opinion of its management, was objectionable. No medicine, liquor, tobacco, race-track or gambling advertising of any description was ever admitted to the Witness. And it has for years been a losing proposition. If all the owners of voices, raised constantly in Canada for the causes that the Witness stood for more squarely than any other American daily newspaper, had gone down in their pockets only to the extent of one subscription each per year, the Witness would have been one of the greatest powers in the Dominion. But they preach and pray one way and vote and spend their money another, and that is the whole of the story. After thirty years, Mr. Duggan appears to have learned the lesson. Perhaps Mr. Rowell will master it sooner.

Three weeks from to-day upwards of one hundred delegates from all over the Maritime provinces will be here to attend the annual meeting of the Maritime Board of Trade. There is a large amount of work to be done by the town authorities to make the streets look presentable, and we hope it won't be put off till the last minute and then found that there is not time to have the work done. To cut away the grass and weeds growing in the gutters in all the streets will take several days.

CURRENT COMMENT

Some Liberal journals are loudly announcing that Mr. Churchill's statement to the effect that the British taxpayer would take up Canada's share of the burden of Imperial defence, is a confession that there is no emergency. How they come to this conclusion is one of those mysteries which "no fellow can understand." Perhaps they reason it out in the same way as the chap did who stood on his head at the close of the day and, because he saw the sun pass from the level of his chin to that of his nose, swore that the sun was rising.

The latest apologist for the upside-down Grit view, the Montreal Daily Telegraph, questions the First Lord's wisdom in blurring out what Britain feels compelled to do in order to maintain her sea supremacy. It says that "his announcement will needlessly provoke Germany and the battle-ship building will now continue in a vicious circle." This is very dreadful indeed but Mr. Churchill is only implementing the promise which he gave several months ago, when the Grits began obstructing the Naval Aid Bill that "under no circumstances would Britain fail in her duty to provide protection for the Empire as a whole."

Mr. Churchill is standing on his feet and he sees the emergency as it exists and he is taking the necessary steps to meet it. If the perspective of the Canadian Grit senators had not been inverted, they would have seen it also and, by consenting to Canada's offer of assistance, they would have stopped the prosecution of Germany and "the mad race for armaments" by showing the world an Empire united for defence.

The "General Slocumb" disaster, the Cleveland School horror, the Triangle Waist Company fire, and now a repetition of these tragedies occur in a clothing factory in Binghamton, New York, whereby at least fifty persons all women and young girls, lose their lives. What a chapter of horrors. Surely there must be something terribly wrong in regard to protection against fire and in the provision for saving life in these factory buildings. The structure erected for office purposes, the club house, the bank, the insurance building, are now-a-days made practically secure against fire and its consequences. Why is it that the factory where the poor girl earns her living by stern toil is not similarly protected, her life not similarly guarded?

The building conflagration seems anyhow to be an established "institution" only on this continent. Last year not less than \$250,000,000 worth of property in Canada and the United States went up in smoke, and many lives were lost besides. All Europe, with four or five times the population did not count one-tenth this loss. No wooden buildings are permitted to be used for factory purposes in either Germany, England, Belgium or France, every probability of fire is guarded against, and every ingenuity is used to provide means of escape if such does occur. Bue in America the tragedies go on without visible diminution, and almost monthly our nerves are racked by such horrors. Can they not be prevented by greater care and more rigid inspection? Can they at least not be greatly lessened? In this instance fire drills have prevailed, the building had fire escapes and automatic fire alarms, but some still greater precaution was needed to in case of fire.

ANOTHER AWFUL CATASTROPHE
IN AN AMERICAN FACTORY

Half a Hundred Work Girls Perished in Flames Which Enveloped Building Before they Could Get Away—They Thought it was only Another Fire Drill and Didn't Hurry Till it was Too Late

Another of those appalling factory catastrophes which seem to periodically visit this continent occurred on Tuesday week, when fifty persons were killed, according to late estimates, and as many injured, a dozen of them mortally, in a fire which swept the four-story factory building of the Binghamton Clothing Company this afternoon. The victims were chiefly women and girls.

So far thirty-five bodies had been recovered. In the City Hospital and in private institutions are thirty injured. Some two score persons are known to have escaped, as by a miracle from the building, which burst into flame like a tinder-box and became a roaring furnace almost in no time after the first alarm was sounded.

About one hundred and twenty-five persons were in the factory when the fire broke out.

The Story in Detail

A wisp of smoke, a curl of flame at the foot of a narrow stairway leading from the entrance to the fourth floor of the Freeman overall factory, No. 7 Wall street, a blasting sweep upward, a smother of smoke and flame, and, over all, the shrieks of one hundred and twenty-six frenzied girl employees, then, in twenty minutes, the walls of crumbling mass of white-hot ruins, burying the shrivelled corpses of half a hundred employees.

The Freeman Overall Company, of which Reed B. Freeman is Manager and principal stockholder, occupied the four-story brick building adjoining the postoffice on Wall street. It faced the river and stood free from surrounding buildings. At the time as high as 150 girls were working, but, while the exact number is not known, 126 are believed to have been at work on their machines. The first floor is occupied by the office force, and six employees were on this floor. Five cutters were at work on the second floor, thirty women on the third floor, where the finishing was done, and from eighty to one hundred on the top floor, where the scores of sewing machines were humming industriously.

Fire Drill Was Girls' Undoing.

In accordance with a recent law, a fire alarm system had been installed in the factory about two months ago, and frequent fire drills were held. Strangely enough, this proved the undoing of the unfortunate employees. Within the past two weeks three tests alarms had been sounded, and the girls had grown into the habit of taking their time to dress, and walk leisurely out when the fire rang. At 2:29 o'clock this afternoon, Wm. Bennett, a cutter on the second floor, noticed a wisp of smoke coming up the stairway leading from the entrance on the first floor. He pushed the fire alarm, and the girls rang out throughout the building. So quick was the fire that before Bennett and his fellow employees on that floor could reach the fire escapes the room was filled with smoke and the flames were leaping up the stairway. This is said to have been the only exit from the building except a fire escape that had been placed at the back.

In the office on the ground floor, Mrs. Reed B. Freeman, wife of the Manager, heard the alarm and remarked, "Oh this is another false alarm." Opening the door from the office to the stairway, she was met by a gust of smoke and had barely time to shove the books in the safe and slam shut the door. The employees, shielding their faces from the heat, crawled through the blinding smoke to safety.

THINLY CLAD LADY CAUSED COMMOTION

The scanty garb of an ultra-fashionable dressed woman led to her being asked to leave Lord's Cricket Grounds, where the Oxford-Cambridge cricket match was being played, recently. The stands were filled with England's smartest society people, and all the women present were beautifully gowned, but the person in question was easily noticeable because of her startling and daring costume. She wore a big flapping straw hat and a lace dress which had evidently no lining and whose skirt was so flimsy that black knickerbockers and jewelled garter buckles were as easily seen as if in a shop window. All eyes were gradually magnetized by the woman, until suddenly a policeman walked over and whispered something in her ear. She arose and left the grounds. However, she was perfectly complacent and evidently well satisfied with the sensation she made.

On the third and fourth floors scenes of horror were being enacted. The girls many of Slavic or Italian parentage, thinking the alarm a test, took their time until a rush of superheated air and a burst of flames and smoke cut off their escape from the stairway and drove them to the one fire escape at the rear of the building. Here they crowded onto the narrow ladder and hung shrieking for help, others pushed and shoved, crowding and pleading with these on the escape for another inch, or to drop and give those behind a chance from the blazing heat which was blistering hands and faces. Then from the upper windows women hurled themselves to the ground, fracturing arms and legs, and burned until, when rescuers grasped their arms to drag them from the blazing furnace, the flesh rolled from the bones. Many bleeding victims had to be rolled in blankets to be carried to places of safety.

In the front facing Wall street girls who were crowded from the too heavily freighted fire escape fled to the windows at the opposite end and flung themselves onto the stone pavement. Body after body hurtled through the air, and there were great splashes of blood on the flagging to mark the spot where some victim driven to desperation by the flames had perished.

Like the Triangle fire in New York the conditions inevitable in a factory of this character greatly accelerated the flames. The managers of the factory claim that the floors were kept swept every night but it is known that a large amount of goods were being manufactured and that from the progress of the day's work alone the floors were strewn deep with bits of cotton and shreds of cloth. Through this the flames swept with the roar of a whirlwind and the girls who could not reach the windows were overcome with the smoke and heat and perished near their machines.

To complicate matters just as the fire was discovered, an alarm was turned in from two other parts of the city, one calling all the companies in the district in which the overall factory was located to a trivial fire a dozen blocks distant, and the other sending the companies to the western part of the city to extinguish a grass fire on the outskirts. Therefore, when the management of the overall factory attempted to notify the central station by phone no response could be had. The box alarm was sounded, it was several minutes before the companies arrived on the scene. The first company to reach the spot was responding to another alarm and the firemen from their passing rig saw girls springing from the windows to the pavement. In the hear the girls clinging screaming to the fire escape while a burst of flame swept upward, shrivelling them up in the sight of the horrified spectators, and they fell like stricken flies to the ground.

Twelve Faces Faded from View

By this time the upper story was one complete mass of flames. A woman spectator counted twelve faces at the windows.

Then with a crash the roof fell in and the faces faded from view. On the third floor women were still struggling to the windows and jumping. As fast as they reached the ground they were rolled in blankets and carried to a nearby garage.

The fire besides destroying the Binghamton Clothing Co. building, spread to the Federal Building. The total money damage, however, is not expected to exceed \$100,000.

Happy Hour

To-night's programme at the Happy Hour consists of four fine feature reels. "The Homestead Race" (American). This story features the race made by the girls lover to file on a homestead. He finally gets an auto at the last moment and beats the villain to the land office. There is a good suspense in the film and it holds the observer well. "A Caged Bird" (Thanhouser). This is a story of a princess who pines to get out and live amongst the people. Marguerite Snow appears as the princess and William Garwood as the prince who eventually marries her. Entertaining and effectively pictures. "The Rivals Outwitted" (Majestic comedy). The scenes are laid in a gymnasium several lady athletes fall in love with the professor in charge, but another wins him. "Plans of the House" (Solax) A strong drama with a good theme.

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TENDERS FOR DREDGING
SEALED TENDERS addressed to the undersigned and endorsed "Tender for Dredging, Island River, Gloucester Co., N. B." will be received until 4:00 P. M. on Tuesday, August 5, 1913, for dredging required at Island River, N. B.
Tenders will not be considered unless made on the forms supplied, and signed with the actual signatures of the tenderers.
Combined specification and form of tender can be obtained on application to the Secretary, Department of Public Works, Ottawa. Tenderers must include the towing of the plant to and from the work, dredges and tugs not owned and registered in Canada shall not be employed in the performance of the work contracted for. Contractors must be ready to begin work within thirty days after the date they have been notified of the acceptance of their tender.
Each tender must be accompanied by an accepted cheque on a chartered bank, payable to the order of the Honourable the Minister of Public Works, for five per cent. (5 per cent) of the contract price (the value of the cheque to be not less than five hundred dollars, \$1,500.00, which will be forfeited if the person tendering decline to enter into a contract when called upon to do so, or fail to complete the work within the time specified.
The Department does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender.
By order,
R. C. DESROCHERS,
Secretary,
Department of Public Works,
Ottawa, July 21, 1913.
Newspapers will not be paid for this advertisement if they insert it without authority from the Department.—45140.

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DAVID G. SCHOFIELD,
Sec. Trustees.
Weynton, N. B.
TENDERS FOR DREDGING
SEALED TENDERS addressed to the undersigned and endorsed "Tender for Dredging, West St. John, N. B." will be received until 4:00 P. M. on Tuesday, August 5, 1913, for dredging required at Wellington and Nelson Slips and Navy Island, St. John Harbour, N. B.
Tenders will not be considered unless made on the forms supplied, and signed with the actual signatures of the tenderers.
Combined specification and form of tender can be obtained on application to the Secretary, Department of Public Works, Ottawa. Tenderers must include the towing of the plant to and from the work. Dredges and tugs not owned and registered in Canada shall not be employed in the performance of the work contracted for. Contractors must be ready to begin work within thirty days after the date they have been notified of the acceptance of their tender.
Each tender must be accompanied by an accepted cheque on a chartered bank, payable to the order of the Honourable the Minister of Public Works, for five per cent. (5 per cent) of the contract price (the value of the cheque to be not less than \$1,500.00), which will be forfeited if the person tendering decline to enter into a contract when called upon to do so, or fail to complete the work contracted for. If the tenderer be not accepted the cheque will be returned.
The Department does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender.
By order,
R. C. DESROCHERS,
Secretary,
Department of Public Works,
Ottawa, July 22, 1913.
Newspapers will not be paid for this advertisement if they insert it without authority from the Department.—45013.
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