

The Evening Times-Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., OCTOBER 25, 1923

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ALL READY.

Another big stride forward for this port comes with the formal opening of the world's greatest dry dock on Monday, and all is now in readiness for the event which will take rank as one of the most significant in our history. For what it is in itself, and for the additional expansion it promises, the dock is a magnificent business achievement, one more great step in the creation of the Greater St. John.

The port goes forward, The plans and visions of the men who had faith in the city and who rightly judged its possibilities are being realized. The city will make history and will mark the launching of the new enterprise with ceremony properly fitting the event. What has been done may well be celebrated. It increases the confidence of the people in the future of the city and gives the port a new status in the eyes of the Dominion and of the world.

Unified effort to secure the early construction of the piers and other terminal facilities required at Courtenay Bay will be promoted and strengthened by the completion of the dock, which, with its ship-repair plant, will be a powerful business magnet. It is not to be forgotten that the building of the breakwater and the dredging of a deep water area in Courtenay Bay have cleared the way for the building of the piers and the creation of the extensive facilities which the C. N. R. needs in order to handle through this port the volume of traffic for which this harbor is the natural objective. The completion of the whole Courtenay Bay plan of terminals in addition to the dry dock is therefore imperative to meet national needs.

St. John will make Monday a day of enthusiasm and rejoicing, celebrating what has been done and looking forward with fresh confidence to the additional growth and expansion which are to come.

AN EMPIRE COMPLICATION.

The London Conference feels its way cautiously in seeking means to give the Dominions a full share in the formation of foreign policy, coupled with acceptance of responsibility for carrying that policy into effect. What is sought is concerted action in the peace time activities of diplomacy which go to keep the peace, and, should these ever fail, as they did in 1914, prompt and united action in making war. In 1914 the Dominions were at war with Germany from the moment of Great Britain's declaration. The Dominions would have been at war whether they wished to follow Great Britain or not. They did not wish to stand aside, and should another war come it is only theoretically possible that any part of the Empire could play the role of a neutral. The fighting forces of the Dominions are under the control of their own Parliaments, but the rule will still hold in actual practice that when Great Britain is at war the Dominions are at war.

Today in London the assembled representatives are seeking, not for the first time, better methods for keeping the people of every self-governing part of the Empire more constantly and more fully informed as to foreign policy. They are considering, too, how best the several governments can most quickly consult and agree to common action as emergencies arise or when matters likely to lead to trouble are being dealt with. During the war Canada had its Premier or another Minister of the Crown almost constantly in London. One of the proposals now being considered is that each Dominion should have in London a member of its government who would be constantly in touch with the Foreign Office. Another suggestion is that each High Commissioner should do such work. A third is that the Dominions should establish a bureau in London, which would be a sort of overseas branch of the British foreign department. In substance all these proposals amount to about the same thing. Any of them would be some improvement upon the ordinary interchange of views by cable, though of course the representative of any Dominion could not take final action. That would rest with the government of the country he represented. If the demands and responsibilities of foreign policy are found great enough to require the constant presence of special representatives of the Dominions in London, then they could consult constantly among themselves and thus each government would be kept quickly informed as to the views entertained by the others.

Some foreign observers think the chief obstacle encountered at the Conference in these matters is the hesitation of the Dominions to undertake in advance to underwrite any and all policies of the British government. But as a matter of fact they are not

asked to do so. As integral parts of the Empire they are asked to assist in shaping foreign policy, having regard not to Britain alone but to the interests and safety of the entire Imperial structure. Theoretically the difficulties and complications are great, but there are encouraging features too marked to be overlooked. One is that in the past there has been no emergency to which the sentiment common throughout the Empire was not equal. Another is that while it would be difficult to imagine for the future circumstances more grave than those arising in connection with the great war, or involving such momentous decisions and the certainty of such frightful sacrifices, Britain and the Dominions met the test in a way that commanded the admiration of the world. Imperial unity or devotion to the common flag is no less deep today than it was then. Nor will it be.

Frequently someone rises to observe that the countries of the Empire are at the parting of the ways; but the parting never comes.

TREATING THEM ROUGH.

If you are born in Africa you must be an African, according to the American immigration laws, and that settles it. A young woman whose nationality is British, who is white, and who was born in South Africa arrived at Boston by steamer a few days ago. Friends who could testify as to her nationality were on hand to meet her. But the inspectors, seeing that Africa was given as her birthplace in the records, set her aside for deportation, the quota from Africa having been exhausted. She was sent back. She may try again in November, and if she does her only chance to get in will be as an African.

There have been many such cases during recent months, ranging from the pathetic to the ridiculous, not a few involving anxiety, financial loss and even tragic hardship. The Boston Herald, in presenting what it calls some of the curiosities resulting from the rigid interpretation of the complicated quota law, begins with a case arising at the Canadian border. "There was the refusal at the Canadian border to admit Mrs. Yonema, the wife of a well-known Boston minister, on her return from a visit to Nova Scotia. The slightest inquiry would have shown that she was entitled to return, and that the alleged ground of refusal, that she might become a public charge, was nonsensical. Then there was the case of the Belgian carpenter and his wife, both industrious persons, who had made their home in Boston and applied for naturalization. The wife was also a mother, and made a trip back to fetch the three children, but then, at New York, she and they were barred out because the Belgian quota had been exhausted. Happily, in both these instances, Secretary Davis felt free to cut the red tape across the door of ingress, when the Mayor appealed to him. Another curious case, not so happily ended, is that of Mrs. Annie Gallagher, who came from England by the Devon to East Boston, intending to go to New Bedford and there reside with her husband, to whom she was married last March. The British quota for the month being full, the young wife was sent back to sea, and she has to come again in November, trying to hit just the right moment for squeezing in at our door."

The Herald pleads for better treatment for the strangers in a "strange land who have to submit to delay, anxiety, hardship, and too often even deportation for no defensible reason." One suggestion is that some of the worst features could be avoided by a better system of examination before the immigrants begin their voyage, but, as Canada has found, that is attended by many difficulties though it is a plan demanding careful extension. In a great many instances the trouble arises from too rigid adherence to the letter of the law which is, of necessity perhaps, a highly complicated one.

The strongest testimony heard in the Maritime Provinces against the pulpwood embargo, fortified by facts not to be ignored, is that of Mr. Angus McLean, President of the Bathurst Lumber Company. He counts and greatly strengthens the testimony of many previous witnesses who oppose the policy of restriction. The preponderance of evidence in these provinces against the embargo is too marked to be overlooked.

The British Prime Minister's speech at Plymouth tonight is expected to clear away a lot of political fog about economic and foreign policy.

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Vancouver expects to handle 60,000,000 bushels of grain this season, as against 19,000,000 last year.

PULP EMBARGO IS OPPOSED BY ANGUS McLEAN AT BATHURST

Lumber Company President Says It Would Close N. B. Plants.

Bathurst, Oct. 24.—The Pulpwood Commission opened its session here this morning. The whole morning was devoted to the evidence of Angus McLean, president of the Bathurst Lumber Co., Limited, which was considered about the most complete of any which has yet been given before the commission, covering all phases of the subject. "The Bathurst Company has 1,150 square miles of licensed lands in New Brunswick, and 1,600 in Quebec and about 10,000 acres of freehold in these two provinces. When asked as to his opinion regarding an embargo, Mr. McLean replied: "My strong conviction is that such legislation would be a serious mistake and should not be enforced. So far as Nova Scotia and New Brunswick are concerned there is a surplus of pulpwood. In this district it is going to waste and the prohibition of export would mean a still greater loss. There is no shortage in this part of the province. There is a surplus and if the United States market is cut off it would be very serious to the farmers and dealers."

Only Local Market. "They would have nothing but the local market which would greatly depreciate the price of their product. If we developed to the limit of possibility so far as power is concerned there would still be plenty of wood. There is not the power needed to manufacture paper extensively. All that can be made until we get additional power is pulp and the only market for this in the world today is the United States, where we have to compete with Germany and the Scandinavian countries, which are almost putting us out of business."

Referring to this phase of the subject later in his evidence, Mr. McLean said that the Scandinavian countries, their class of timber is about the same, but they have very much better transportation rates and facilities. They can land pulp to the United States converting mills at the same cost as the Bathurst Company has to pay to move from Bathurst, and in some cases for less owing to railroad conditions here being unfavorable, practically all the mills he ships to are located on railways. The water rate from Scandinavia is very low as ships are coming light in this direction.

Unable to Continue. "This was liable to continue so long as the present condition of ships going loaded to Europe and coming empty light continued. It cost from \$5.00 to \$10 per ton for freights to the markets in the United States, while from Scandinavian ports they get as low as two dollars per ton on the ocean and also get special rail rates from tidewater in the United States. The Canadian mills have not this advantage. "If we had the foreign trade," said Mr. McLean, "we would be well situated here so far as water shipments are concerned, but we are not shipping anything to Europe." He added that Canadian countries in respect to certain disadvantages at present existing and was producing an equally good product, but there were conditions such as exchange which were disadvantages.

Returning to the question of an embargo he said: "One of the conditions we have to face is the possibility of retaliation. I am interested in the Hugh MacLean Lumber Company with its head office in Buffalo, which ships lumber from the United States to Canada. This company has mills in different states, such as Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee and Arkansas, producing hard wood to supply the furniture wagon making, interior trim and other companies in Canada with wood which is not produced here. "On the other hand we are shipping

from Bathurst to the United States and in watching conditions in both countries I am convinced that if an embargo is put on pulpwood by Canada, the United States will retaliate and put some high tariff on lumber and paper. I am absolutely convinced that this will be done. Pulpwood is practically the only thing we have with which the United States is not abundantly supplied and if we put an embargo on they will retaliate and put us out of business. If they shut us out of their market the shatters would be up on our plant here in six months."

Asked by the chairman as to the power possibilities in New Brunswick, Mr. McLean said there were two possible power developments the Niagara and the Grand Falls on the St. John river. The Bathurst Company has developed the former to its limit. On the latter there are possibilities of getting from thirty to eighty thousand horsepower, depending on the storage facilities which can be created.

May Be More Mills. "With this development there might possibly be a maximum of three or four more paper mills established in New Brunswick. The Bathurst Company has developed the Niagara to its limit and have power to make about sixty tons of newsprint a day, but cannot develop further until more power is available. There are a good many complications connected with Grand Falls development. The question as to the amount of power is undetermined. Some of the storage necessary is in Quebec, a small part in New Brunswick and the greater part in the State of Maine, so there is an international question to be adjusted. On the Niagara they have developed 5,000 horsepower but are only running one unit owing to shortage of water. They hope to create storage facilities and increase the power."

Referring to the comparative value of timber for lumber and pulpwood, Mr. McLean said so far as labor was concerned pulpwood was just as valuable. He corroborated the statements of previous witnesses that the great bulk of the material used for pulpwood is not suitable for lumber. "We cut a three-inch top and the two top logs have to be put into pulp or left in the woods to waste," said Mr. McLean. "The farmer and small operator gets more out of pulpwood than he could possibly get out of making it into lumber."

Would Be No Good. Referring to the supplies of pulpwood, he said they cut from 75,000 to 80,000 cords a year, about 15,000 cords of which he bought from the farmers. "We would buy pulpwood very much cheaper if this embargo were put on. If they are not able to ship it out of the country we will be the only buyers in this part of the country and would likely be able to get it for about half what we now pay but it would not be much good to us if we could not ship the product after it is made."

The average price to the farmer for peeled wood on the car is \$10, for spruce and fir along the main line, with slightly lower prices on the branch lines. They have to meet American competition but could get it for and price they wanted to put on it if an embargo were put on. The proportion of popular to spruce and fir is about 15 to 1. The only market for it in Canada is at one small soda pulp mill of 3,200 tons capacity. "If our commission could get the 30 per cent duty taken off kraft paper to the United States, you would be doing something worth while," he said.

"We would then have kraft mills come here in numbers. We are shut out of their market, which consumes about 60 per cent of both the kraft and newsprint production of the world."

Gives Information.

Mr. McLean gave the commission some valuable information on conservation and insect pests. All their cutting is done in rotation and they respect to go back over the same land as soon as there is a crop. They cut the large trees and leave the small ones. "This country will grow timber spontaneously," said he. "I could show you good trees today on what were cultivated fields 15 years ago." Leaving the branches on the ground helps to fertilize the soil, while burning destroys it so that the seed cannot germinate.

Referring to fires, he said there was no reason why fire should not be kept out of the country almost entirely if they would regulate the operations of fishermen and hunters and make it a criminal offence to set out fire and burn brush during the spring and summer months. "Invariably wherever there has been fire on our property," he said, "it has been set outside. The loss from fire is four or five times that from the axe at a conservative estimate."

Five Other Witnesses.

In the afternoon five other witnesses gave evidence, all opposed to an embargo for various reasons. John Branch, buyer for the Bathurst Company, said he was sure he could buy much cheaper if an embargo went on. The farmer crops the wood in the majority of cases.

A. T. Hinton, in the lumber and pulpwood business, said that without the American market the local mills would pay what they liked. He has cut off lands that had been cut 18 years ago, he has paid the farmer \$9 for wood and thought it could be cut and peeled, yarded and sawed for \$4.50.

Bennett Mullins, secretary-treasurer of the municipality of Gloucester, who was a witness, said that without the American market the local mills would pay what they liked. He has cut off lands that had been cut 18 years ago, he has paid the farmer \$9 for wood and thought it could be cut and peeled, yarded and sawed for \$4.50.

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