

NEW TRACTOR COMPANY FOR CANADA

Toronto to Be the Headquarters of New Branch of American Company—Other Industrial Notes of the Week

IT is announced that the Chase Tractors Corporation, Ltd., has been formed to take over the business throughout Canada of the Chase Motor Tractor Co., of Syracuse, N.Y., and Toronto will be the headquarters. The company has secured a plant adjoining the Canadian National Exhibition Grounds, which will give it facilities on the main lines of the Canadian Pacific and Grand Trunk Railways and will manufacture tractors for the requirements, not only of the Canadian market, but also for all parts of the British Empire. The new company will have a capital stock of \$1,000,000 7 per cent. cumulative preference shares, of which \$750,000 will be issued at present, and \$1,000,000 of common stock, all of which is now issued. The names mentioned in connection with the corporation are: R. J. Cluff, president; T. P. Birchall and W. J. Cluff, vice-presidents, James Whalen, Senator Curry, R. M. Wolvin and J. W. Norcross, all of whom are prominent Montreal and Toronto men. The tractor has already been successfully manufactured in the United States, and it is stated that the Canadian company already has orders on hand sufficient to take care of its entire output for several months.

Other Industrial Notes

The Canada Copper Co., at Princeton, B.C., has installed a new concentrating mill.

Property has been purchased at Napanee, Ont., and a joint stock company, headed by W. D. Midner, has been formed for the establishment of a new wood industry. Lumber from the woods will be sawn and waste will be eliminated. Lath and other small articles will be produced, while the waste from the best hardwoods will all go into fish boxes, as there has been used in the past a quarter of a million feet a year in this product alone.

Plans are under way in Toronto for the erection of a silk-dyeing plant. J. M. Lowes and Co., Ltd., also of that city, plan additions to their plant of about \$100,000.

Construction will soon be commenced on the first unit of the Britannia Wire Rope Co.'s plant at Vancouver, B.C. As soon as the mill building is completed, it is expected that work will be commenced on the installation of the expensive wire cable-making machinery which was ordered in England some time ago by Robert Gibson, who was largely instrumental in securing the British capital necessary and in bringing about the organization of the Britannia Co.

A partnership has been formed in Sandwich, Ont., and a new company, known as the Canadian Engineering and Tool Co., has opened a plant for the manufacture of tools.

The Starr Co., of Richmond, Indiana, manufacturers of Starr phonographs and Gennett records, has chosen Regina, Sask., as distributing centre for western Canada. The Starr Co.'s factories at Lachine, Que., Toronto and St. Catharines, Ont., have an annual output of 40,000 phonographs and 2,000,000 records.

Timber Deal in British Columbia

A timber deal has just been completed in the East Kootenay District, B.C., whereby the East Kootenay Lumber Co., Ltd., has sold portions of its extensive holdings to the Crow's Nest Pass Lumber Co., Ltd., and to the eastern directors of that company, who will incorporate as a separate company. The holdings sold consist of 10,000 acres of land and timber, and from 15,000 to 20,000 acres of timber in some five blocks, adjacent to Cranbrook, Fort Steele, Bull River and Moyie, and the consideration is between \$250,000 and \$500,000. The eastern capitalists referred to, who are applying for incorporation, will start a new industry in the Cranbrook district that will mean an investment of at least \$1,000,000. It is expected that the portion of the holdings acquired by the Crow's Nest Pass Lumber Co. will be developed in connection with that company's big plant at Wardner, B.C.

DECLINE IN VOLUME OF EMPLOYMENT

Reports from employers to the Dominion Headquarters of the Employment Service of Canada, Department of Labor, indicate that, disregarding loss of time due to strikes, there was, as had been anticipated, a further decline in the volume of employment for the week ending December 27th as compared with the preceding week. Declines were registered in all districts, the most noteworthy decline being reported in Ontario. Substantial declines were registered in the maritime provinces, Quebec, prairie provinces and British Columbia. All groups with the exception of railway operation reported decreases in staffs, the declines being largely attributable to curtailment of staffs with the close of the holiday season and the beginning of the usual stock-taking and inventory period.

Reports for the week ended December 27th were received from 4,553 firms, these firms reporting 649,619 persons on payroll as compared with 665,369 on payroll for week ended December 20th—a decrease of 13,750 persons, or two and one-tenth per cent. A further decline of 674 persons or one-tenth per cent. was anticipated for week ended January 3rd. This would indicate that further large decreases in staffs were not contemplated, indicating, as before mentioned, that much of the decline was of a temporary nature and that further large declines were not anticipated for the week ended January 3rd. The decline of the 27th had been anticipated. Reports from employers for week ended December 20th indicated an anticipated reduction in staff of 3,933 persons or six-tenths per cent., which decline the actual figures for the week of the 27th given above show to have been exceeded.

Plus industries—those that registered net increases in the number of persons employed. The only plus industry for the week of the 27th was railway operation in which an increase in staff of 100 persons was reported. This group, however, anticipated a reduction in staff of two-tenths per cent. during the week ended January 3rd.

Minus industries—those that registered net decreases in the number of persons employed were: Building and construction 10.6 per cent.; commercial and mercantile 3.3 per cent.; lumbering 8.0 per cent.; clay, glass and stone products 2.5 per cent.; chemicals .9 per cent.; food, drink and tobacco 3.8 per cent.; leather and leather goods .7 per cent.; metals .8 per cent.; pulp, paper and printing 1.9 per cent.; textiles 1.5 per cent.; vehicles 1.7 per cent.; woodworking .3 per cent.; quarrying and mining 1.9 per cent.; railway construction 2.9 per cent.; shipping and longshore 5.9 per cent. and miscellaneous .6 per cent. The most substantial decline during the week of the 27th was in lumbering, which registered a decrease of 2,953 persons. Noteworthy decline however, were registered in commercial and mercantile; food, drink and tobacco; building and construction; vehicles; metals; pulp, paper and printing; textiles; quarrying and mining and railway construction. Of these groups the decline in lumbering was largely attributable to the curtailment of activities for the holiday season. This group reported an anticipated increase of 1,500 persons for the week ended January 3rd, indicating an early resumption of activities. The decline in the commercial and mercantile group represents the dispensing with temporary help engaged for the holiday season. This group anticipated a further decline of 334 persons or seventh-tenths per cent. for the week ended January 3rd. On the other hand pulp, paper and printing; vehicles; quarrying and mining and building and construction expected nominal increases during the week ended January 3rd. Clay, glass and stone products; chemicals; woodworking and miscellaneous, all of which groups registered nominal declines during the week of the 27th, anticipated also increases of a nominal character during the week ended January 3rd. All the other minus industries, namely: Food, drink and tobacco; metals and railway construction anticipated further decreases, the declines in food, drink and tobacco and railway construction being more seasonal in character, as these groups have shown minus tendencies of late. On the other hand, the declines in leather and leather goods; metals and textiles may be attributed to curtailment of operations during the inventory and stock-taking period.