

CURRENT WAGE ENFORCEMENT

On All Works Owned or Controlled by the Dominion Government.

Importance of the Resolution Introduced into the House by Postmaster-General Mulock—The Form of Contract Adopted and the Provisions It Contains.

[From Brantford Expositor.]

When Postmaster-General Mulock introduced in the House of Commons at Ottawa his resolution to secure the payment on all works owned or controlled, or aided, by the Dominion Government of the rate of wages current in the locality in which the work was being done, he was greeted with the declaration that his resolution was "unimpeachable" and would mean nothing. As a matter of fact his resolution has not yet been adopted in the House, but in advance of this introduction Mr. Mulock has secured the services of a well-known labor advocate, Mr. D. J. O'Donoghue, to see to the carrying out of the principle embodied therein. Mr. O'Donoghue's appointment has been warmly approved by many trades and labor councils, and he has already visited many places in the Dominion where public works are projected, in order to determine what the "current rate of wages" is, so that the government will have the necessary information upon which to fix the amount of wage which contractors with the government, or with any company or person asked by the government, must pay the workmen in their employ.

A form of contract has been adopted which contains the following provisions:

1. The contractor shall not assign or sub-let this contract, or any part or parts thereof, for the execution of all or any portion of the work included in said contract and no pretended assignment or sub-contract shall be recognized or in any way affect any of the following conditions or other provisions of the said contract.

2. All workmen employed upon the work comprehended in and to be executed pursuant to the said contract shall be residents of Canada, unless the minister is of opinion that Canadian labor is not available, or that emergencies or other special circumstances exist which would render it contrary to public interest to enforce the foregoing condition in respect of the employment of resident Canadian workmen.

3. No workmen employed upon the said work shall at any time be paid less than the minimum rate of wages set forth in the Fair Wage schedule following:

(Here the minimum amount to be paid the different trades is specified.)

4. The foregoing schedule is intended to secure to the class of labor required for the performance of the work, but if any labor is required which is not provided for by any of the items in the above schedule, the minister, or other officer authorized by him, whenever and as often as the occasion shall arise, shall have the power to fix the minimum rate of wages payable in respect of any such labor, which minimum rate shall not be less than the rate of wages generally accepted as current in each trade or class of labor for competent workmen in the district where the work is being carried out.

5. The contractor shall not be entitled to payment of any money which would otherwise be payable under the terms of the said contract, unless and until he shall have filed in the office of the minister in support of his claim for payment a statement showing the names, rate of wages, amounts paid and amounts due and unpaid for wages for work and labor done by any foreman, workman, laborer or team, employed upon the said work, and such statement shall be attested by the statutory declaration of the said contractor, or of such other person or persons as the minister may deem necessary, in order to satisfy him that the conditions herein contained to secure the payment of fair wages have been complied with, and that the workmen so employed as aforesaid upon the portion of the work in respect of which payment is demanded have been paid in full.

6. In the event of default being made in payment of any money owing in respect of wages of any foreman, workman or laborer, employed on the said work, and if a claim therefor is filed in the office of the minister and proof thereof satisfactory to the minister is furnished, the said minister may pay such claim out of

any moneys at any time payable by her Majesty under said contract, and the amounts so paid shall be deemed payments to the contractor.

7. No portion of the work shall be done by piece-work.

8. The number of working hours in the day or week shall be determined by the custom of the trade in the district where the work is performed for each of the different classes of labor employed upon the work.

9. The workmen employed in the performance of the said contract shall not be required to work for longer hours than those fixed by the custom of the trade in the district where the work is carried on, except for the protection of life or property, or in case of other emergencies.

10. These conditions shall extend and apply to moneys payable for the use or hire of horses, teams or the persons entitled to payment for the use or hire of horses or teams which have the like rights in respect of moneys so owing them as if such moneys were payable to them in respect of wages.

11. The contractor shall not be entitled to payment of any of the money which otherwise would be payable under the terms of the said contract in respect of any goods or materials supplied, unless and until he shall have filed in the office of the minister, in support of his claim for payment, a statement showing the prices and quantities of all the goods and materials supplied for the performance of the work and the amounts paid and amounts (if any) due and unpaid for such goods and materials, the names and addresses of the vendors, and such other detailed information and evidence attested by a statutory declaration of the said contractor, or of such other person or persons as the minister may indicate or require, or may deem necessary in order to satisfy him that the conditions herein contained have been complied with and that the goods and materials supplied for the portion of the work in respect of which payment is demanded have been paid for in full.

12. In the event of default being made in payment of any money owing in respect of goods and materials supplied for the work in the execution of the said contract, and if a claim therefor is filed in the office of the minister and proof of such claim satisfactory to the minister is furnished, the minister may, out of the moneys at any time payable by her Majesty under said contract, pay or cause to be paid, such claim, and the amounts so paid shall be deemed payments to the contractor.

It will be seen that it is stipulated that Canadian labor must be employed in all cases, save those in which, for reasons shown to the government, may consent to relax this requirement, sub-contracting is forbidden, no piece work is permitted, workmen must be paid the wages current in the district, and must not be required to work a longer number of hours than is the custom of the particular trade in which they are engaged. It is also made certain that the contractor not only shall have complied with the foregoing requirements in regard to the amount of wages paid the men, and that the men have been so paid, but also that the materials used on the contract have been paid for.

The effect of these regulations is not only to secure to men employed on public works "a fair day's pay" for a fair day's work, but to prevent the employment of cheap alien labor, and to make certain adequate payment, both for men and materials.

The operation of the system cannot cause any injustice to the contractor, who will know in advance the terms upon which alone he can obtain work, while it will put an end to "sweating" so far as the government is concerned, and will set a good example to all employers of labor.

CROP PROSPECTS IN ONTARIO

Western Sections Report a Fairly Promising Outlook—Fruits Looking Well—Grain Crops Generally Good—Rain Needed in Several Districts.

The Great Northwestern Telegraph Company has secured crop reports from all sections of Ontario, and the result may be summed up as, on the whole, favorable.

In Eastern Ontario, the prospect is for a good wheat crop and a light hay crop. In Hastings county, rain is needed, but fall wheat is looking well, and there will be a good fruit crop, promise well. In the Niagara Peninsula, the strawberry crop has been damaged by dry weather, but a full crop of peaches, plums and other fruit is promised. When grown in good soil, but the spring grains and hay will be light. In York county, the prospect is good, excepting hay; fruit abundant, except plums.

The operation of the system cannot cause any injustice to the contractor, who will know in advance the terms upon which alone he can obtain work, while it will put an end to "sweating" so far as the government is concerned, and will set a good example to all employers of labor.

The crops in the Woodstock section are on the whole very good. The grain crop promises to be good. Hay is fair, being rather short on the straw. Of the small fruits plums and cherries are light, while the rest promise a fair crop.

Walkerton reports fall wheat over the average; spring wheat average; oats above average; peas extra large crop; hay average; barley above average. Fruit—Apples and pears good, cherries and plums poor. Rain needed at present, but nothing yet suffering.

Around Stratford hay about three-quarters crop; fall wheat estimated about twenty bushels; spring crops looking very favorable.

In Wellington county the outlook is good on the whole, and Oxford county the same. In Perth county there will be a good yield of wheat; other crops favorable. Bruce county expects all cereal crops above the average, and fruits mostly good.

In Northern Ontario the outlook is favorable, but rain is needed.

In the extreme eastern section of Ontario the lack of rain has caused hay to come down to two-thirds of an average crop, and other products are injuriously affected.

In Eastern Ontario, the outlook for the Province of Ontario is thoroughly satisfactory.

THE DEADLY FOLDING BED.

Detroit, June 25.—Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Farr, 331 Third avenue, had a painful experience with a folding bed Sunday morning. They were about to get up, when there came an ominous shaking of the patent back-spring folding bed in which they were reposing, and the two parts came together with a slam. Mr. Farr yelled lustily for his two sons, and they came down and released the prisoners. Mrs. Farr was seriously injured.

Have you seen the Cannon Summer Stove at 344 Richmond street, near Grigg House?

WITH "D" BATTERY

Lambeth Man Now in South Africa Writes to a Brother Forester.

Hardships of Active Service—Boers Fly at Coming of Canadians—Farming in South Africa—Richness and Prolific Quality of the Soil.

Mr. Bannatyne, Lambeth:

Dear Sir and Brother, — Word has reached me today of the kindness of my lodge towards me. How grateful I feel is hard to express. Many thanks to you and all the brothers of Court Lambeth. Knowing you were not aware of my leaving for South Africa to fight for my country's honor and the Queen, I notified you as I thought you would like to know.

There are about 300 Foresters with us from one court and another. They have all been provided for in different ways by their courts, some in the same way as myself. Some have had money sent them and others have been promised money on their return, and concerns seem to be all the same with the courts in aid of Foresters here in South Africa. What more could be done by any society than this? There was never a time in the history of Forestry that better shows the world the brotherlike works of the order, and I trust that it may be the means of adding many more members to the order, to share with us the benefits thereof.

You will probably like to hear something about the country and what we have been doing since landing at Cape Town. We remained in Cape Town two weeks—hardly time to recover from the fatigue of the voyage, and then we were ordered to the front. This, of course, delighted us, as some English troops had been there for months before they were ordered to the front.

The scenery around Cape Town is grand, mountains rising to a height of 1,500 and 1,700 feet above the sea level, and surrounded by kopjes and deep valleys. It is behind the kopjes that the Boers have their headquarters. I have seen places occupied by ten thousand Boers, whom 200 of the British have driven out, that if they had been occupied by 50 of our men, 8,000 Boers could not have driven them out.

We have had hard times, making a march of 500 miles through rain and mud, and we have not had tents for over a month, and ran short of food, both for men and horses and mules.

We arrived at Kenharat, March 31; routed the Boers out and hoisted the British flag with cheers. After a week's stop there we started back to Victoria road, keeping the lines of communication open. We captured 25 Boers, 250 rifles and 2,000 rounds of ammunition, besides their wagons and feed and horses. The name "Canadian" is a terror to the Boers. We have seen the Canadians are coming they flee for their lives. The name very often helps to win the fights we have been engaged in.

It is very hot during the day, 100° in the shade, and the nights are so cold that two blankets and two rubber sheets barely keep us warm out in the open air.

We now travel on to De Aar, then to Springfontein, where we expect a fierce battle if the Boers will only stand, and we expect they will, as it is supposed to be one of the best places for them.

We rise at 4 o'clock, have breakfast at 5, consisting of dry bread and coffee; then we march from 6 until 11, when we halt for dinner of goat meat and sometimes mutton for a change. We rest two hours; then march again until 8. During the night we take turns guarding the horses and guns.

This is necessary, having captured a number of the enemy's horses and guns in the camp at night. Our guns are all 12-pounders, and carry correctly at four miles if necessary, and we can fire them off every three seconds.

Our horses have done wonderfully well, considering the rain and mud they have had to pull those heavy guns through, and the fact that they are fed so little. Then, so many changes of food is hard on the horses, and they get few meals, then corn, then oats; then for three weeks they got barely one meal a day, and the men also had to go on short rations. We were glad to even get horse-feed to cook for ourselves.

Our officer, Lieut. McCrae, ate the same food as the men. For drink, we make tea from a plant with a bluish leaf and yellow berry, and water like that which runs down the sides of a home after a rain. It is dangerous to drink it unless boiled. However, we are gaining the fights, and have only lost one man, from Ottawa, and he was trampled to death by his own horse.

We find the Boer men great liars. They are all sly and cannot be trusted at any time. They are making a fortune out of the war, ready for a change, at such enormous prices. Bread, 75c a loaf; eggs, 10c each; milk, 50c a pint; and everything else as dear in proportion. It would make our farmers smile if they got such high prices.

The natives are divided into two classes, the well-to-do, and the poorer class, but I cannot see much difference. The better class do all kinds of work, chiefly mule and oxen driving. They have their remedy for a change, and the females make good servants, but are not to be trusted. They make fine butchers, taking the hide off the goats almost before they are dead.

They live on the leanings themselves. The poorer class travel the country, living on whatever they can find. Their clothing is very scant. They are not very hard to understand, the Dutch being harder. The natives are good guides and brave fighters.

We have met with very few English-speaking people. These few were very good to us, giving the use of all they have. Most of them have been driven out of their homes by those miserable Boers, and their homes destroyed. The English Government takes them to Cape Town, where they are taken care of until their homes can be returned to them, and they can once more make a living for themselves.

The farmers, as they are called, yet hardly worthy of the name, make their money by raising sheep and goats, and selling the wool for 25c a pound, and goat hair for the per pound. The animals graze all the year on bushes about like our gooseberry bushes, and here and there a blade of grass. I often wonder how they live, yet they keep fat. The farmers clip their sheep twice a year and their goats twice in three years.

Candles made from mutton fat are their only lights, excepting in churches and public houses, where they burn oil. The land here as far as I have seen is clear sand, with a stony bottom, but contains more vegetable matter than our sandy soil. The farmer plants from 15 to 20 acres with everything that grows in the home, such as sugarcane, corn, wheat, oats and beans. Their way of working the land amounts to very little. They sow the grain first and plow it in, having a piece of wood behind the plow to level the ground. I have seen the finest sample of wheat here I have ever seen. The oats also grow very rank. They are a rich golden color when ripe. Corn grows 16

feet high, and sugarcane as high, with thick stalks. Vineyards are very profitable. They consist of figs, oranges, and dates. The watermelons are grand; some grow as large as a small barrel and weigh 15 pounds. Garden vegetables grow finely, with little or no labor. There is plenty of water for stock, but it has to be boiled before it is safe for people to drink.

All the implements they have are plows like our gang-plows, and sickles to reap with. They use mules to plow with. Farmers with 8,000 acres of land cultivate about 80 acres. This is accounted for by nothing else than laziness.

There are thousands of acres of land here as good as could be wished for. It would cost about \$1,000 for a good start, but after that, labor is cheap, getting the Kaffirs for their board and clothes. If the English Government carry out their idea of giving each soldier who wishes to remain in the country 50 acres of land, I think many would take advantage of the offer and stay. It would be the making of South Africa.

Timber is very scarce, and fences are made of three strands of barbed wire stretched about the farm, with flat stones about eight feet long for posts.

I will have to close now, as we have orders to move. Remember me to all the brethren. Again thanking you all for the kindness toward me, I remain, yours in L. B. and C., Charles King, D Battery, R. C. A., second Canadian contingent, field artillery, South Africa.

PTE. FLOYD'S DEATH

Described by Private Will West—Was Hit in the Head and Shoulder—An Interesting Letter From a London Boy.

Pte. Will West, who was reported missing at Kroonstad, has written the following interesting letter to his mother in this city:

Kroonstad, O. F. S., May 14, 1900.

Dear Mother,—We arrived here after some hard marching, and our money well fired out. The last two days of the march (May 11 and 12) we covered 44 miles. We had one hard fight at the Zand River on the 10th inst. We moved out early in the morning, and were under fire shortly after sunrise. B Company formed the firing line, the instructions were to advance on the river bed until fired on, and then halt, lay down and return the Boer fire. Our line advanced until within 500 yards of the river bed, and men a warm rifle fire. The Boers had a good position, and were well screened by the trees and bushes near the river.

We poured in a hot fire until our ammunition ran low. Up to that time we had not lost a man, but as soon as our fire slackened the enemy grew bolder and took better aim. We lay on the hill side until about 2:30 p.m., when the enemy retired. We were very sorry to lose George Floyd. He was the first in our line to get killed. He was hit in the shoulder and in the head. I heard him yell, "Oh, I'm hit," and then Sergt. Macbeth asked him where. He said, "In the shoulder." Shortly afterward he said, "I'm going to faint," and that was the last we heard of him. It was impossible to get the wounded man off the field until after the battle. The Boers fired on the stretcher-bearers and some wounded men who got up and started towards the rear were peppered with the exception of Pte. Armstrong, who belonged to A Company, and was acting as ammunition carrier. We were praised by Gen. Smith-Dorrien, who told us that our small force of about 300 men had held 800 of the enemy at bay and inflicted heavy losses on them. The Boers are deserting in large numbers, and I think the war will soon end. I am feeling excellent, but have been declared unfit, as I have yeldt scores on my feet, and cannot get my boots on. By the time we move I may be O. K. and end up in Pretoria. The British artillery practice is splendid. We had two 5-inch guns in our column. One was called "Bone Shaker," the other "Boers' Delight." At the battle of Zand River the Boers opened fire with a Vickers-Maxim gun. The second shell from "Bone Shaker" sent the gun and its German artillerist into the air. We have received no mail for three weeks. Please remember me to all the boys. No doubt you are wondering when I will return. Cheer up. We are nearly through now, and then I will come and rouse you up. I will close now, as I want to get this letter off, and can find very little to say. Chester (McLaren) has not got up with the column. He is still in hospital. We left Frank Hessel in Winburg with fever. Give my love to father, Maud and little Will, and accept same yourself. I am your affectionate son, Will.

THE BRIGHTEST FLOWERS must be, but young lions endangered by severe coughs and colds may be preserved by Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil. Croup, whooping cough, bronchitis, in fact all affections of the throat and lungs, are relieved by this sterling preparation, which also remedies rheumatic pains, sores, bruises, piles, kidney difficulty, and is most economic.

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STEAMER "URANIA" Commencing Thursday, May 31, will leave Port Stanley for CLEVELAND, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday of each week at 11 p.m., except Saturday, when it will leave at 1 p.m. No train connection on Sunday.

Fare one way from \$2.25; round trip, \$3.50. Get tickets at De la Hooke's, "Clock" corner and at G. T. R. station.

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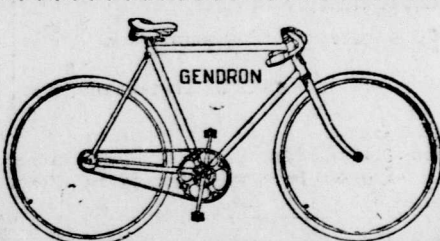
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