

SAWMILL MACHINERY
WANTED IN RUSSIADevelopment Of Vast Forest
Area Canadians' Chance

FREE ENTRY OFFERED

Opportunities open in Undeveloped
Russian Regions, but Personal
Representation From Foreign
Firms Needed to Get Business

The Canadian Trade Commissioner in Russia has written an interesting report to the Department of Trade and Commerce at Ottawa, drawing attention to the prospective openings for mill equipment and supplies for Canadian manufacturers in the northern districts of Russia. He says: "The forest wealth of northern Russia constitutes one of the greatest undeveloped assets of the Empire. In the governments of Archangel, Vologda, Olonetz, Viatsk and Tobolsk there are some ninety million desyatines (248 million acres) of almost untouched

forests of commercial timber, exploitation of which has become now an economic necessity dictated by the need of improving the balance of trade in Russia's favor and of raising the value of the rouble.

"Conferences have taken place recently between the secretary of state for domains and all the northern timber exporting firms and saw-mill proprietors, for the purpose of concerting measures for a programme of development calculated to secure satisfactory results and which at the same time will insure the opening up of these northern districts. It is assumed that a market for the timber will be found in the allied countries, chiefly for the rebuilding of the devastated districts of Belgium and France, and, to a less extent, in the United Kingdom.

Twenty Million Logs Annually.
"The Domains Ministry estimates the possibility of obtaining an annual cut of twenty million logs, or approximately one million standards of sawn goods. It seems doubtful whether the present means of production in the regions in question are capable of dealing immediately with so large an annual cut. An enlargement of the existing mills, and the creation of new sawmills will be necessary, as well as the establishment of other industrial concerns using wood as their raw material for the manufacture of mechanical and chemical wood products, such as paper, matches, shingles, and doors, mouldings, etc. It is regarded as essential for the end in view that as little as possible of Russian tim-

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ber should be exported in an unmanufactured state.

Resolutions Passed by Conference.

"A number of resolutions were adopted by the conference regarding the opinion that the estimate of twenty million logs could be handled by Russian capital and Russian labor, and that the granting of concessions to foreigners should not take place; that a new federation or syndicate comprising all the timber exporters in northern Russia be created, so that the members of the federation be entitled to import duty free the machinery and materials required for the extension of existing sawmills; that employees be treated as workers for the defence of the state and therefore not to be called up for military service.

Where Canada's Interest Lies.

"Canada's interest in these proposals will be solely in the ability of her manufacturers to participate in the supply of the sawmill machinery equipment, wood-working machine tools as well as the mill and factory supplies that will be required, all of which may be said to be our particular specialties. There will be openings also in other directions, as the development contemplated will call for much contracting work, as well as machinery for widening and deepening canals, for river improvements, the provision of a large complement of tug and barges and for general supplies of great variety.

There Will Be Competition.

"It need hardly be emphasized that in connection with such openings the personal investigation by Canadian manufacturers or of their expert representatives is indispensable, if practical results are to follow. Probably the opening of a bureau of information on joint account in Petrograd for dealing with such matters would meet the situation most effectively. The present occasion, for instance, would provide the opportunity for introducing the most up-to-date methods of Canadian saw-mill practice, especially the use of band-saw machinery as against the reciprocating frame saw for dealing with the large size timber of these virgin forests; inquiry into questions relating to financial and exchange matters, credit terms and Russian business methods generally. All these matters can only be studied and considered adequately by personal contact with the interests concerned, and it is only upon their proper settlement that the foundation of broad and permanent relations can be established between the two countries. The Russian responds very readily to new methods, which have proved their usefulness in countries like Canada, where the conditions and climate so closely resemble his own. In the past Norway and Sweden have supplied much of the equipment of Russian and Finnish timber industries, and these countries will undoubtedly be our keen competitors in the future, but there should be room for all."

CANADIAN HOLDS
SPEECH RECORD

Amor de Cosmos Spoke for 26 Hours
Against Bill in B. C. Legislature, and
Killed It

Appropos of the recent filibuster in the United States senate, which killed President Wilson's armed neutrality bill for the time being, it is interesting to recall that the longest speech on record is believed to have been made by Amor De Cosmos in the legislature of British Columbia, when a measure was pending the passing of which would take from many settlers their land.

De Cosmos was in a hopeless minority. The job had been held back until the eve of the close of the session. Unless legislation was taken before noon on a given day, the act of confiscation would fall. The day before the expiration of the limitation, De Cosmos got the floor about 10 a.m., and began his speech against the bill. His friends caved little, for they supposed that by 1 or 2 o'clock he would be through and the bill could be put on its passage. One o'clock came and De Cosmos was speaking still—had not more than entered upon his

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subject; 2 o'clock he was saying: "In the second place." Three o'clock he produced a fearful bundle of evidence, and insisted on reading it. The majority began to have a suspicion of the truth—he was to speak till next noon and "kill the bill."

For a while they made merry over it, but as it came on to dusk they began to get alarmed. They tried interruptions, "but soon abandoned them, because each afforded him a chance to digress and gain time. They tried to shout him down, but that gave a breathing space, and finally they settled down to watch the combat between strength of will and weakness of body. They gave no mercy, no adjournment for dinner, no chance to do more than wet his lips with water, no wandering from his subject.

Twilight darkened, the gas was lit, members slipped out to dinners in re-

lays and returned to sleep in squads, but De Cosmos went on. The Speaker, to whom he was addressing himself, was alternately dozing, snoring, and trying to look wide awake. Day dawned and the majority went out in squads to wash and breakfast, and the speaker still held on.

It cannot be said it was a very logical, eloquent or sustained speech; there were digressions, repetitions also. But still the speaker kept on, and at last noon came to a baffled majority, livid with rage and impotence, and a single man, who was triumphant, though his voice had sunk to a husky whisper, his eyes were almost shut and were bleared and bloodshot, his legs tottered under him, his baked lips were cracked and flaked with blood. De Cosmos had spoken twenty-six hours and saved the settlers their lands.

One of the most open-handed of men is the Rev. Lord William Gascoyne-Cecil, the new bishop of Exeter. Recently a well-known statesman was dining with him at his place at Hatfield, and happened to admire some beautiful candlesticks on the table.

"You can take them away with you," said Lord William generously.

"Oh, no, you can't," chimed in the butler, promptly. "If I let the master give away all he wants to, we shouldn't have anything left."

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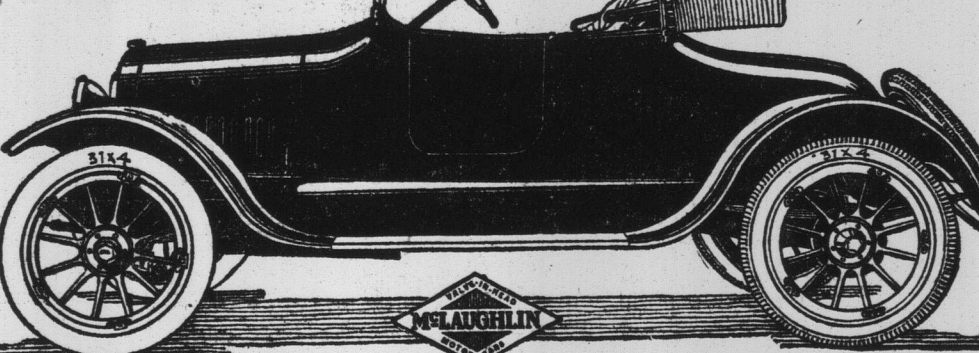
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