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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1908.

COMPULSORY FLAG-FLYING.

Alberta can get along very well without any compulsory flag-flying pantomime annexed to the educational system. The children of loyal parents require no such enforced display of sentiment; and the children of un-loyal parents will not be made loyal by it. The essential thing is not that five dollars worth of bunting be left to waste with the breeze, but that the historical and world-wide significance of that particular design of bunting be instilled into the minds of the children of the Province. What we need is a sentiment of loyalty in the teacher; not a tattered token of loyalty on the flagpole. In the last analysis there are two breeds of so-called loyalty: one an intelligent appreciation of the worthiness of one's country; the other a demonstrative exhibition of a sentiment without intelligent motive. The first is patriotism; the latter jingoism. The former is the fruit of understanding; the latter the display of animal excitement. Patriotism can be induced only by filling the mind with substantial reasons for being patriotic; jingoism can be much more effectively produced by filling the body with bad whiskey, and tickling the sensations by displays of colored cotton. Canada needs patriotism; she neither needs nor wants jingoism. An intelligent affection for our country as one worthy of intelligent affection is in every way to be desired; a disposition to howl for a symbol that did not understand would be more to be regretted than desired among Canadian children. Let us fill the pupils' intellect with good reasons why he should be patriotic toward Canada and the Empire, and we need not compel his parents to spend money for flying flags in the school yards.

ROBLIN REFUSES LANDS AND DEMANDS CASH SUBSIDIES.

A few days ago the Legislature of Manitoba unanimously approved in the most convincing way the financial terms granted the Provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan. They did so by requesting that precisely the same terms be extended to Manitoba; and by declaring that if extended to that Province they would be regarded as altogether and unconditionally satisfactory. Manitoba wants an extension of the Provincial boundaries to include the southern portion of the old District of Keewatin, lying north of the Province and fronting on Hudson Bay. This necessitates an agreement between the Province and the Dominion as to the terms and conditions on which the new territory should be added. The terms Manitoba wants were embodied in a resolution presented by the Provincial Government a few days since, and unanimously endorsed by the Legislature.

Briefly, the terms demanded by Manitoba are the terms granted Alberta and Saskatchewan. That there might be no misunderstanding in the matter the preamble of the resolution went on to say that the terms were in every respect similar and identical.

The preamble follows: "It is also asked that supplementary and in addition to the prevailing provisions as to the annual allowance of the province by the Dominion for cost of government; and a per capita allowance of eighty cents a head of population, there be inserted in any act of the Parliament of Canada extending the boundaries of the province as above set forth the following provisions: respecting capital account and in lieu of lands; such provisions being in every respect similar and identical to those respecting said matters as are contained in certain acts of the Parliament of Canada, passed in the year 1905, creating the new provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta; and this House declares its willingness to agree to and approve of, an extension by the Parliament of Canada of the boundaries of the province, in the manner and to the extent aforesaid, upon the said following terms and financial conditions (which terms and financial conditions are similar in all respects, as to the matters herein referred to, as were extended to each of the provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta, and agreed upon between these provinces and the government of Canada, and are contained in the said acts creating these provinces, aforesaid), being, to wit, as follows: That is to say:

This is a clear-cut, emphatic, definitely worded declaration of what the Government and Legislature of Manitoba want. It is incapable of misinterpretation. They want the financial terms accorded the new Provinces applied to the new portion of the Province of Manitoba, nothing more and nothing different.

What are these terms which excite the envy of the Manitoba legislators and which embody all they desire or ask for their own Province? They follow, copied from the resolution, and copied into the resolution from the Autonomy Act, with only the verbal changes necessary to make them apply to Manitoba:

Inasmuch as the Province of Manitoba is not in debt, it shall be entitled to be paid and to receive from the Government of Canada by half-yearly payments in advance, an annual sum of four hundred and fifty thousand dollars, being the equivalent of interest at the rate of five per cent. per annum on the sum of eight million one hundred and seven thousand five hundred dollars. Inasmuch as the said Province will not have the public land as a source of revenue, there shall be paid by Canada to the province, by half-yearly payments in advance, an annual sum based upon the population of the province as from time to time ascertained by the quinquennial census thereof, as follows:

The population of the said Province being assumed to be at present two hundred and fifty thousand, the sum payable until such population reaches four hundred thousand shall be three hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars;

Thereafter, until such population reaches eight hundred thousand, the sum payable shall be five hundred and sixty-two thousand five hundred dollars;

Thereafter, until such population reaches one million two hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars, the sum payable shall be one million one hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars;

As an additional allowance in lieu of public lands, there shall be paid by Canada to the province, annually by half-yearly payments in advance, for five years from the time this act comes into force, to provide for the construction of necessary public buildings, the sum of ninety-three thousand seven hundred and fifty dollars.

In other words Manitoba wants a cash subsidy in lieu of the control of the public lands. The Government embodied the declaration in the resolution, and the Legislature endorsed it without regard to party differences. The unanimous opinion of the members of the Manitoba House is that cash subsidies are altogether preferable to the control of the public domain, from the viewpoint of the Province. So confirmed are they in this view that they make no suggestion of any alternative arrangement. They do not offer the Federal Parliament any choice in the matter; do not intimate that they would accept the duty of administering the lands under any conditions or for any consideration, but declare simply and solely that they want the cash and not the lands.

This is the opinion of men who should know what they are talking about. They have had experience, long experience, and experience under circumstances not calculated to prejudice them in favor of the cash subsidy. Manitoba has been a Province for thirty-seven years. It has never had and has not now any control over public lands, except swamp lands, which can be made suitable for agriculture only by an expenditure of Provincial money for drainage purposes. If the Province had suffered any disadvantage from not having control of the public domain the Provincial Government should know it by this time; if the Province would have been better off with control of the public domain than with even the insufficient cash subsidies of the Autonomy Act of 1870, the Legislature would surely have found it out before this. The Autonomy Act of 1870 made no adequate cash allowance for the lands, nor did it provide sufficient revenue for the efficient management of Provincial affairs. If prejudiced at all, therefore, the Manitoba Legislators should be prejudiced against cash subsidies rather than in favor of them. Their declaration in the judgment of thirty years' experience with subsidies neither sufficient to meet the requirements nor proportional to the value of the public lands; yet they declare in favor of cash subsidies and against the "privilege" of squeezing Provincial revenue from the public domain.

The present Manitoba Government is Conservative, and is headed by a Conservative who has never failed to

lend a helping hand to his party when opportunity offered, either in Federal affairs or in the other Provinces. His party at Ottawa, at Regina and at Edmonton stand pledged to the policy of exploiting the public domain for Provincial revenue. If Premier Roblin had been able to draw from the history of Manitoba a moral that would strengthen their hands, he would have been only too glad to do so. To choose the cash subsidies to provide a badly needed argument to a distressed leader of the party at Ottawa and a still more badly needed argument to equally distressed leaders at the capital of the two new Provinces. To choose the cash subsidies was to sweep the ground from under Mr. Borden, Mr. Haupain and Mr. Robertson. The whole strength of his party attachment demanded that he choose the lands instead of the subsidies. Yet not even Premier Roblin dare so far distort the history and sacrifice the future of his Province.

With thirty-seven years of Provincial history behind him, the Conservative Premier of Manitoba elects cash subsidies in preference to the policy his friends at Ottawa, at Regina and at Edmonton are trying to force on Alberta and Saskatchewan. Not only so, he declines to suggest that under any circumstances, with or without subsidies, he would undertake the administration of the public domain by the Province.

WHY NOT A FALL FAIR?

Edmonton will not have a mid-summer fair this year, a two days' stock show taking its place. This is a graceful concession to Calgary to prevent the Edmonton Exhibition conflicting in any way with the Dominion Fair being held in the southern city. At the same time, it offers us a splendid opportunity to inaugurate a fall fair for the display of agricultural products—to re-inaugurate the fall fair it should be more properly said. For many years Edmonton had an annual fall fair which was a yearly revelation, alike to residents and strangers of the results of the season. The benefit of these fairs can be seen only by estimate, but it is a safe estimate that as exhibitions of the capabilities of our soil they were far in advance of the annual mid-summer show that has succeeded them. Now that the mid-summer fair is being abandoned for the season is a most opportune time to revert to the fall fair and give the farmers a chance to show the results of their season's labors.

THE DISCOVERY OF THE STAR.

The Montreal Star argues that because some one is reported to have asked a half million dollars for a timber limit that cost him \$5,000, he must have obtained it for less than that it was worth, either by fraud or by official collusion. It is to be noted that the gentleman has "asked" a half million. He has not got it yet. This is something new in the way of economic principles. The honesty of a Government is to be judged by what any individual may be pleased to ask for anything he has got from the Government. If a homesteader should sell his homestead for doing so makes the Government dishonest, because the Government gave him the homestead for nothing and a sale at any price must be a gain to the homesteader. If a miner sells a mining lease either for a bonus or for a commission on the output, his doing so compels the Government of wanton disregard for public rights. To carry the principle further—if a minor charges more for a ton of coal than the royalty he pays the Government, his doing so condemns the Government of having been defrauded or of having been in collusion with an unprincipled vagabond. Or if a homesteader sells a cord of stove-wood from his homestead he likewise condemns the Government either of folly or of villainy, because he got the wood for nothing. So runs the doctrine of the Star. Logically then, the Government can safeguard its reputation only by engaging an official astrologer. When any one applies for a homestead, a timber limit or a mining permit, it shall be the duty of this official to cast the horoscope and ascertain beyond the possibility of error or doubt the highest figure this individual will ever ask for the land or timber or mineral claim. And it will be the duty of the Government to demand for the homestead, the limit, or the claim, this highest figure to which the ambitions of the prospective possessor may even soar. True, no one would ever take a homestead if he were required to pay the highest possible figure that at any time and under any circumstance he might ask for it. True, no one would ever buy a timber limit if the price demanded was the highest figure that under any circumstances he might ask for it. True, no one would then be forced to buy British Columbia timber or go with

out, and to pay what the millmen's combine were pleased to charge for it. True, no one would ever lease a coal area if the price were the highest figure that he might ever ask for it, nor mine a ton of coal if the most he could charge for it was the ten cents royalty demanded by the Government. True, if this rule were followed, the country would revert to an unpeopled wilderness, the forest resources stand forever useless save as a covert for the elk and bear, the coal areas lie for all time of no higher service to humanity than concrete testimony to the wisdom of Providence and the stupidity of men; but what are such trifles compared to the glory of validating the principle that what nature has provided for man, men should deny themselves? Abolish then the homestead concessions, tie up the timber resources, look up the coal areas; deny men land on which to grow food, refuse them lumber with which to build homes, deny them coal with which to warm themselves; remove personal incentive to industry and thrift, paralyze development, prevent progress, reverse prosperity and bring to the principal glories of the unpeopled solitude; drive people from the country by destroying their chance of living in the country. So runs the economic principle mooted on many occasions by the Opposition and now flatly enunciated by their most widely-circulated organ.

THE TELEGRAM EXPLAINS.

The Winnipeg Free Press is displeased that the Winnipeg Telegram should take notice of the Telegram's "cash subsidy" policy for Manitoba and heartily abuses the Free Press for giving publicity to the matter. Ordinarily this would be strange cause for offence, for the advocate of a good policy should welcome rather than resent its advertisement. But the Telegram is feeling tender on this subject. Its demands for Manitoba so completely upset the calculations of Mr. Borden regarding Saskatchewan and Alberta, that the demands only need to be made known to disclose their divergence from the argumentation of Mr. Borden.

The Federal leader and his assistants in the new Provinces, demand that our cash subsidies be abolished and the Governments of Alberta and Saskatchewan left to collect revenue from the public land. But the Telegram repudiates any suggestion to turn the Manitoba Government out to hunt revenue from the public land in the territory to be annexed to that Province. Premier Roblin backs the Telegram and coaches his demand for the retention of the land and the payment of the subsidies in the express language of the Autonomy Act which Mr. Borden so roundly condemns.

Naturally this family dispute is not a subject to which the Telegram wants public attention called. Wherefore it grew petulant when the Free Press took occasion to point out that:

"Should the guess of The Telegram as to the Government's intention, prove true, the next Dominion campaign will find the Conservatives in the money expended, and so, after the election to vote against the Government, because it gave those Provinces money in place of land, while in this Province the giving of lands in place of money will be represented as a crime against Manitoba, calling for the condemnation of the electors."

To this the Telegram replies why it wants the cash instead of the lands.

It says: "The Province of Manitoba, protests against discriminatory treatment. It cannot see why Saskatchewan and Alberta should be treated in one way, and why Manitoba should be treated in another. It does not deny the power of the Dominion Government, but it certainly does maintain the position that unless that power is exercised equitably, the spirit of co-operation is outraged."

This clears matters up and puts the proposition plainly. According to The Telegram, Manitoba objects to being discriminated against, wants as good terms as were given Alberta and Saskatchewan, therefore wants the same terms; to grant those terms would be to treat Manitoba "equitably." The other side of the proposition runs: to give Manitoba the lands instead of cash subsidies would be "discriminatory treatment;" it would not be as good treatment as given Alberta and Saskatchewan; therefore it would not be treating Manitoba "equitably."

Hereafter there will be no doubt why The Telegram demands the cash for Manitoba while Mr. Borden professes the lands to Alberta and Saskatchewan. It wants the cash because the cash is preferable from the Provincial point of view, whatever Mr. Borden or anybody else may say to the contrary. The honorable gentle-

man may try to befoul this other Province with talk about a "splendid domain" and a "magnificent heritage," but The Telegram will not be misled by the sophistry. What a Province needs is cash; therefore The Telegram demands the cash for Manitoba. If Alberta and Saskatchewan are foolish enough to be misled by Mr. Borden's phrases that is their own lookout; Manitoba knows better.

Meantime the people of Alberta and Saskatchewan will surmise that what would be had for Manitoba would be had for these Provinces also; and that terms so desirable that the Conservative Government of Manitoba demanded them in open and deliberate opposition to the policy of Mr. Borden are terms worth having and worth holding, even against the announced intention of Mr. Borden to destroy them.

THE WINTER.

The Montreal Herald congratulates Montreal that an army of men and stupendous equipment of snow plows were able to prevent the street railway system being tied up by a two days' snowstorm last week. Says the Herald:

The ordinary winter conditions in Montreal, so far as street railway operation is concerned, are more trying than those in any other city of equal size in the world. The storms of the past week created conditions which were very bad even for Montreal, and therefore far more severe than are ever experienced in other cities. In view of these facts, the steady, uninterrupted operation of the lines of the Montreal Street Railway Company, especially during Saturday and Sunday, is an achievement of which both the management and the passengers have reason to be proud. There has probably been no feat of equal skill performed by any street railway company since the introduction of the trolley. The storm raged for hours, the high wind pouring the light snow into the narrow chutes between the high banks flanking the snow plows. Only the most prompt and efficient management, aided by an perfect organization, aided by an ample equipment of snow plows and sweepers, kept the lines from being blocked at any hour for nearly two days. With the exception of one or two short exterior lines, every line was kept open every hour of the time.

The credit for this is due to Mr. Ross and Mr. McDonald, who had the foresight to prepare for such emergencies, and the ability to cope with them when they arose. That Montrealers did not have to wait for their homes on Saturday, and to their churches on Sunday, is due to these gentlemen and to the army of men whose operations they guided.

From other sources it appears that the downfall practically put Ontario railways out of business for the time being and converted the time tables into stupendous jokes. All trains out of Toronto were reported cancelled for one day at least, until the arrival and departure of trains generally throughout the Province was postponed on the stipulation common in marine notices a couple of generations ago of "weather permitting." The Owen Sound branch of the C.P.R. was closed up all week.

A severe cold wave accompanied the snow deluge. In Pembroke the mercury wandered down to 42 below, and in Guelph, in the heart of the western peninsula, it shrank to 29 below.

On Saturday came a despatch announcing another blizzard that buried up all the energies of the Montreal railway men, and probably even of the street railway out of commission, with its army of shovellers and its splendid equipment.

Montreal, Feb. 7.—The snowstorm of last night and this morning has added the last straw to the sufferings of the operating departments of the great transportation lines. Despite the great blizzard of last Saturday and despite the Arctic weather that has since prevailed, the railways have kept up the semblance of an ordinary train service, but to-day nothing of the kind was possible, and the officials frankly admit that for the time they are beaten. The area covered by the storm lies entirely to the west of Montreal.

Meantime in the western land which Ontario people too commonly think of with a shudder, trains have been running on schedule time all winter while the only complaint about the snowfall has been that it was too light. Until a week ago wagons were more plentiful than sleighs on the streets of Edmonton and the grievance alike of the farmer, the teamster and the merchant was that the lack of sleighing was retarding business. During the last few days sleighs have been commonly in use, but the

snow is not now more than six or eight inches on the level and a few sunny days will again bring out the wagons.

In the matter of temperature, the weather here has been about all that could be desired; neither cold enough to be uncomfortable nor warm enough to be unseasonable. At Edmonton the thermometers at the meteorological station have never registered lower than 20 below zero during the season, and the cold snaps in which the mercury has approached this mark have been few, far between and of brief duration. It is safe to say that nowhere on the continent have people enjoyed weather more pleasant and more healthful than that of the past four months at Edmonton.

During the entire season all classes of work which can be carried on advantageously in Ontario in the winter season, has been general throughout the West. The G.T.P. and C.P.R. construction gangs have worked steadily through the winter laying steel on the new Winnipeg and Edmonton lines. Work on the G.T.P. bridge west of Edmonton has continued without cessation, and stonemasons and bricklayers have worked with very few interruptions on the new post office building in this city. Though building was not particularly active during the fall, the buildings under way have been carried on with very little hindrance from the weather, and had the general conditions continued to more activity in the building line the sound of the hammer would have been heard throughout the city on at least three quarters of the working days of the winter months now gone.

THE TABLES TURNED.

Ottawa Free Press.—Mr. G. H. Perley, M.P. for Argenteuil, is one of the most prominent lumbermen in the country, and therefore, it was not a matter of wonder that his contribution to the debate upon the timber limit issue in the House of Commons recently should have been awaited with considerable interest.

But it must be confessed that, from our point of view, Mr. Perley failed to come up to his reputation in this speech. It is true that he dealt with the question from a practical standpoint at times, as, for instance, when he advocated reforms in the matter of publicly regarding sales of timber limits; but we are of opinion that when he sits down in the calm of his study to read over that which he said, he will be the first to admit that he allowed his political partisanship to outrun his experience as a lumberman.

It was noticeable that he made only the briefest mention of the fact that in the days of his youth he had been impressed with the possibilities of the west as a field for lumber operations. He said that he found conditions too onerous to allow him to keep the limit which he took up.

But it remained for Dr. McIntyre, of Strathcona, to throw new light upon the question, and he did it most effectively. He showed that Mr. G. H. Perley in 1882, when the Conservatives were in power, had obtained a free grant of fifty square miles in the west, and that a similar grant was made to the firm of Perley and Pattee. Now it so happens that the limit which Mr. Perley was given free of charge in 1882 is one of the identical limits over which the Conservatives are now making so much fuss. He got it free of cost, but, of course, had to pay the usual stumpage dues. When, however, he came to look over the property he decided that it was not worth the money expended, and so, after paying the first year's rental, allowed the limits to revert to the crown.

Since then the west has grown up and the Owen Sound branch of the C.P.R. was closed up all week.

Mr. Perley got his grant for nothing. The patentees under this government have to pay seven thousand dollars.

Which policy do you prefer?

Soldiers Hunt Highwaymen.—Woburn, Mass., Feb. 10.—Three highwaymen appeared in Woburn last night and after holding up two men, shot and severely injured a boy, and fired at a barber who sought to detain one of them. The robbers first appeared in Burlington early in the evening. Mayor William E. Blodgett, who assumed charge of the hunt for the fugitives last night requested the officers and men to assist him in the search. Shortly before midnight a squad of sixteen was organized. A later despatch says that two of the robbers were captured.

Steel Plant Shut Down.

Sault Ste Marie, Feb. 11.—To-day the steel plant is again shut down; this time owing to a minor accident. Last night a sudden break in the machinery took place and although an effort was made to repair it hurriedly, it was seen that the damage was greater than expected, and that it probably will be forty-eight hours before things are in shape.

Like to Try Psychine

"Please send me a bottle of Psychine. I have a child afflicted with tuberculosis, and have been advised to try your medicine by our family doctor, as he says he cannot do anything more for my child."

MRS. H. STEPHENS.

Arthur, Ont., July 14, 1907.
Psychine cures when doctors fail. Many are sorry they did not try Psychine first. Throat, lung and stomach troubles yield to its curative power. At all druggists, 50c and \$1.00, or Dr. T. A. Slocum, Limited, Toronto.

NEW EIGHT HOUR BANK TO BANK LAW

Resume of Bill to be Introduced by Hon. W. M. Cushing on Wednesday—Legislation of Interests of Miners of Province.

There is now on the order paper of the Legislature to be considered this week an important legislative measure to benefit the men in Alberta who earn their livelihood by working underground. This bill is, together with the Compensation Act, which comes up for second reading on Friday, thoroughly up-to-date labor legislation, and is being followed with interest by leading labor men.

This eight hour bank-to-bank law, while it will affect workmen in all parts of the province, is naturally of greatest interest to the coal miners. Portions of the province, where so many collieries are situated. The first call for this legislation came from the south. It was advocated by the Lethbridge Liberal association during the elections for the new Alberta Legislature, and was first definitely put forward at the meeting, at which W. C. Simmons, the member for Lethbridge, was nominated.

It has been warmly advocated since then by Hon. Mr. Cushing, Mr. Simmons, Speaker Fisher and Mr. Macellus, of Pincher Creek, members representing the south country. The Act which is to come into force on March 31st, 1909, is a comprehensive one. Under its provisions a workman shall not be below the ground in a mine for the purpose of his work, or be allowed to go below ground for that purpose, for more than eight hours during any consecutive twenty-four hours.

The owner, agent or manager of every mine shall fix for each shift of workmen in the mine the time at which the lowering of the men to the mine is to commence and to be completed, and the time at which the raising of the men from the mine is to commence and to be completed, in such manner that every workman shall have the opportunity of returning to the surface without contravention of the foregoing provisions of this section, and shall post at the principal entrance to the mine a conspicuous notice of the times so fixed, and shall make all arrangements necessary for the observance of those times in lowering and raising the men.

The expression "workman" means any person employed in a mine below ground, who is not an official, a furnace man, or an onsetter, horse-keeper or pumpman.

A register is to be kept by the mine owner as to the time the workmen go down and come up.

The workman may appoint a person for the same purpose to see that the provisions of the act are being complied with.

The making of a false entry in the register is a fine not exceeding fifty dollars.

The Act may be suspended in case of emergency by an order in council. The order shall be in writing, and shall be equivalent to their being lowered into a shaft and their coming out shall correspond to their coming to the surface.

If any person contravenes or permits any person to contravene any provision of this act, he shall be liable to a fine not exceeding fifty dollars, or to imprisonment for not more than one month, or to both, at the discretion of the court.

The interval between the times fixed for the commencement and completion of the lowering and raising of each shift of workmen toward from the mine shall be such time not exceeding the time reasonably required for the purpose, as may be approved by the provincial inspector of mines.

A repeating shift of workmen exceeding the time reasonably required for the purpose, as may be approved by the provincial inspector of mines, notwithstanding the provisions of this section, for the purpose of avoiding work on Sunday, commences their period of work on Saturday before twenty-four hours have elapsed since the commencement of their last period of work so long as at least eight hours have elapsed since the termination thereof.

Provided that in the case of a workman, the owner, agent or manager of the mine shall not be guilty of an offence if he proves that he has taken all reasonable means to prevent the contravention or non-compliance, and a workman shall not be guilty of an offence under this Act in the case of any failure to return to the surface within the time limited by this Act, if he proves that without default on his part he was prevented from returning to the surface owing to means not being available for the purpose.

A person guilty of an offence under this Act shall in respect of each offence be liable, on summary conviction, if he is the owner, agent or manager of the mine, to a fine not exceeding fifty dollars, and in any other case to a fine not exceeding five dollars.

If a workman is below ground for a longer period during any consecutive twenty-four hours than the time fixed by this Act he shall be deemed to have been below ground in contravention of this Act, unless the contrary is proved.

INTEREST MARKS BOTH DEBATE

Continued from page three.

descent to the beginning of the ascent. The law provides that persons at whom the temperature exceeds 98 degrees Fahrenheit or where very great inconvenience is suffered from water should not remain below longer than six hours a day.

In Belgium a commission was appointed last year to enquire into the subject and their report is being awaited with considerable interest. In the United States of America a tabulated constitutional difficulty has made it difficult to regulate the hours of labor. In endeavoring to frame any such laws the state legislatures of the United States are confronted by the impossibility of reconciling such laws with the provisions of the constitution which prohibit them from doing anything to impair the right of individuals to make contracts. Laws in this sense have therefore been declared unconstitutional except in rare cases.

(1)—Where a state or the federal congress has legally limited the hours of labor on work done for the government, which is the case in Arizona, the position of master and a third party does not intervene to disturb the making of a lawful contract.

(2)—Where the work is done under unhealthy conditions, in which case the federal government, under the "police powers" conferred on it by the constitution, can, in the interests of public health, compel or sanction the enforcement of measures to protect the workers.

Difficulties Across Border.—The Supreme court of the United States has asked the right of federal authorities to enforce the limitation of hours of labor in certain mines where poisonous fumes arise, but has refused to include coal mines in the same category, so that the limitation of hours in coal mines in the United States would appear to be impossible.

As a matter of fact the eight hour day is in force in the coal mines of a large part of the United States, and more than half of the bituminous coal produced is mined under such conditions. The states of Arizona, Colorado, Missouri, Montana and Wyoming have passed legislation restricting the hours, but in a majority of cases the eight hours has been secured by union effort.

Further, in several of the countries of Europe, the mine owners have sought permission to reduce the number of hours of work by increasing the number riding in cages, and increasing the speed in the shafts, and the mining authorities have refused to accede to their requests. In many cases at collieries where a considerable proportion of the men had long distances to travel to and from their working places, no shafts have been sunk, specifically for the purpose of lowering and raising the men, in order to shorten the distances travelled.

The British Columbia act was a serious one. In February, 1906, it was fixed to come into force on the first day of June, 1906, it enacted that no person shall be employed underground in any coal mine for more than eight hours from bank to bank.

Existing Conditions in Alberta.—It has been suggested, of course, and over again, that restriction of the hours of labor might be obtained by the voluntary action of the employers or by the efforts of the unions instead of the legislative action of the province in one or two mines eight hours has been granted by voluntary action of the employers, and the majority of mines it has been fixed by agreement between the operators and the unions.

On the other hand the unions have seldom been able to fix the same hour all over the province so as to put employers all upon the same footing. The result being that the hours of labor in the mines of this province vary considerably, and it is hard to say that we may reject voluntary concession as utopian. The efforts of trade unions in the coal mines of this province, as witness in the appalling strikes that in the past have been found necessary to bring the owners and men to an agreement. I think it is well within the mark to say that the practically all advocates of the eight hour days in the province of Alberta are in favor of obtaining it by law. It is certainly desirable that the should be general uniformity.

Evidence Before Commission.—An illustration of the effect of the lack of uniformity came out in the investigation carried on by the Alberta coal commission, the facts of which are as follows:—

Mr. Charlton Dixon, manager of the Canada West Coal and Coke company of Taler, favored a uniform system. This mine employs 130 men underground and 25 men above and it has a daily output of 250 tons. The hours of mine are set by agreement at eight hours at the face with an hour for dinner.

Mr. Dixon was asked for suggestions by the Hon. Chief Justice Sifton, chairman of the coal commission, and he replied: "We cannot do better under present conditions. For eight hours of work we pay higher wages than our biggest competitor. We pay for the coal as mined at a better rate while our competitor pays for as screened. With a handicap of three hours and less wages he is going to such that it will be prohibitive. In the selling of our coal, we cannot buck up against him. He has a developed mine, and has pretty good outlay in the way of

Nurses' & Mothers' Treasure
—most reliable medicine for baby.
—Cures Croup, Whooping Cough, Sore Throat, etc.
—Prepared by Dr. P. E. Fitch, 1855.
Makes Baby Strong
—Keeps the little sugar baby healthy.
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