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LONDON, MONDAY, OCT. 14, 1907.

THE LABOR SHORTAGE.

Great as has been the tide of European immigration to America during the past year or two it seems by no means sufficient to meet the demands for labor in Canada and the United States. In our own Northwest in railway construction operations, which for a couple of years or so have been carried on at a tremendous pace, even greater progress would be made but for the difficulty of securing unskilled labor, while the cry for help in the western harvest fields has become a familiar one every year. In Ontario and the eastern provinces there is work for all newcomers who are willing to work and for others yet to come.

If official reports are to be relied on the shortage of labor has become a serious problem in the United States. The commissioner-general of immigration declares that in the last fiscal year over 1,400,000 aliens were admitted into that country, being an increase of about 200,000 over the previous year. In view of this showing, the labor shortage in every part of the republic is remarkable. According to an official estimate there is remunerative work demanding laborers in the United States for 250,000 persons. The commissioner further states that "from individual employers we have received specific information which will enable us to immediately place 1,395 aliens at wages ranging from \$1.25 to \$3 a day. From commissioners of labor and state boards of agriculture we have information, reliable in character, but indefinite as to detail, certifying that 84,000 people can find employment at wages ranging from \$18 a month to \$3 a day. From the commissioners of agriculture of three states information has been received to the effect that 1,020,000 settlers on lands are needed."

The problem has become a grave one to the coal operators of the bituminous fields of Pennsylvania and West Virginia. A voluntary increase of the pay of miners has been suggested to attract men to those regions, though they are within hailing distance, so to speak, of such ports as New York, Philadelphia and Boston.

The attitude of European governments toward emigration by no means improves the outlook. Recently a representative to the King of Norway arrived in the United States for the purpose of calling home expatriated Norwegians, of whom there are some 700,000 in the republic. Now, the Spanish Government has become alarmed over the exodus of able-bodied men from the kingdom, and the government has drafted a rigorous bill to restrict emigration and even to prohibit it for reasons affecting the public good. The primary object of this proposal is to direct the movement of Spanish laborers to Panama, but previous reports in consular correspondence indicated that the emigration of agricultural laborers and villagers to the United States, Cuba and South America was assuming serious proportions and threatening depopulation of rural districts. Italy, too, which has suffered greatly from emigration, has become aroused, and the subject of restriction is receiving serious attention. The Swedish government is also making efforts to check the exodus of its people, and has sent commissioners to America to study the means of improving the economic conditions of life in agricultural communities. At the same time chiefs of the Swedish army are recommending severe laws against the inducing of emigration and the avoidance of military service by males between the ages of 15 and 20 years.

ARBITRATION PLAN DEFEATED.

Because the project for obligatory arbitration of international disputes has passed the committee to which it was referred by a vote of thirty-one to nine, it must not be supposed that this vote means the adoption of the proposal by the Hague conference. As a matter of fact the reverse is the case, for while the large majority shows that arbitration idea is growing in favor among the nations, no decision on any matter can be reached by the conference unless there is unanimity. The vote in committee may, therefore, be taken to mean the death of the proposition. The minority was composed of Germany, Austria, Hungary, Belgium, Switzerland, Turkey, Greece, Roumania, Montenegro and Bulgaria. The representatives of Japan, Italy and Luxembourg refrained from voting. It will be seen that there is not the least prospect of unanimity, when the conference, in plenary session comes to vote on the proposal.

The committee vote furnishes some surprises, not the least of which is that Russia, was won over to the project, and that such weak powers as Belgium, Switzerland, Bulgaria, Montenegro and Roumania should have voted against a plan that tended to the safeguarding of their independence. It is gratifying to find that Great Britain, the United States and France, three of the world's most powerful and enlightened nations, led in a movement that had for its object the maintenance of international peace, and that they were backed by twenty-eight other powers.

The chief opposition to obligatory arbitration comes from Germany, whose representatives advanced the familiar arguments—first, that nations cannot submit all questions to arbitration; and second, even if some matters might be so submitted, anything affecting a country's honor must be excluded. The fact that six nations, minor ones, it is true, have recently agreed by treaty to submit all disputes to arbitration disposes of the first objection. Then, as to a country's honor, the proposal before the conference left each party to a dispute to decide for itself whether its national honor was involved, and there could be no arbitration if the decision was in the affirmative. In spite of this Germany remains obdurate, and until she yields there can be no hope of accomplishing the chief object for which the conference was called.

THE LEMIEUX ACT SCORES AGAIN.

The Industrial Disputes Investigation Act, better known as the Lemieux Act, continues to justify itself. Its latest vindication is the settlement of the dispute between the Canadian Pacific Railway and its telegraphers. This was referred to a board of investigators, under the Lemieux Act, after a prolonged period of futile negotiation between the company and the aggrieved employees. The latter numbered only 2,500, but a strike on their part would have affected the whole C. P. R. system, and disorganized railway traffic from coast to coast. It was clearly a case in which the public had some footing, and the Lemieux Act gave it the means of asserting its moral right of interference for its own protection. The company was represented in the negotiations by Mr. Wallace Nesbitt; the telegraphers by Mr. J. G. O'Donoghue, and the department of labor by Professor Shortt. The decision gives the men an increase of 14 per cent in their wages, with extra pay for Sunday work, and some favorable changes in working conditions. The award is a compromise, but both parties accepted it as reasonable. The country is spared vast inconvenience and serious loss.

The Lemieux Act is an example of progressive labor legislation which is in advance of anything on this continent.

The Toronto Globe says Toronto is to be the Pittsburgh of Canada. With Pittsburgh smoke and morals, too?

The Lusitania is a fairly good set-off to the freak machines which have kept the America's Cup in the United States.

If civic affairs are to be run on party lines, including school board affairs, the dominant party should accept responsibility for blunders and maladministration, such as the present mess over the coal supply.

Mr. Joseph Pope, who escorted Prince Fushimi through Canada, is to accompany Hon. Mr. Lemieux to Japan. Since the departure of Major Maude, Mr. Pope is the man usually chosen to handle royal visitors, and save them from being jarred by colonial crudity. It is pleasing to know this country can produce a true courier instead of having to import one.

DEVOTION.

[New York Sun.]
Mrs. Knicker—I see the President's party has forty-five dogs.

Mrs. Bocker—And it takes all the time of myself and a maid to look after darling Fido.

WHEN NOAH WAS A SAILOR.

[New York Sun.]

Noah viewed the rising waters.
"Prudently the papers will announce another Dickens landmark gone," he remarked.

Here with he languidly scanned the headlines.

A FRUGAL FAMILY.

[New York Sun.]
Knicker—Have the Smiths cut down expenses?

Bocker—Yes, they haven't been fined for speeding for more than a month.

EVER HEAR IT.

[Pittsburg Post.]
"She looks young to have a grown daughter."

"Yes, she was just telling me—"

"I know. That she was married when she was just barely 15 years old."

HOME TRUTHS.

[Boston Advertiser.]
The stinging protest voiced all over the country against the New York financiers' ideas of "sport" is not likely to affect those worthies much. By virtue of long experience on the "street," they have become hardened to public criticism. Their attitude seems to be that they own this cup, and that it is the business of nobody outside their narrow but select circle what they do with it or how they keep outsideers from any chance for a fair race for that trophy. It makes no difference to

them under what terms and by what fate treatment the cup was originally won by the America. They have seen that the only challenge for the cup in a good many years has come from Sir Thomas Lipton, and now they are doing what they can to discourage Lipton.

REACTION.

[Chicago Tribune.]

Audisport—Why so gloomy, old chap? Last night you were having the finest time I ever saw a man have.

Gayman—Well, doesn't that explain it, you chump?

CONSPICUOUS.

[Youth's Companion.]

The minister had preached to the graduating class of a girls' college. The girls of the class were on the platform all around the pulpit, and all dressed in white.

"I felt," confessed the preacher to his wife when he got home, "like a crow on a snowdrift."

A MISUNDERSTANDING.

[Denver Post.]

"Willie, you shouldn't hug that dog."

"Why not?"

"Please!"

"Oh, that's all right; he's got 'em all ready."

WHY IT STAYED UP.

[Montreal Herald.]

A dirigible balloon has been navigated successfully over London, but then, the air over London is alleged to be a lot thicker than other air, so it may be as well to wait for further trials before adopting the flying habit.

A TALKATIVE REGISTRAR.

[Toronto News.]

Hanna's eyes were bulging out.

He was pale with fear.

Down his dimpled countenance

Coursed a crystal tear.

Hastily he sought his chief.

Said: "We're in a fix."

Beattie Nesbitt, registrar,

Is talking politics."

Whitney said: "Upon my word,

Strange intelligence.

He who holds a public job

Should be on the fence.

Nesbitt knows his duty well,

But the Liberal tricks

Must have worked his anger. So

He's talking politics?"

Hanna's soul was full of pain.

His vibrant was his voice.

"If twice that," he sadly said,

"We might well rejoice."

But, alas, he smote his friends.

Yes, he'd do you better.

Said that Beck was being bumped

By the Cabinet."

Have you seen the winter blast

Read the giant oak?

Have you heard an earthquake? Thus

Mr. Whitney speaks and shames his name.

"Blankly, blank, and double dash,

Points of interrogation;

Brackets, hyphens, four in quads,

And marks of exclamation."

Registrars, division clerks,

Forest rangers, too,

Take this good advice from me,

Be careful what you do.

For 'tis certain as the sun

You may be in a fix

If you don't get your argument

When talking politics."

DR. BEATTIE NESBITT.

[Toronto Star.]

The Doctor has kept his own grave green

By looking to a ward meeting, shaking

his hands with the boys, and making speeches

at Orange picnics. He was never, as we

contented, properly buried, and for some

months past has been sitting on his grave

in the most public and shameless manner.

It became necessary to kill him again,

and the Starr commission was leveled at

him. But there is no use trying to fire a

pistol on the immortal man. Dr. Beattie

Whitney, who didn't know it was loaded, looked

down the barrel, and it almost blew his

head off. A number of innocent bystanders

were injured, but Dr. Beattie Nesbitt

escaped without a wound, a miss being

as good as a mile any day.

A FOREST TERROR.

[London Globe.]

An ingenious peasant in the south of

France, annoyed at his woods being invaded

by nutcrackers, got to know the Latin

name for the hazel nut, and then nailed

up the following notice: "Caution—All

persons entering this wood do so at their own

risk. The Corylus avellana hereabouts, as

well as other equally poisonous snakes,"

Trespassers ceased at once.

CANADIAN SNOBISHNESS.

[Toronto Telegram.]

Toronto garrison orders for the church

parade on Sunday are not the most im-

portant documents in Canada's military

history.

A laugh at the use in garrison orders

of "TRANS" as a synonym for Mr. Flem-

ing, rolling stock, and all that is called

for by a petty example of a silly

colonial tendency to ape the ways and

words of old country barracks.

Street cars are TRANS in London and

Paris. On this side of the water street

cars are street cars.

The misuse of the word "TRANS" in the

orders of Canadian militia officers to a

Canadian garrison is only important as

the symptom of a small-spirited narrow-

ness that must make the permanent

laughingstock in the sight of that rude,

untutored colonial country that pays its

salary.

There would be no adverse comment if

the word "TRANS" had been written by

English officers who had never known

street cars under any other name. The

iteration of the word in the Toronto gar-

ison orders is a trifle that should inspire

the minister of militia to try and Cana-

dianize the official verbiage of his Toronto

subordinates.

BUT HE'S NOT A GRIT.

[Hamilton Herald.]

How will it be possible for Dr. Beattie

Nesbitt to retain office under a Govern-

ment the head of which declares that the

eloquent doctor talks twaddle?

THE MEAT EATERS.

[Montreal Herald.]

These British doctors who have come

out in praise of meat-eating must remem-

ber that circumstances alter cases. One

of them "would like to see sirloin beef

regularly on the Sunday dinner table of

every family in the land." That might be

a great thing in a country where they

eat cheese for food, but in this part of

the world, where poor people eat beef on

week days, they have to fall back on

lamb or turkey for the Sunday special.

PRECAUTION.

[Chicago Tribune.]

Friend—Your little wife is a brilliantly

handsome woman. I should think you

would be jealous of her.

Host (confidentially)—To tell the truth,

Stinkins, I am. I never invite anybody

here than any sane woman would take

a fancy to.

HAPPYLAND AT THE GRAND

De Wolfe Hopper and His Company

Give a Satisfying Performance.

De Wolfe Hopper and his assistants

were handicapped on Saturday night,

and their experience certainly was as

nerve-deadening as that of the audi-

ence. Both felt it. While there was

no lack of spirit in the performance,

it was not received with as much en-

thusiasm as it would have created had

it been given at the regular hour. The

hurried make-up, and the weariness

of the journey, and the tiredness of

waiting, all had their effect.

The plot of the play is neither new

nor original. It is a story of several

opera bouffe kingdoms, and with the

matrimonial alliances that inevitably

go with them. The son of King Ex-

statis of Elysia was betrothed to the

daughter of the King of Aluria, but it

is so happens that the king has no

son. And then the complications be-

gin.

Hopper was King Exstatis. Mr.

W. de Wolfe Hopper was King Aluria.

The fun-making did not lag

when this pair met. Both scored. In

the duet, "How I Love the Flowers,"

Hopper and Wolfe made a tremendous

hit. Wolfe has a fine bass voice of

excellent quality and tone.

Dainty Marguerite There.

Dainty Little Marguerite Clark simply

moved right into the sympathies of

her audience by her sweet singing

and winsome ways. As Sylvia, daugh-

ter of the king, she was superb, and

her simple manner of acting this role,

which might easily have been over-

done, was refreshing. Her singing

was sweet and tuneful. Miss Clark

scored in "Robin" and "Twins the

Rose."

The singing of Mr. Detmar Poppin

was fair, and the tenor soloist, Mr.

Jos. Phillips was fine. The male chor-

us sang well. There was one tenor

who sang a solo that was away above

the average. If he