

NIAGARA WATER POWER SHORTAGE.

The immense possibilities of Canada's water powers is again strikingly illustrated by the power shortage at Niagara Falls on both sides of the river. The man in the street has frequently been told that the power which it is possible to develop from waters of the Niagara river is practically inexhaustible, and now he is faced with statements in the Press that "all available power has been used."

The apparent contradiction is explained when it is understood that some 8,000,000 horsepower may, theoretically, be obtained by utilizing all the water and all the fall between lakes Erie and Ontario, but owing to the need for carrying the ice through the river, as well as other demands, it is absolutely impossible to use even the larger proportion of this 8,000,000 horsepower.

Under the Boundary Waters Treaty, Canada is allotted 36,000 cubic feet per second and the United States 20,000 cubic feet per second. The present shortage implies that the Treaty water, which has so far been allotted to the various power companies at Niagara Falls has been utilized and the power therefrom marketed.

Various factors, hitherto, have resulted in limiting the use of Niagara waters for power purposes, the chief being the widespread sentiment, both in the United States and Canada, for the preservation of the scenic beauties of the Falls and River, which, as is known, have been regarded as a national heritage of the whole people.

About one-third of the fall in the Niagara river occurs in the lower rapids. Keen competition is now being evidenced in the attempt to secure development privileges in this lower river.

Niagara power on the United States side is largely consumed by the electro-chemical industries, some of which, of their kind, are the largest in the world. The electro-chemical industries before long will no doubt be seeking other situations. Some such industries are already utilizing large amounts of Canadian electrical energy.

There are many large river systems in Canada which permit of the development of power at low cost, and at prices which doubtless will compare favourably with the cost of Niagara power. Special problems resulting from seasonal variations in river conditions, as well as difficulties in the distribution of manufactured products, will, no doubt, be solved satisfactorily by the electro-chemical industries once the time has arrived seriously to deal with this problem of additional supply of power. Then the value of Canada's national water power wealth will be more clearly manifested.—L. G. D. in Conservation of Life.

CO-OPERATION OF POSTMASTERS ASKED FOR FINDING JOBS IN UNITED STATES.

In an address before the Postmasters of U. S. A. at Washington, Anthony Caminetti, Commissioner of Immigration, urged co-operation of postmasters with the labor department's employment bureau.

"If each postmaster will co-operate," he said, "we will have a free employment bureau in every little town and hamlet. The post office should be a place where every citizen should come to do business with Uncle Sam, especially every citizen who wants a job or who has a job to give."

OUR OBLIGATIONS TO THE RETURNING SOLDIERS.

The provincial governments might also give every inducement for the opening up of new industries, if only to utilize what is now wasted. The natural resources of Canada are great and the public might be encouraged to support industries which convert any new materials into useful commodities. Crochery, earthenware, and glass goods, sheathing made of flax straw to insulate houses, paper and its allied products from straw, marble enamelled brick encaustic tiles, terra cotta, etc., are possible industries.

The Federal government might create labor bureaus to assist in the placing of men and women in employment. The creation of Corps of Commissionaires, for the partially disabled soldiers, could no doubt be made practically self-supporting. Commissionaires in neat, serviceable uniforms, supported by the parental government, and with the patronage of the employers of labor, would create an excellent impression not only in the people, but also on the soldiers who have suffered on our behalf.

No apology is needed for expressing the foregoing thoughts, the subject is very important, and if anything that has been stated will help to further the movement for the benefit of our soldiers, the author will feel satisfied.

"ORGANIZED LABOR IN AMERICA."

By G. G. GROAT.

Under the title of "An Introduction to the Study of Organized Labor in America," G. G. Groat gives a very interesting history of the growth of trade unionism, tracing its start in the dissatisfaction of the working classes in England against the over-bearing selfishness of the employees. From the times of Feudalism all legislation dealing with man and master had been directed against the man, but twenty-five years of constant agitation on the part of a few determined men resulted in 1825 in an act giving the right to working men "to bargain collectively and withhold their labor by collective action for the purpose of securing better wages and conditions of labor." So practically legalized unions might be said to have been in existence for close on a hundred years for immediately on the passing of the act combinations of workers came into being, though secret societies had been in vogue for a long time before.

Dr. Groat discusses the question as to whether or not the Guilds were the forerunners of the Unions of to-day. The author brings in matter to show that there was never really any link between the two, resting his evidence on the fact that the Guilds were close corporations between journey-man and employer of certain trades to keep out competition, and that the journey-man, by the exigencies of his work automatically became in time to be a master himself. Whereas, on the other hand, organized labor as we understand the term to-day was largely the consequence of the necessary introduction of large amounts of capital into the different manufactures, thus raising a wall over which it was well nigh impossible for the average worker to climb, except in self protective organizations.

The introduction of labor unions to this continent was practically through immigration, and from the first it would appear there has never been much difficulty in their establishment in either the United States or Canada—that is as far as legislation is concerned. At the present moment organized labor is represented (approximately by 2,604,701 workers in the United States, and 149,278 in Canada.

These figures though large cannot near represent the full number of American workers, meaning that the majority of working men and women on the North American Continent are not organized, so one cannot see why the author should say in his preface that: "It is assumed that the American labor problem is the problem of organized labor." One would have thought that the labor problem of this Continent was the problem of unorganized workers, for surely organized labor must by now have solved the problem of what it wants and how best to get it, otherwise what is it organized for. But with the millions of workers who have either not the opportunity or stamina to join unions there is always with each one the serious problem of how to live. This lack of organization among the bulk of workers has bred a feeling of irresponsibility and a degree of shiftlessness that are a menace to the community. This is well evidenced in the "submerged" part of our cities, which is not usually made up by the man who won't work—as many people suppose—but by that unfortunate being, the day-a-week-jack-of-all-trades, who hasn't enough in him to bluff a constant job out of an employer, and his still more unfortunate family. He becomes a "scab." One sometimes thinks it would be well for labor organizations to look up these "scabs" and help them to become men.

The book is published by The Macmillan Company of Canada.—F. W.

BRITISH TELEPHONE OPERATORS COMMENDED IN POST OFFICE REPORT.

A special cable dispatch from London, England, states that the bravery of telephone girls during Zeppelin raids and the Irish rebellion, which they helped to quell, featured the annual report of the post office department made public this week.

"When the Zeppelin raids have been anticipated, sometimes when they have been going on," says the report, "the women have come out of their homes to their work—even when bombs were dropping. They have played an important part in the scheme of air-raid warnings and have set a very good example to the whole country."