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Romance In History.

It was in June, 1671, that the French took over the northern portion of the Province of Ontario. Most Canadians are still interested in the exploits of the coureur des bois, and in the adventures of Perrot, the most picturesque figure in the ceremony of June, 1671, when the Deputy Governor, "in the name of the High King, Most Powerful, and Most Redoubtable Monarch, Louis XIV. of France," took possession of "St. Marie du Sault, as also Lakes Huron and Superior, the Island of Manitoulin, and of all the lands, rivers, lakes, and streams contiguous to and adjacent here as well discovered or to be discovered which are bounded on the one side by the seas of the north and on the other side by the seas of the south—in its whole length and breadth."

The Most High, Most Powerful, and Most Redoubtable Louis and his successors held the lands about the lakes for less than a century after their annexation, but among the men who carried the badge of Canada on the fields of France these last five years were hundreds who could have traced their descent directly from the hawk-eyed coureurs des bois who stood about Perrot on the day when a great province was added to New France.

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LEADER OF O. B. U.

Winch Carries on His Work In British Columbia.

Cordova street is one of the oldest highways of original Vancouver. It was the centre of old Gastown before the fire of 1886. Many of the buildings which face upon it are becoming mossy. Not a few are third-class hotels. Occupying the second and third floors of one of these are a pair of smart-looking girl stenographers, half a dozen young men clerks, a long table containing many thousands of cards—each of which represents a human unit—and a stoned and exceedingly cadaverous individual of 45. This premature-aged man is as much the proprietor of the institution as if he owned it. He is a dyspeptic crank, so cranky and so dyspeptic that he can only eat one meal a day—and that tea and toast. The name of this man is E. Winch, and the institution he runs is all that is left of the O. B. U. in British Columbia.

The latter statement is general and means to be only approximate. In any event it is the only active and outward manifestation of the One Big Union which flourished in a dozen places a year ago. So far as one may judge of the position today compared with what it was in the weeks preceding the general strikes in Vancouver and Winnipeg last year, the O. B. U. has steadily lost ground and is not a real factor in the labor situation in British Columbia with one single exception—and that is in the case of the loggers' union. Winch was at the head of the loggers' organization when the general strike took place. Its collapse did not cause him to quit, though it had that effect on many other active organizers, but in the case of the loggers the claim is made that their O. B. U. is stronger to-day than it ever has been before.

Winch is a curious individual in more ways than his habit of getting along without dinner or supper. He claims to have reduced the art of striking to an exact science, so as to play both ends against the middle and the angles as well. Because men are thrown out of work and consequently suffer in any large strike he does not believe in a general tie-up of industry. Nothing so crude as that is on Mr. Winch's program—which may account for the fact that up to this date he enjoys an eminence of comparative success in a sea of O. B. U. failure. Winch believes in compelling the industry—if he can—to finance and maintain the strikes while the latter are proceeding.

He points quite proudly to the episode of the Capilano Timber Co. The O. B. U. called a strike there six months ago and two logging camps were quickly tied up. The men wanted an eight-hour day, a \$5 minimum and a lot of reforms in accommodation. The company sent out agents looking for new workmen and found them. To get them to go to work the company improved wages and conditions to some extent and was soon in full swing again. There was neither picketing nor other interference by the union or former employees, and apparently the company won out. But not according to Winch, who claims that everything was done on his schedule. "Their 'scabs' were our own men," he declares. "We furnished them, though the company did not realize it, and to-day we are in their camps just as strongly as before and under improved conditions of pay and accommodation."

For a feature act for the coming season Winch has his eyes on the paper mills. Eight hours and a five-dollar minimum are his aims in this industry. But nothing is farther from his thoughts than to attempt to tie it up all at once. Workers are to be called out in one mill at a time, according to the program mapped out, so that while that mill is idle they can still find useful and remunerative employment in other plants up and down the coast. When the time has come to recommence in No. 1 mill, the O. B. U. representatives in another plant will have found something to complain about and the shutdown stunt will be repeated there, with a loss of time to the workers extending very little beyond the limits of a welcome holiday.

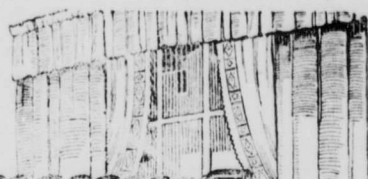
In the card-index on the big table at O. B. U. headquarters are listed 17,000 loggers in "good standing." The larger half are in B. C., but organizers are busy around Fort William, in Northern Ontario, and are now pushing on into the Quebec woods. Each man pays dues of \$1 per month. Apparently they pay promptly, for large expenditures are made from Winch's office. Ten thousand dollars has lately been invested in printing charges for propaganda. More than 50,000 O. B. U. buttons have been bought from an uptown store at 30 cents each; \$1,000 per month has been contributed to the Winnipeg strikers' defence fund. Altogether there is an air about the shabby offices as if somebody with cash in the bank was administering things.

In one particular Winch has been forced to confess defeat. Many Orientals labor in various capacities in B. C. lumber camps. The Japanese have freely joined the O. B. U., but no progress has been made with the Chinese. With native caution and clanishness they prefer to make their own bargains. If they join anything it is simply a One Big Chinese Union.

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