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Defends the
Pit-Prop Industry.

A GREAT BENEFIT TO THE COUNTRY.—EXPORT SHOULD NOT BE FORBIDDEN.

St. John's, N.F.,
June 11th, 1917.

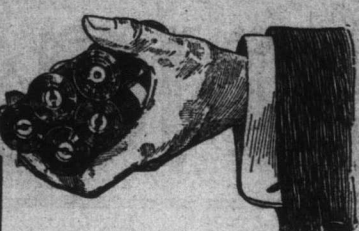
Dear Sir,—Since the introduction here a few years ago of the Pit Prop Industry there have been incessant disputes and troubles regarding it and as only one side of the matter has been put before the public I think it is time that the other side should be heard and the question discussed impartially. The two main arguments against the industry seem to be (1) that the country is being denuded of its wood and (2) that those who cut the Pit Props are underpaid and badly treated. With regard to (1) I would like to explain that Pit Props are the tops of trees which are useless for manufacturing into pulp or timber. Such countries as Finland, Russia and Scandinavian countries are just as anxious to preserve their timber as is this country but the export of pit props has always been allowed from these countries. The timber industry of all kinds, including the pit prop industry—in these countries is a very large one, many times larger than the industry in Newfoundland. All the arguments that can be used against the industry in Newfoundland can with equal effect be used against the industry in these other countries. The fact remains, however, that the industry is not only permitted in these other countries but it is encouraged and is a source of revenue to all those engaged in it and there is no reason why the same conditions should not exist in Newfoundland. Were the export of pit props to be prohibited from Finland, Russia, Norway and Sweden the stuff would be left to rot in the forest as is actually the case in this country. These other countries have seen the folly of this, have seen that money can be made out of this stuff and have permitted its export. Anyone in Newfoundland who is cutting pulp wood or timber has to leave the tops of the trees from two inches to four inches in the small end in the forest and I can never understand why the Government prohibited the export of this timber when instead of letting it rot it could be turned into a commercial article without injury or loss of any kind. If the Government is anxious to protect the wood of the country they can do so by forbidding the cutting of trees below six inches at the base but no protection whatever is afforded by allowing the tops of the trees to rot in the forest where they may be turned into money.

With regard to (2) the treatment of those engaged in the industry, both sides must be looked at. The Legislature recently made a Law that all pit props had to be measured by Government surveyors. In all countries from which pit props are exported the export taxes on them and timber are made on the bill of lading quantity, as it is only natural that the man that ships the wood is going to be paid for the quantity that is on board and the Government is quite safe in accepting the amount of the tax on the same quantity. I think it is usual in all countries for the taxes to be paid on the Bill of Lading quantity as signed by the captain of the vessel loading same. The appointment of these surveyors does not make any difference to the buyers and it does not affect the measuring in any way. The first boat load that I measured for my principals, Messrs. Evans & Reid, Limited, was measured on railway cars at Lewisporte so that it was impossible for this wood to be lost between the time when it was measured and the time it was shipped. This cargo turned out four per cent. short, which was not unsatisfactory. In 1915 and 1916 however, we have had some very big shortages ranging from ten per cent. to sixteen per cent. and I know of other shippers who have had some enormous shortages. Messrs. Evans & Reid, Limited, bought a cargo shipped per 'Neath' in 1915 by the intake bill of lading quantity. This cargo turned out over thirty per cent. short. I am convinced that the pilfering of pit props has been going on for some

Gin Pills
FOR THE KIDNEYS
MARTYR TO PAINS IN
THE BACK

Welles, N.S., Jan. 15, 1916.
About eight months ago I read your advertisement in one of the Halifax papers offering a free sample of Gin Pills for the kidneys. I had been a martyr for years to intense pains across the back and decided to try Gin Pills. Before I had finished the third box I found myself for the first time in years perfectly free from pain.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs. (Mrs.) Percy.
All druggists sell Gin Pills at 50c. a box, or 6 boxes for \$2.50. Sample free if you write to
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The Kodak Store, 320
Water Street.

time. One hears a lot of talk about the rights of the fishermen, that they are underpaid for cutting pit props and that they are cutting out their heritage by cutting props in the three mile limit. Who cut the pit props? The fishermen themselves. If they are underpaid and do not want to cut pit props they are not compelled to cut them and they can go and work with the A.N.D. Co. or any other company engaged in the timber industry. The A.N.D. Co. have had to advertise for men offering wages "\$24.00 a month with board and lodging, good men staying to the end of the chop being paid \$26.00 per month with board and lodging." Under the law men employed cutting pit props must be paid at a rate not less than \$30.00 a month with board and lodging, and the law has even fixed the price of pit props per cord at not less than \$4.50.

It is evident, therefore, that the men have made better money cutting pit props than in any Allied industry. In spite of all the supposed dissatisfaction which exists among the fishermen there is no doubt whatever but that if contracts could have been made, sufficient labor could have been procured in Newfoundland to cut 300,000 cords of pit props in the winter of 1915-1916.

In addition to what I have already said, let us look at the general effect of the industry in the Island. In the short space of time during which the pit prop industry has been in existence in Newfoundland the business has been worth over \$1,500,000 to the Colony. My principals alone have paid out over \$480,000 and we have now lying round the bays and shores of the Island about 5,000 cords of wood which we have paid for, but which we are unable to find tonnage for and which we consequently could not ship. There is no doubt that this stuff is being stolen, and from the way in which it has been stolen recently it is doubtful whether there will be much of it left to ship. It must be remembered that the pit props which are lying around the shores of the Island waiting for shipment are not just the tree trunks lying as they have fallen but they are manufactured timber. It has to be cut to a specified length, it has to be barked and it has to be sawn (not cut with an axe) square at the ends. All this means labor, and the labor has to be paid for, so that anyone who steals these pit props is stealing the money which pit prop shippers have paid out in labor to put the pit props in marketable condition. Having bought and paid for the pit props it is natural that we should expect the authorities to protect our interests and our money and it is useless for us to think of doing business in Newfoundland if we are not to expect or receive the same protection from the authorities with regard to the safeguarding of our property as any other citizen. I feel confident that the pit prop industry has come to stay and will eventually turn out a very profitable industry to Newfoundland, as it has done to other countries, but it must not be forgotten that those who are prepared to invest their money expect to have their rights protected. There is no doubt but that Newfoundland can compete with Scandinavian countries and Russia in the pit prop industry in normal times, and it must be clear that the pit prop industry taken in conjunction with the other timber industries will be a further inducement to people to erect Saw Mills and Pulp Mills in Newfoundland when they have a profitable market for the tops of the trees. Those in authority must surely see the mistake they have been making in forbidding the export of pit props in the past. If the whole question of the pit prop industry were properly explained to the fishermen of the country, together with what it is worth to them, I do not believe there would be one voice against it, and

surely an industry which has left over \$1,500,000.00 in the country in such a short time, and provided labor at a time when there is no fishing to be done, ought to receive more consideration than it does, and less unjust criticism.

Yours faithfully,
J. O. WILLIAMS,
The Editor, Evening Telegram.

Casualty List.

Received June 12th, 1917.

Reported Prisoner of War at Wahn-lager, Jülich, Rheinland, Germany, May 10th.—Wounded Both Legs.—Progressing Satisfactorily.

755—Private James Dempster, Waterford Bridge Road. Previously reported missing April 14. Unofficially reported prisoner of war, May 19th.

Admitted Wandsworth.
180—Sergeant Herbert S. Heater, H.R. Grace, Pyrexia.

2478—Private Job Heath, Botwood. Gunshot wound right heel, slight.

J. R. BENNETT,
Colonial Secretary.

Concert in aid of St.
Joseph's Parish.

At the St. Joseph's Parish Hall last night an enjoyable and interesting concert was held. Miss Ida Howlett acted as accompanist and the following programme was run off: Songs by Mrs. Martin, Mrs. Strangor, Misses A. Murphy, Rose Brophy, L. Browne, Messrs. P. F. Moore, J. Fox, T. Halley, R. Sullivan, H. Brophy. Recitations by Miss May and Masters F. Squires and W. Squires. Piano and mandolin solos by Miss L. Brown and Mr. F. Devereux, and a chorus by the children of St. Joseph's. An interesting playlet by the pupils of Quidi Vidi School was very pleasing. "An Irishman's Dream" by Mr. P. F. Moore, brought down the house with roars of laughter. Rev. Dr. Kitchen, P.P., thanked the performers and others for the success achieved. The singing of the National Anthem brought the affair to a close.

NOTICE, W. M. S.—A Public Meeting will be held in Gower Street Church on this Tuesday evening, at 8 o'clock. Speaker, Miss De Wolfe, Missionary on furlough from Japan. Soloist, Mrs. John Duff. Everybody welcome.—June 12, 11

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Fresh New York Ducks.
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Fresh Salmon.

New Asparagus.
New Green Peas.
New String Beans.
Fresh Celery.
New Cucumbers.
Fresh Tomatoes.
New Onions.
New Cabbage.

Fresh Smoked
Finnan Haddies.

Red & White Cherries.
Bananas.
Bartlett Pears.
California Oranges.
Dessert Apples.
Grape Fruit.
New Rhubarb.
California Lemons.

American Beauty
Butter, 1-lb. blocks.

Stone's Graham Flour.
Flake Tapioca.
Fresh Post Toasties.
Self Raising Buckwheat.

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482 and 786.

Heroes Welcomed

By the express which reached the city last evening, 22 Royal Naval Reservists arrived on furlough and were given a right royal reception by the Premier and the Ladies' Reception Committee. This morning they were taken to Government House where they were entertained by His Excellency the Governor and Lady Davidson. Despite close on three years of continued service the boys in blue are looking as fit as ever.

Reservist M. Tobin.

Amongst the batch of Royal Naval Reservists, who arrived in the city last night on furlough, was Michael Tobin, belonging to Permeux, who spent two years and seven months on active service. Reservist Tobin was one of the surviving victims of the terrible "Newfoundland" disaster in the spring of 1914. He had a couple of toes which were badly frostbitten as a result of the awful ordeal he went through, amputated. A few weeks after being discharged from Hospital in that year the call to the colors came and he was one of the first to offer his services to the Navy.

Here and There.

WEATHER REPORT.—The weather across country is calm and fine; temperature 43 to 56 above.

BOWLING SHIPS.—The Portia sails to-morrow morning for western ports taking a full freight. The Prospero will not get away for the northward before Saturday.

CAPLIN STRUCK IN.—The Marine and Fisheries Department were apprised this morning that caplin had struck in at Lawn; also that good work was being done with codfish, but traps were getting nothing yet.

HANDEL'S "MESSIAH"—Methodist College Hall, Thursday night, at 8.30. Owing to the heavy expenses no complimentary tickets will be issued under any circumstances. There will be no second performance. Many of the best seats have already been taken.—June 12, 11

DESERTER ARRESTED.—A man, who holds an important post on board a vessel used in connection with the war, was arrested under warrant last night for absconding himself from his ship for a couple of days, without leave. He is being held in custody until the authorities think fit to put him on board.

C.C.C. BAND DANCE (in aid of New Hall)—In the C. C. C. New Hall on Thursday next, June 14th. Only two more days. Big crowd going. Good music by full band. Tickets—Gent's, \$1.00 (double); Lady's, 50c., including supper by the Band's Ladies' Committee. Donations of Cakes, etc., will be gratefully received from friends and supporters of the Band. Tickets on sale at Atlantic Bookstore, Smyth's, J. Courtney's, Wadde's Drug Store, J. P. Cash, Parker & Monroe (East and West) and Huttons.—June 12, 11

RE-UNITED.—Mrs. Daniel Churchill, wife of Pte. Churchill, of Portugal Cove, reached the city by yesterday's express from Scotland and was met at the station by her husband. Mr. and Mrs. Churchill were married a year ago at Ayr but owing to war conditions she was not able to come out with her husband when he returned. She is the second Scotch lassie to reach that patriotic little settlement within the past year.

Rid the Skin

of disfiguring blemishes, by quickly purifying the blood, improving the circulation, and regulating the habits with

**BEECHAM'S
PILLS**

Largest Sale of Any Medicine in the World.
Sold everywhere. In boxes, 25c.

DIED.

Passed peacefully away last night, Annie M., daughter of the late Philip and Hannah Marshall; funeral on Wednesday, at 2.30 p.m., from her late residence, 101 Bond Street; friends and acquaintances please attend without further intimation.

At Torbay, on June 11th, after a long and painful illness, Mr. Peter Doyle, leaving one brother, two sisters, five sons and two daughters to mourn their sad loss; funeral on Wednesday, at 2.30 p.m.; friends and acquaintances will please accept this, the only intimation.—R.I.P. Boston and New York papers please copy.

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The Choicest New Suitings are here, and handsome they are, in fact one of the best selections we have ever offered.

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No obligation
to buy; no one
will ask you,
but the goods
will exert a very
strong pressure



Under the skill-
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Every detail of measurements, cutting, fitting and finishing, is done with great care and skill, under the able supervision of Mr. James A. Leahy, an expert of thirty years' experience, in both English and American tailoring.

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Coming.

Wait! Watch!
Profit by Our
Semi-Annual
Furniture Sale.

We have been months preparing for this great event, which will eclipse all other Sales, as we were fortunate in securing large stocks of material ahead and will now give the benefit to our customers and the public generally. We offer Bureaus from \$8.50 that cannot be imported and sold less than \$12.50; other furniture in proportion. You ask us why? The answer is: We patronize Home Industry, have goods made for us right in building; anything made to order as required.

Call in and see us. Watch papers for further announcements.

The C. L. MARCH CO., Ltd.,
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