

ONTARIO FIRS DESTROYED TO SUPPLY U.S. DEMAND FOR CHRISTMAS TREES

Over 2,500,000 Young Evergreens Taken Across Border in December Causing Irreparable Waste.

A despatch from Warton, Ont., says:—Shipments made just in time for the Christmas markets in United States cities brought to a conclusion for the season an industry which has grown to amazing proportions in this province, but one which can be viewed with anything but equanimity by those who have the future well-being of the forest lands of Ontario at heart. This is the annual destruction of fir and other young trees to provide Christmas trees for the homes and institutions in the United States.

In recent years the New England States supplied this demand and in a smaller measure the Province of Quebec, but the Washington Government placed an embargo both upon the cutting and the shipment of home trees for this purpose, with the result that dealers across the line turned their eyes to the apparently illimitable supplies in Ontario, the consumer willingly paying the extra charges for freight necessitated by the longer haul to the American markets.

Each fall the buyers for the American trade reach the localities selected by them and arrangements are made for the annual "cut," which usually begins early in November. This year it is computed that around five thousand railway cars, each containing on an average from five to six hundred trees, have gone across the border from Canada, the grand total of destruction being over two and a half million of young trees. These are nearly all cut below the first branches on the trunk, the result being that the stump dies and rots in the ground. Of course, all engaged in the business do not destroy the trees completely, but cut them above the first branches, but while the tree thus treated will not die, the limbs only will grow, and it will never be of much commercial value after the trunk has been severed.

Quite an agitation developed amongst the Indians on the Cape Croker reserve, on the Bruce Peninsula, early in the month, when instructions were received by Agent Alex. Moore from the Dominion Government forbidding further cutting of trees on the reserve and requiring the collection of five cents on each bundle from all that had already been cut. The Indians were very indignant at the Government's action, as large sums had been made by them previously in this business, but the Agent was firm in upholding his orders, and no further depletion took place on the reserve. The forbidding of this destruction by the Indians did not, of course, apply to private lands, and the activities of the American dealers were transferred to these, and many farmers and their help had several busy weeks in trying to catch up with the demand.

Almost the entire output of the Bruce Peninsula was for the Pittsburgh market alone, and it is stated that twenty-five railway cars, with an average of six hundred trees to each car, left Warton last month for the city of Pittsburgh, these costing the dealer a total of about ten thousand dollars. Many of the trees shipped stood as high as fifteen feet, and were retailed for as much as twenty dollars in the city mentioned. The eastern side of the Bruce Peninsula has scarcely any coniferous trees, and those on the wooded western side are required for windbreaks. A movement is at present on foot by members of the County Council to ask the Government to formulate a policy to regulate this tree-destroying menagerie in the future, and to insist on the protection of the young timber and the reforestation of the areas not fit for cultivation. It is understood that invitations are being sent to the Re-forestation Department asking for a representative to be sent to the January session of the County Council to explain what steps the Government are prepared to take in this matter.

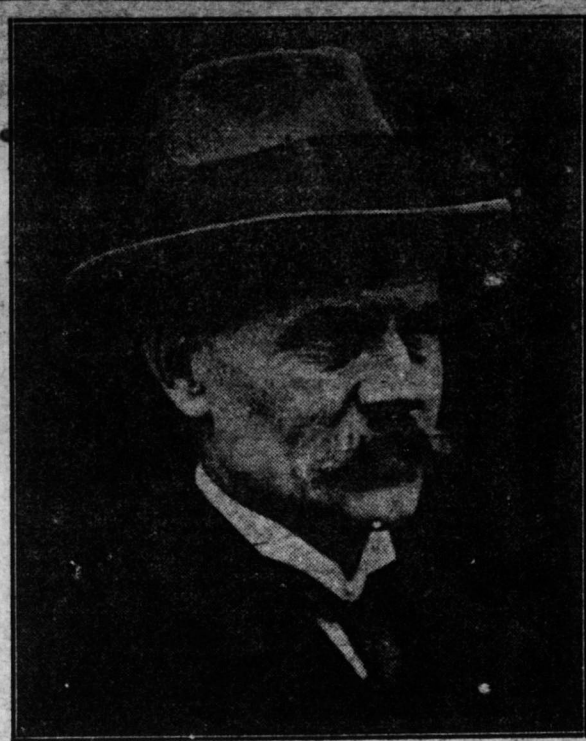
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RAMSAY MACDONALD
Leader of the British Labor party, who may be called upon within a few weeks to form a government in Great Britain. He is a man of charm and culture, a widower with several young daughters. The loss of his wife was a severe blow to him, for she is described as a woman of rare sweetness and devotion. She was a niece of Lord Kelvin, who became deeply interested in socialism in her girlhood.

Device Will Trap Hens Who Fail to Lay Eggs

A despatch from London says:—Even bantam hens will soon have to punch time clocks if an invention now being exhibited at a London poultry show finds favor with the farmers. An ingenious Dutchman is suspecting some of his hens of loafing on the job. He has accordingly evolved a system by which, fitted on the back of each of his chickens, a leather strap is attached with a piece of colored chalk at the end.

Above the door of each trap nest he places a paper and a memorandum. The door is so constructed that the hen cannot enter the nest without making a mark on the paper. As he uses different colored chalk for each chicken, he is now jubilant at having been able to rout the unproductive hens from his flock.

The inventor alleges he has not yet discovered a way to register the fraudulent entering of nests—that is, the hen chalking up a mark without laying any eggs.

Reports of London Tower Falling Down Are Denied
A despatch from London says:—"London's Tower is falling down, falling down," is the latest rhyme for London children, due to a report which has been going around the last few weeks that the historic citadel slowly is crumbling away.

But the authorities at the Tower say that the reports "are very much exaggerated." The Tower of London, they declare, is safe for another thousand years, and stories of cracks in the buildings and danger of early collapse should not be believed.

There are some gabled houses built against the inner wall of the Tower facing the Green which have broken away from the Tower wall and begun to lean forward, but experts insist that these ancient houses never were in danger of falling. Anyway, the weakness which no alarmed some of London's citizens now has been remedied and all the buildings which go to make up the Tower are being minutely examined for possible weak spots.

British Sergeant Revealed as Captor of Jerusalem

A despatch from London says:—How Jerusalem was captured by a sergeant in the Second Battalion of the Ninetieth London Regiment—Frederick Hurcomb of Camden Town—will be revealed for the first time in the new war film "Armageddon," which deals exclusively with the fighting in the East.

In telling of his adventure Hurcomb said that on December 9, 1917, he was sent out on patrol with twelve men and a corporal with orders to go forward until fired upon. They crawled over Turkish trenches in the dark without encountering anything, but at dawn they spotted a house which the sergeant approached with a rifle in hand.

To a woman at the window he replied with "Hands up!" But she, apparently an American, replied with "Good morning," and told him the Turks had all gone.

Presently a party of about twenty, led by the chief man of the town bearing a white flag, approached, and in broken English surrendered the city to the sergeant.

General Manager of the Port of Montreal, who points out that the construction of the last link of a waterway at Lockport, designed to connect the present end of the canal at Lockport, Ill., with LaSalle, the head of navigation on the Illinois River, will mean the illegal diversion of more water from the Great Lakes at Chicago, and will be used for the development of more power in Illinois, while reducing the levels in the lakes and St. Lawrence river to the detriment of all the Canadian ports along that route. Power is already being delivered in Illinois from the diverted water to the value of one million dollars a year.

Big Army of Ladybirds to Fight Plant Parasites
A despatch from London says:—A huge army of ladybird beetles is being mobilized at Balham to wage war on plant parasites in all parts of England next summer. Cantonments have been erected on the estate of E. Crabbe, fellow of the Entomological Society, and 500,000 ladybirds are being enlisted for the fray. They are implacable enemies of the deadly aphids which attacks ramblers, roses, carnations and other flowers and plants and are very pleased to eat the aphids on all occasions.

Dominion News in Brief

Vancouver, B.C.—Excavation work on the new Dominion Government dock at Esquimalt has been progressing so rapidly during the past few months that the basin is almost ready for the construction works. Laying of concrete has commenced. The installation of the pumps and machinery will be started, in all probability, next summer.

Taber, Alta.—A registered seed company to be known as the Taber Seed Growers Limited, is being organized here. It will own equipment for cleaning seed, will grow seed and carry on registered seed operations and marketing generally. The cleaning plant is expected to be in operation in time to handle seed this season.

Regina, Sask.—In a preliminary report, the secretary of the Canadian Seed Growers' Association makes the following estimate of the market supply of registered seed: No. 1 seed: wheat, 264,014 bushels, on 12,613 acres; oats, 61,240 bushels, on 8,560 acres; barley, 17,025 bushels, on 336 acres; corn, 4,360 bushels, on 386 acres. The great bulk of this seed was produced in Alberta and Saskatchewan.

Brandon, Man.—That the development of good roads in Manitoba, and particularly in the Brandon district, has made rapid strides within the past few years was emphasized when over one hundred good roads boosters gathered at Brandon for the District Association's meeting recently. Each year finds Manitoba in greater favor with the travelling public and in this respect the district surrounding Brandon is taking a leading part in the construction and maintenance of good highways.

Toronto, Ont.—The total value of metalliferous production for the first nine months of 1923 exceeded that of the corresponding period of 1922 by \$4,879,007, or 18 per cent., thus demonstrating the strong position which Ontario's metal mining industry occupies at the present time. The value of production for the first nine months this year was \$51,802,644, compared with \$26,923,637 in the corresponding period of the previous year. Gold production shows a slight decline. Silver, however, shows an increase of over one million ounces. The nickel-copper industry is back again on a pre-war basis.

Montreal, Que.—The Les Puncture-Proof Tire Co. of Canada Ltd. is locating in this vicinity, where a modern manufacturing plant will be erected, having a capacity of 250 tires and 500 tubes daily. This is a branch of the Lee Tire & Rubber Co. of Conshohocken, Pa., manufacturers of puncture-proof pneumatic tires.

Sydney, N.S.—Satisfactory progress is being made in the sale of Sydney coke. The sales so far have been largely confined to the Maritime Provinces. No difficulty has been experienced in getting dealers to handle the product and these could sell more than they can get. With the new battery of ovens going, there will be a larger supply, which should come near meeting the demand. It is understood that coke will be sent to Quebec Province shortly and arrangements are now being made to handle it there.

Prince Erik of Denmark
Cousin of King George, who is to marry Miss Lois Frances Booth of Ottawa, a granddaughter of the Canadian lumber king, J. R. Booth. He is a successful rancher, having a place near that of the Prince of Wales in Alberta, and Miss Booth is a girl fond of sports and outdoor life. They met seven years ago, and are reported to have fallen in love with each other immediately. She will assume his rank, and will be the first Canadian girl to become a Princess and bear the title of Royal Highness.

Ontario wheat—No. 1 Northern, 1.06 1/2; No. 2 Northern, 1.04 1/2; No. 3 CW, 42 1/2; No. 1 extra feed, 41 1/2; No. 2 extra feed, 40 1/2; No. 3 extra feed, 39 1/2; No. 4 extra feed, 38 1/2; No. 5 extra feed, 37 1/2; No. 6 extra feed, 36 1/2; No. 7 extra feed, 35 1/2; No. 8 extra feed, 34 1/2; No. 9 extra feed, 33 1/2; No. 10 extra feed, 32 1/2; No. 11 extra feed, 31 1/2; No. 12 extra feed, 30 1/2; No. 13 extra feed, 29 1/2; No. 14 extra feed, 28 1/2; No. 15 extra feed, 27 1/2; No. 16 extra feed, 26 1/2; No. 17 extra feed, 25 1/2; No. 18 extra feed, 24 1/2; No. 19 extra feed, 23 1/2; No. 20 extra feed, 22 1/2; No. 21 extra feed, 21 1/2; No. 22 extra feed, 20 1/2; No. 23 extra feed, 19 1/2; No. 24 extra feed, 18 1/2; No. 25 extra feed, 17 1/2; No. 26 extra feed, 16 1/2; No. 27 extra feed, 15 1/2; No. 28 extra feed, 14 1/2; No. 29 extra feed, 13 1/2; No. 30 extra feed, 12 1/2; No. 31 extra feed, 11 1/2; No. 32 extra feed, 10 1/2; No. 33 extra feed, 9 1/2; No. 34 extra feed, 8 1/2; No. 35 extra feed, 7 1/2; 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