

# Australia Free From Labor Trouble

Industrial troubles and I. W. W.-ism are being successfully coped with in Australia, according to Mark Sheldon, Commissioner for Australia in the United States, who arrived in New York last week. Mr. Sheldon predicted a large growth in American-Australian trade.

"Australia will answer gladly any inquiries as to her resources and conditions," Mr. Sheldon said. "She is at present enjoying the greatest prosperity in her history—a prosperity that she is willing to share with the world. Her success is built on the attitude of labor—which puts the country's welfare before its own—natural resources, a uniformly English speaking population, and democratic institutions.

In view of the general industrial unrest, it will be interesting to examine the status of the labor movement in Australia. The arbitration system has been tested probably more thoroughly in Australia than anywhere else. The system itself is largely the work of labor Governments in Australia. It has been particularly effective in settling small disputes, which otherwise would probably have culminated in strikes. The one big union movement, which has been before Australian labor for eighteen months, has collapsed completely. The Australian Workers' Union, the greatest individual union in the country, turned it down, and virtually every craft looks askance at it. This is due to the fact that the Australian working man looks upon his union merely as an instrument to better his relations with his employer and not as a means for political power.

"The I. W. W. movement has not been allowed to gain any ground. A year and a half ago a law was passed making it illegal for any such organization to exist." Avowed members of the I. W. W. are subject to imprisonment and fine, and, if Australian born, may be deported. I consider the I. W. W. an utterly defeated organization."

Mr. Sheldon said that Australia was ready for 10,000,000 more people, twice the present population. The high cost of living is not felt much there, he said. The prices of staples were lower than in any other country in the world. Mr. Sheldon declared, and the people had greater means than ever before.

"With shipping greatly relieved since the war, there is not the slightest doubt that American-Australian trade will grow," he said "Australia is now taking 15 per cent of her imports from the United States and is sending 20 per cent of her exports to the United States."

Nearly three seasons' wheat crops are stored up. Mr. Sheldon asserted, because of the lack of shipping during the war.

Mr. Sheldon, before his mission to this country, had large business interests in Australia, and had had long experience in foreign trade.

In view of the fact that Prime Minister Hughes of the Australian Commonwealth had played such a prominent part in the peace negotiations at Paris, Mr. Sheldon was asked how the people of Australia had backed up his attitude at the Conference.

"The return from Paris of Mr. Hughes," the Commissioner said: "was an unparalleled personal triumph. He was received with tremendous enthusiasm from one end of Australia to the other. The people recognized that he had voiced the true Dominion attitude in his forceful speeches at the Peace Conference.

"I have no hesitation," Mr. Sheldon continued. "in saying that 90 per cent of the people of the commonwealth are back of what the Prime Minister did in Paris. The people of the British dominions in general indorse Mr. Hughes's work. When his ship en route to Australia, stopped at Cape Town, South Africa, his reception showed that he was accepted as a real spokesman of the concrete opinion of Britain's outlying possessions."

Commissioner Sheldon also spoke of Australia's determination to expand her trade. He mentioned the growing wine industry of the Commonwealth, and said that the good grades of Australian wines were now recognized as practically equal to those of Spain and France. It had been intended, he added, to seek a market for those wines in the United States, but in view of the prohibition laws the Australian wine producer was compelled to look for other markets and was now investigating the possibilities of South America.

## Port Arthur District Active

There are unmistakable symptoms of renewed mining activity in the mineral areas tributary to Port Arthur.

Iron and silver ores are the two most active factors in the revival. For the first time in twenty years this district will get credit for silver production, at least four mines will be operated continuously during the winter, and several others are being investigated.

Smith & Travers, of Sudbury, are diamond drilling the Leitch iron lands, and are meeting with extraordinary results. These lands are situated 130 miles east of Port Arthur, and about six miles north of the Canadian National Railway, at Beardmore station. Particulars of the results cannot be divulged at present. The drilling is being done for United States interest.

The Little Long Lake iron lands, principally owned by Capt. H. E. Knobel, J. W. Wolvin and John A. McKechnie, are on the same range as the Leitch lands. This tract has recently been examined by an Engineer of national reputation, who was greatly impressed by the length and breadth of the deposit, and the character of the ore showing on the surface. Diamond drilling has been recommended, with every certainty that large bodies of merchantable ore will be disclosed. The occurrence of specular hematite, so intermixed with medium and high grade magnetite as

to bring up the tenor very perceptibly, makes this deposit very interesting.

Amongst the prominent Mining Engineers and Corporation representatives who have recently visited the Port Arthur area, are, Prof. H. E. T. Haultain, Toronto University; G. C. Bateman, La Rose Mining Co., Cobalt; W. L. Hughes, Mining Corporation, Cobalt; J. P. Sparks, Temiskaming Mining Co., Cobalt; R. G. McConnell, Deputy Minister of Mines, Ottawa; M. Davis, the M. J. O'Brien Corporation, Ottawa; R. Y. Taylor-Blount, London, Eng.; J. B. Tyrell, M.E., the Anglo-French Corporation, London, Eng.; C. W. Knight, Assistant Provincial Geologist, Toronto; Mr. Spence-Thomas, Cardiff, Wales; Mr. J. C. Murray, M. E., and many others.—Mining Journal.

### TAKE OVER THE BOYCE GROUP.

Gold Centre Mines, Limited, with head office in Toronto has been incorporated with a capital stock of \$3,000,000, the provisional directors being Morley Punshon van der Voort, Morley Carman van der Voort, M. H. Gillam, Ethel Barry and L. Sleeth, all of Toronto. The corporation will take the claims of the Boyce group of mines in the Porcupine for Toronto, Hamilton and Montreal financial interests. The deal was arranged by A. S. Fuller of Timmins; Tanner, Gates and

Co. of Toronto and J. R. Starnes of Montreal. There are four claims of 160 acres immediately adjoining the Hollinger Consolidated. It is stated that the reason the property remained so long undeveloped was that it was held at such a price that it was difficult to arrange a deal. The T. & N. O. Railway passes through the property and also the power line of the Northern Ontario Light and Power Company.

### MECHANICAL MUCKERS.

An important step in the attempt to solve the labor shortage problem in the Porcupine camp is announced from the North Country. It is the installation of mechanical muckers, which will shortly be done at the Hollinger and McIntyre Mines. The muckers which have been ordered resemble small steam shovels, which will lift the rock into tram cars after a blast has taken place. This will be the first experiment of the kind in Canada, at least underground, and its entire success has yet to be demonstrated. The difficulty has been to get equipment of this kind small enough to be taken down a shaft and moved around the confined spaces underground.

The gold mines of Porcupine have had much trouble of late in securing enough men, and particularly men who would do the work of muckers, which is heavy, and for which dependence had been placed up to now upon a class of foreign labor which is becoming more scarce in the country. The natural result, therefore, was to look for some other means of doing the work, and the management of these two mines are hopeful that the new mechanical contrivances will lighten their burden and leave their human machinery free to do other work. As an illustration of the labor difficulty, the McIntyre has lost men even during the past month, principally through the call of the woods' operations, and its force is now down to 340. The introduction of mechanical muckers is, therefore, a step in self-preservation, and is one that was expected to be necessary as time went on.

### MONTREAL TRADE ACTIVE.

Bradstreets says: The wholesale dry goods state that there is a great scarcity of goods, especially imported merchandise. Some travellers have been held back from their long fall trips awaiting new samples. Quite a quantity of fancy goods of German manufacture is finding its way to this market.

A fair volume of business is noticeable in the wholesale grocery business. Large quantities of Canadian refined sugars were exported to the United Kingdom on steamers leaving port this week. New crop tomatoes and corn are quoted at lower prices. Flour and rolled oats show an improved demand. Some large shipments of mill feed have been made to the United States. Some Ontario millers made a cut of two dollars per ton in shorts.

Butter prices advanced 4½ cents per pound. The egg market is firmer at an advance of two cents per dozen. Large quantities of eggs left by the steamers sailing this week to the English markets. Cattle offerings are of poor quality, sales being made at reduced prices. Live hogs realized higher prices. According to the official bureau of statistics the total wheat yield in Canada will reach 193,688,800 bushels of Spring and Fall wheat.

In the hardware trade considerable quantities of iron and steel are going forward for export to the United Kingdom. Large quantities of Canadian glass are also being exported to the English markets. The boot and shoe trade is active. Prices in all lines have advanced especially in the better grades.

Retail trade has improved with the cooler weather. Collections are rather slow.