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The Projected Establishment OF AN AUSTRALIAN NEWSPRINT INDUSTRY.

SYDNEY, N.S.W., (Can. Press)—The subject of newsprint has suddenly come to the fore in Australia and is now being made a live political question in view of the Elections for the Commonwealth Parliament which takes place on November 14. It is therefore, interesting to Canadians to know something of the history of the matter, for the Canadian newsprint industry is vitally affected.

About a year ago a huge concern, The Amalgamated Zinc Proprietary, Ltd., having a considerable amount of money at its disposal, set out to find profitable avenues for its investment. It hit upon the idea of manufacturing newsprint and approached the directors and managers of several Australian newspapers with the object of getting them to join in the project.

The newspaper interests held a meeting and turned down the proposition. Thereupon, the Amalgamated Zinc Proprietary applied to the Tariff Board for a duty of 26 a ton on all imported newsprint, in order to protect their industry. It is the Tariff Board's duty to inquire into all such applications, to hear evidence for and against, and to make its recommendations to the Government through the Minister for Customs.

Two or three months ago this application was heard and, it is presumed, a recommendation was made. The nature of it has not been disclosed. However, no reference to newsprint was made in the new tariff schedule brought before the Federal Parliament last month.

The public hearing of the subject again when it was announced that the Government was prepared to give Amalgamated Zinc a bounty of 24 a ton on all newsprint produced in Australia, but had definitely decided against the proposed duty of 26 a ton. This action very definitely showed the Government's attitude in regard to the proposed treaty with Canada for a preferential tariff and is an evidence of its good faith. Had the duty been allowed there is no doubt that the position would have had to be reviewed and Canada would have been justified in asking some very pertinent questions. However, the next move was with Amalgamated Zinc and a Sydney morning daily announced last week that, in view of the Government's refusal to grant the duty and, believing the suggested bonus to be inadequate, Amalgamated Zinc had decided to abandon its effort to establish the newsprint industry.

It was at this point that the question became actively political. The leader of the Labor Party in the Federal Parliament, Matthew Charlton, in delivering his political speech in Sydney last Friday, used the position to attack Mr. Bruce and the Nationalist Government. He said there was a 46 per cent. tariff protection for the internal production of all paper except newsprint. The annual consumption of newsprint is 100,000 tons, and the money sent abroad for its purchase is more than \$2,000,000.

An Australian company (Amalgamated Zinc), he said, offered to manufacture newsprint in Australia and had been granted cutting rights over 600,000 acres of forests in Tasmania by the Government of that State. In September last the Company's options over the forests expired, but were renewed at a cost of £14,000.

But, said Mr. Charlton, the Government had, for two years persistently refused to grant any support to the proposed new industry. Recently it had announced that it would grant a bounty of 24 a ton, the bounty to be reduced if profits exceeded 10 per cent.

"The very day this bounty was announced," said the Labor Leader, "Mr. Bruce's treaty with Canada came into operation. Under it the 23 a ton duty on Canadian newsprint disappears. This 21 a ton advantage to Australian industry is equal to about five per cent. on the value of produc-

tion and to designate it protection or encouragement to local industry, is a sham, a delusion and a fraud.

"In view of this, the Premier of Tasmania has informed me that the company has definitely decided not to proceed further with the establishment of the industry."

The next phase in the controversy came with the statement of the Prime Minister, Mr. Bruce, published yesterday. "Mr. Charlton has grossly misrepresented the situation," he said. "The first proposals were submitted by Amalgamated Zinc in May of this year and, ever since then, alterations have been made in the request for assistance."

"The matter is one of closest investigation, in view of the fact that paper has never previously been made from hardwood timber. The Tariff Board and the Minister for Trade and Customs inquired into the matter and concluded that the assistance necessary to ensure establishment of the industry would be provided by a bounty of 24 a ton, with a deferred duty of the same amount to come into operation when the industry was established."

"When I announced this decision the directors of the company interviewed me and indicated that the amount of assistance was not adequate. They stated that they could submit further information which would convince the Government that a further measure of assistance was necessary and warranted."

"I asked them to let me have that information," said the Prime Minister, "and that the matter might be reviewed before the expiration of the option on the Tasmanian property on December 3."

"The position, therefore is that the matter is still under negotiation. The Government has examined this matter exhaustively and, upon the information available states definitely that no Government would be justified in extending a greater measure of assistance than that which is embodied in the Ministry's proposals."

Then the Minister for Customs, Mr. Pratten, took a hand in the controversy with some interesting figures. "There is no duty on newsprint under the British preferential tariff, which benefits Canada also," he said.

"The duty on Scandinavian newsprint is 23 a ton. No proved infirmation was available to the Government regarding costs, quantities or qualities of paper it was proposed to make. Therefore, I made inquiries as to costs, processes and wages."

"I found that the costs of making newsprint in Canada and Scandinavia, from tree to wharf could reasonably be stated at a maximum of 25 per ton or, say, five men per ton of paper per day on the basis of the Australian rate of wages."

"Owing to the more expensive process necessary to convert hardwood into paper—(Our Australian timber of the Tasmanian forests is hardwood)—more men would be necessary than in the Canadian or Scandinavian processes. The estimate was eight men per day per ton of paper, apart from reforestation.

"The average production of paper over the period of five years necessary to establish the industry was estimated at 30,000 tons a year for five years from January 1, 1927. This production is 100 tons a day and would mean the employment of 800 men at a wages sheet of, say £200,000 a year.

"The Government then determined that a bounty of 24 a ton, with a deferred duty, would be sufficient assistance to establish this new industry."

"This would amount to the payment of £120,000 a year and over the five years would mean an offer to pay £600,000, by the Commonwealth for the establishment of the newsprint industry.

"The capital expenditure necessary for the production of 30,000 tons of paper a year would be under £1,000,000 so that the offer of the Government was equal to a bounty of £120,000 a year for five years."

And there the matter rests at the present.

A yellow-green satin makes the most elaborate evening slipper.

Moscow's Ex-Chief a Watchman

COL. ALEXANDER MARTYNOFF, ESCAPED DEATH BY RUSS.

The brilliant, blue-white rays of the lofty street lamp at the northeast corner of Forty-seventh Street and Fifth Avenue, illumined, like a theatrical spotlight, the uniformed figure of a Holmes patrolman standing at salute in the shadow of the home of Mrs. Finley J. Shepard. The visored cap threw a shadow over heavy brows and high cheek bones; by contrast causing a close-cropped mustache and tiny goatee to appear with startling distinctness.

To the reporter, turning at the corner, 100 feet away, to wave a last farewell, it was not surprising that the cap seemed to have turned into the tall astrachan headgear of a Russian officer; that the silver buttons of the double-breasted coat had changed to cross belts studded with brass cartridges and that the polished black shoes appeared to be fur-tipped boots. For the home of the former Helen Gould is guarded nightly by no less a personage than Colonel Alexander Martynoff, late of the Imperial Russian Army, and for five years before the revolution the Chief of Police of Moscow, Russia.

Colonel Martynoff is the figure of an athlete, six feet tall and approximately 185 pounds in weight. The blue-gray uniform of a Holmes patrolman stretches without a wrinkle over arms, back and chest, that would appear huge were it not for the symmetry of the man's physique. His sense of humor is as well developed as his muscles as he exhibited when a reporter asked him if he were really Colonel Martynoff.

Smiles at Former Rank. "Not now, once," he laughed. "Once a Colonel, now a patrolman, who knows what to-morrow?"

How had he been found out, the Colonel wanted to know. He phrased his question with difficulty. English is hard for him, though to the reporter it seemed wonderfully good considering that he has been away from Russia only since 1923. An American who had seen him at State functions in Moscow, before the revolution had recognized the Colonel when he passed him the other evening and had stopped for a chat.

Born in the Crimea of a well-to-do Russian family, Colonel Martynoff said he had been trained for the army but had shown a talent for police administration and had been detailed to this work, first in various smaller places and finally in Moscow. For five years he had held this post, and was driven from it only when the revolution overthrew the Czar's government. Then, with his wife, Eugenia he had gone into hiding on the estate of a friend near Moscow, and for eight months had passed under an assumed name and had disguised himself by growing a heavy beard.

The Bolshevik succeeded the earlier revolutionists and Martynoff said the hunt for him was redoubled. Friends decided he would be safer in Petrograd and he got there under the guise of a doctor's assistant, his wife traveling as a Sister of Charity. In Petrograd he was arrested and led before a Bolshevik Commissar.

"I had, how do you say, wrong? Yes, false papers. Papers for an older man which my friends had got from the Bolsheviks," said the Colonel. "And so I showed this to them, to the very men who were hunting for me high and low, and they let me go."

The Colonel and his wife lived eight months in Petrograd, anxious all the time to reach their home in the Crimea, and doubly so when General Denikin wrested this territory once they got within reach of them. He was made Chief of Police in Kiev and an active soldier on Denikin's staff.

"I had money once more," said the Colonel, "and we were happy again. We were going to win back Russia. But then came Denikin's defeat and I and my wife and little boy fled to Constantinople."

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