

Editorial Page of The Canadian Labor Press

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A WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

UNCLE TOM IN LABOR

The Financial states that: The marketing of laborers on the auction block, as in the days of slavery, at Boston, was fantastically spectacular, as it was undoubtedly intended to be, but without practical bearing upon the present industrial situation.

And after all, does not the auction block signify the process by which all workers—laborers, artisans, managers or executives—market their services to the best advantage.

UNION LABEL IDEAL

The union label, symbolizing as it does the conditions which the union itself is established to secure and maintain, is proof that these conditions obtain in the making of the article upon which it appears.

WORKERS ARE "BUNKED"

BY HARVESTER TRUST Chicago.—The harvester trust concedes that its employees "usually get considerable bunk and fell far short of getting a fifty-fifty share deal."

"In some plants the foreman of the various departments had in the past been encouraged in practicing trickery on the employees."

The above statement was made by Arthur H. Young, manager of the trust's industrial relations department in his address before the convention of the American Drop Forge association.

The speaker was explaining the trust's company "union" while acknowledging that the trust was guilty of trickery on its employees.

He further said that the company "union" has increased the piece work output but it "remains to be seen" whether wages can be reduced.

He added that some manufacturers "expect to sit in the grand stand and do the cheering while the employees do all the work."

In commenting on this speech, Drop Forgers and Helpers' Magazine said: "Here you have it."

Mr. Young says that in some plants foremen had in the past been encouraged in this deception. How, under Heaven, and in the name of common sense, are employees to believe the employer in the face of such frank admission?

If they trick him again and deceive him oftener? And this is a strictly piece work shop.

"The trickery surely must be more cunning, more fooling and more convincing in order to give the boss more than twice the piece work production and at a less cost."

"Mr. Young tells you, Mr. Piece Worker, that the directors of the company expect to sit in the grand stand and do all the cheering, while the employees do all the work, and in the very next line or two informs the convention 'that it remains to be seen' what will happen when it becomes necessary to reduce the present scale of wages."

AUSTRALIANS FAVOR DISARMAMENT

A Reuter cable from Melbourne says that Melbourne's labor circles favor the proposal of President Samuel Gompers of the American Federation of Labor that international demonstrations be held on Armistice Day in support of the fullest possible disarmament.

The Australian federal government, says the despatch, may consider the question of insurance against unemployment throughout the commonwealth.

A Brisbane despatch says the sole survivor of the Mount Milligan mine district who was the underground manager has died in the hospital, being the seventy-fifth victim.

ST. JOHN, N.B., HAS EXCITEMENT In a general attack on non-union street cars at St. John, N.B., tonight windows in about a dozen of them were smashed, four persons were seriously injured and one man arrested and rescued from the police by the mob.

J. E. Smith, chief of police, ordered out the police reserves.

The trouble which has been of long standing since the N.B. Light, Heat and Power Company, which operates the street railway system here, has engaged non-union labor to run the cars, its employees being on strike against a cut in their wages, came to a head when a labor parade that started at eight o'clock reached the north end of the city when rocks, iron bolts and other missiles were hurled at the cars.

THE EMPIRE SUPPLY OF TIMBER

Even if we do not accept the idea of a world timber famine, we must admit that never was there a time before in which the Empire depended more on its own efforts for its supply of timber, nor has there ever been a time more favorable than the present for urging the examination of our Empire Resources and, if thought advisable, the definition of an Empire forest policy—Lord Lovat, at Empire Forest Conference.

TIMBER BETTER THAN GOLD

"The anxiety which is felt at the centre of the Empire in regard to timber supplies was exemplified by the calling of the British Empire Forestry Conference in London last summer. One of the outstanding figures at the conference was Lord Lovat, who is seeking to promote in every way the growth of timber within the British Empire, and is practising what he preaches on his estates in Scotland. Lord Lovat made the opening address at the conference and in it he quoted this pithy sentence from wise old John Evelyn, who sought to wake Great Britain up on the subject of reforestation of waste lands in 1662: 'Since it is certain and admissible that all arts and artifices whatsoever must fall and cease if there were no timber and wood in a nation... I say, when this shall be well considered it would appear that we had better be without gold than timber.'"

Canada was represented at this conference and an exhibit of Canadian timbers was made at the Empire Timber Exhibition held at the same time. "Those interested in the woods shown at this exhibition may learn about them in Forestry Timber Exhibition" which will be sent free upon application to the Director of Forestry, Ottawa.

FOREST SURVEYS BY AIRPLANE

One of the officers of the Dominion Forestry Branch reported after his first airplane survey trip: "This was my first opportunity to inspect from the air any extent of green timber, and I was amazed at the detail which it was possible to cover in the time allowed by a single flight over the territory. There was no difficulty whatever in distinguishing clearly every species of trees on the ground."

GROWING FUEL IN SIX YEARS

Many of the species which can be used on the prairies are very rapid growers, for example, cottonwood, willow, Russian poplar, and Manitoba maple. It is safe to say that wood large enough for fuel can be grown from any of these trees within six years. After that time a plantation will increase in value and productivity year by year and will prove one of the best investments on the prairie.

On the Nursery station at Indian Head, Sask., a plot three-quarters of an acre in extent was planted out to Russian poplar in 1904, trees spaced out four feet apart each way. In 1913 the average height of these trees was twenty-three feet. In the fall of 1913 half the plot was cut down and yielded six and three-quarter cords of quite fair fuel. This is at the rate of about eighteen cords per acre in eight years. The soil was medium clay loam. The labor cost of planting was \$5.86 per acre and cultivation for two years about \$6 per year.—N. M. Ross, Supt. of Tree Planting, Dominion Forestry Branch, Indian Head.

EXPERIMENTAL FORESTS IN CANADA

Everybody realizes the great benefit which the Dominion Experimental farms have proved to agriculture in Canada. In the same way it is believed that Dominion experimental forests will prove equally beneficial to forestry. The Forestry Branch of the Department of the Interior is carrying on the work in these experimental forests, the principal station at present being Petawawa, Ontario. Here are found cut-over lands similar to thousands of acres in Ontario, Quebec and other forest provinces, and the work going on is to determine how most expeditiously to get these lands back under a forest cover that will produce good timber and pulpwood. This is the fourth season since the work was established and already the knowledge of how locally Canadian trees grow under different conditions of climate, light, drainage, etc., has been greatly increased. Similar information has been collected in Europe for about a hundred years, but European figures will not do for Canada. It is too early yet to state results definitely, but generally speaking, what has been so far learned leads to the belief that tree growth is just as rapid in the parts of Canada under observation and the timber-growing regions of Europe.

TRADES AND LABOR CONGRESS ATTITUDE ON TARIFF

The following stand was unanimously taken by Organized Labor at the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada:

"During the past year there has been carried on a very active campaign by certain interests for the adoption of a Free Trade policy in Canada. To the numbers of workers engaged by Canadian branches of United States industries, and other industries claiming tariff protection as necessary for their existence, this question is a vital one. Your Executive are of the opinion that tariff decisions should cease to be made a matter of political expediency and the decision for their maintenance, or abolition, should be reached only after exhaustive inquiry and with a view to enabling the worker, in such industries, to be paid proper wage standards, without destroying the industry by unfair competition from sources outside of Canada. We recommend the formation of a Tariff Board on which organized Labor should have proper representation, created with full power to deal with this subject in a similar manner to the powers exercised by the Railway Commission on railroad matters."

Carrying a Union Card

We were crowded in a box car, Not a soul could bear to sleep, It was freezing on the outside And the snow was two feet deep, When along came a brakeman; And shouted to his pard; 'Make all those fellows unload That hasn't got a card.'

We rolled up to the round house And wanted to get warm; We thought for us to go inside That it would do no harm, Then we met a burly fellow, Who sized us up real hard, Then he gently whispered in my ears, 'Have you fellows got a card?'

We were walking through the city, Through the snow and slush and sleet, When we met a burly policeman Strolling on his beat, He stared at us intently, And our weary souls were jarred, For he said: 'Who be you bums? Have you got a Union Card?'

We walked into a barroom, For we wanted something hot, To stall the barkeep for a drink Was our lucky lot. We told our sad tale of woe— We were up against it hard, Says he: 'I'll treat and feed you, too, But I'll have to see your card.'

We hiked out to the oil fields, 'Cause we heard 'twas on the boom, And we beat it to the boarding house, To stall for board and room. The madam met us at the door, And once we were over hard, And didn't hear our line half through, 'Fore she asked, 'Where's your card?'

All along life's rugged journey, Should we meet with friend or foe, It is best to have the goods in print, Then everyone will know That we stand for human freedom, And with conscience unmarred, We can go our way rejoicing, Carrying a Union Card.

Shout it out among the Nations, In Summer heat and Winter gale, Till the angels join the chorus Over in the heavenly vale. Then when Gabriel blows his trumpet, They will find the gates are barred, Unless they can present St. Peter With a paid-up Union Card.

Little Belgium grows timber Belgium is one of the most thickly populated parts of the earth's surface. With a population of 652 persons per square mile it has (or had just before the war) about 18 per cent. of its area under permanent forest, and this forest area was increasing, showing that the limit of what land it was deemed advisable to keep under forest had not been reached. Compare this with different parts of Canada. Manitoba has a population of a little more than two persons to the square mile and about two per cent. only is set aside as permanent forest reserve. Saskatchewan has about two and a half persons per square mile and about five per cent. only under permanent forest. Ontario with a population of six persons per square mile, also has only five per cent. of its area set aside as permanent forest. It will be seen from the above thickly populated countries of Europe are setting aside a much larger portion of land to grow timber than are communities on this continent, with immense areas and scant population. If such a course is wise in Europe with its expensive land it must be doubly wise in the Western Hemisphere, with its vast areas of cheap land, much of it unsuited to any other purpose than of growing timber.

LITTLE BELGIUM GROWS TIMBER

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THREE SEEDS FOR GREAT BENEFIT

At the request of the Forestry Commission for the British Isles the work of securing tree seed of Pacific Coast species was again undertaken. It was found impossible this year to obtain the seed of Douglas fir as the crop was a complete failure. The Sitka spruce, however, bore heavily, and 800 sacks of cones were collected along Masset Inlet on the Queen Charlotte Islands in what

was the centre of the airplane spruce industry during the war. A temporary kiln and extracting plant were erected at Port Clements and a yield of about 1,000 pounds of this seed was obtained. Seven hundred pounds of this seed were shipped to the Forestry Commission and the remainder sold to the Belgian Government.—Annual Report, Director of Forestry, Ottawa.

A FOREST TRAGEDY

He left his camp-fire burning to see if the lookout man would pick it up. He did. He thought this would be a good test to see if the district ranger was on the job. He was. He wondered if a fire would burn very fast in the dry forest. It did. He thought he could get away before the ranger could catch up with him. He couldn't. He thought he could bluff the ranger at his trial. He didn't. He wondered if the judge would have the nerve to sentence him to jail. He did. We wonder if he will put out his camp-fire next time he is in the forest. HE WILL! —John D. Guthrie.

LITTLE SPARKS

Little sparks from bonfires, Caused by careless hands, Make our giant forests Devasted lands A little care and fore thought, Given now and then, Will save our mighty forests For the good of men. —Spokane Daily News.

FORESTS AND HOMES

Canada's forests every year furnish lumber enough to build homes for a million people. Don't let forests burn up. Be careful with fire in the woods.

HOW TO PREVENT FOREST FIRES

Never leave camp with your camp-fire burning. Never drop lighted matches or tobacco in the woods. Never clear land by fire in very hot weather.

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