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THE UNION ADVOCATE

THE PULPWOOD COMMISSION

According to press reports the Royal Commission on Pulpwood is about to resume its peregrinations about the country which came to halt a few weeks ago.

Considering the state of Canada's finances and the fact that the Government finds itself under the necessity of imposing a new and increased sales tax on everything the consumer has to buy the waste of money—to say nothing of the utter futility involved in the creation and continuance of this Commission cannot be characterized as anything less than an outrage upon the public.

Any excuse which might have existed to justify the Commission, disappeared when the Government passed the new notorious secret order-in-council exempting pulpwood under contract for a period of ten years from the operations of any embargo that might be imposed under the recommendations of the Commission. This, together with the Government's pledge that wood from farm lands would also be exempt, removes the last vestige of possibility that the present Government can or will do anything to protect this great natural resource of Canada from foreign depredation for the rate at which Canada is being depleted of her pulpwood.

Trade returns show that for the first eleven months of this year 1,416,000 cords of pulpwood have been exported to the United States an increase of 445,000 cords or more than 45 per cent over the corresponding period of last year.

The "evidence" already taken by the Commission emphasizes the special character of its proceedings, the great bulk of it consisting of monotonous repetitions by American pulpwood buyers and their representatives that an embargo would injure the business of exporting pulpwood—which is precisely the object and the justification for the proposed embargo. The so-called "information" which the Commission is credited with gathering consists largely of extravagant misstatements of no value and not only misleading

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in themselves but whose propagation is seriously injurious to Canada's best interests.

But even the agitation for an embargo has had at least one good effect. It has brought into being no less than twelve applications for locations for new pulp mills in this country, which indicates beyond any doubt that if the American market for the wood is cut off there will follow a domestic demand sufficient to absorb all the reasonably available wood and Canada will be benefited by the revenue derived from its manufacture in this country. Of course if the Government persists in its policy of allowing the free export of the wood these new mills will not be built in Canada.

But the expense of the Commission, the members of which receive from \$25 to \$35 a day each, and \$15 additional for travelling expenses is an inexcusable imposition on the tax-payers. Surely a country which bears the enviable reputation of being the only one in the world, outside of Germany whose public debt is increasing and whose national budget fails to balance can find better uses for the tax-payer's money than in paying for the need less joy-riding about the country of a useless Government Commission

FRANK J. D. BARNJUM
Montreal, December 29, 1923.

A DOCTOR IN A TIN BOX!

Sounds strange, does it not? Yet that is how Mr. J. Cartier says Zam-Buk is regarded by his family. Mr. Cartier, who is a member of the family of the late Sir George Cartier, is Justice of the Peace and Assistant Clerk of the Circuit Court, Montreal. He first discovered the wonderful power of Zam-Buk by using it for eczema, which it completely ended. Since then his family is never without it.

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NEPTUNE TO VISIT WORLD CRUISERS



The certificate as shown above will be issued to all passengers aboard the Empress of Canada who appear before Neptune, as did those passengers on the Empress of France last year, who are shown in pictures 2 and 3.

When to travel upon the sea was to venture in great danger it was usually thought wise by the voyagers to propitiate the god of the waters by making gifts to him before setting sail, and oftentimes, when Neptune displayed his wrath at sea, human sacrifices were made to him. To our superstitious ancestors the son of Saturn and Ops had great power over the waves, especially those of the sea, and had, therefore, in his hands the welfare of all vessels and their human and other freight. The worship of Neptune was early introduced into Rome, and July 23rd, "Neptunalia," was his feast.

As science reduced the terrors of the sea, and education and higher civilization erased the sometimes terrible superstitions from the minds of the world, so the worship of and sacrifices to Neptune ceased, but even to this day he is venerated by many Latin and Scandinavian sailors and no ship crosses the equator without some recognition being made of him. Usually this takes the form of a burlesque performance in which those who are making their first "crossing of the line" are initiated into

the mysteries of the deep. The unique photograph reproduced above was taken aboard the Canadian Pacific "Empress of France" while on a "Round the World" cruise last year. Neptune boarded the great liner in the early morning of the day on which the "line" was crossed, and held court. He was attended by the Royal Barber and other high officials who assisted in the initiation ceremony. Most of the passengers were summoned to his august presence and were tried for their misdemeanour, punishment or praise being awarded without favor. Those who produced evidence of having been "initiated" before were, of course, exempt from trial.

This year, when Neptune boards the Empress of Canada, which leaves New York on a Round the World cruise on January 30th, his secretary will issue to all those who pass before the God of the Waters, certificates to that effect, which will be countersigned by Captain S. Robinson, R.N.R., who commands the vessel, and which, besides being valuable souvenirs of the trip, will exempt the holder from further trial.

CRITICISM

There is no truer test of a man's qualities for permanent success than the way he takes criticism. The little-minded man can't stand it. It pricks his egotism. He "crawfishes." He makes excuses. Then when he finds that his excuses won't take the place of results he sulks and pouts. It never occurs to him that he might profit by the accident—Napoleon Hill.

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