

THE DAILY NEWS

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DAILY EDITION.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 1

Daily News on Daily Doings

A PERMANENT LABOR BOARD.

The Dominion Minister of Labor has discussed the appointment of a permanent Labor Board to deal with and pronounce upon all industrial disputes. The plan, roughly outlined, includes a board of men of conspicuous ability secured by the payment of large salaries. With the purpose or object of such legislation all must fully sympathize. Anyone who can devise a means of averting the loss arising through the refusal to sell labor at the price offered will be indeed a public benefactor. Labor is the most perishable of all commodities, and the labor of today cannot be withheld until tomorrow without serious loss. The strike makes the sacrifice of immediate loss to avert the slow advance of greater losses in future.

ALREADY WASTEFUL CONFLICTS.

In deciding the main issue of the industrial conflict a Labor Board has to estimate every wage established by competition elsewhere. Wages may range all the way from the subsistence of the worker to the actual product of the work for which they are paid. They can never range permanently above or sink permanently below these bounds. The tendency under existing conditions is toward the lower level. There is an artificial surplus of labor on account of the possibility of profit through the gratification of natural opportunities. Where the means of self-employment are not proscribed the tendency is toward the higher level. Competition's results are the only guide for Boards that undertake to decide as to fair rates of wages. This fact seems fatal to those hopes founded on the possibility of arbitration. But no effort should be spared to avert the waste-

ful conflicts that are precipitated by human obstinacy and inconsideration. — Toronto Globe.

MUNICIPAL FINANCE.

It is hard to see any injustice in the demand of the municipal bond investor for a better return on his money. After a long period of peace and prosperity, the industrial bond investor is getting a large return upon a security which in point of safety is not greatly inferior to the municipal and government issues, while the man who invests instead of loaning his money is getting a better return than he has done for generations. Why should not the government-bond investor demand his share? — Montreal Financial Times.

ON GOING EAST TO MAKE MONEY.

Sometimes a Canadian makes his fortune in England, although usually the story reads the other way. A Toronto contractor employed a certain man as freeman in the building of houses. Ten years ago the freeman left him, only to reappear recently in the yards of his old employer a wealthy man. He had made his fortune in England building houses on the Canadian plan. Instead of erecting structures aimed to last for centuries, he built them so as to last a generation or two; they contained from six to eight rooms; had furnaces and other modern conveniences; he sold them at from \$500 to \$1,000, and in his ten years' experience could not build them quickly enough. The English people of that particular region were building for his houses before the foundations were finished. Now he is talking a six months' holiday. Sometimes it pays to go east. — Colliers.

THE "DO THINGS" SPIRIT.

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LABOR'S BIGGEST BLUNDER: WASTED WARFARE OF THE STRENGTH STEALING STRIKE

It has been announced in Prince Rupert that a strike is on. While the news of cessation of work and deserted camps has come down to Prince Rupert from up river, there was, until yesterday, no acute indication of impending labor trouble within the city limits. But labor trouble, like leprosy, is contagious, and although the cry of the labor conditions cannot be made to apply to Prince Rupert as it is supposed to in the up-river grading camps, there have already been rumors of possible disaffection on the drydock works.

Rupert's Last Strike

Today brings the first definite announcement of a strike on these works. The I. W. W. men are called off and citizens are preparing to watch developments. Memories of Prince Rupert's last miserable strike period naturally recur, and only the most radical

agitator could be anxious to see such doleful doings repeated. Sensible citizens will certainly protest against that whether they be of the business doing or wage-earning class. The cause of labor gains no more from the ram-stam blundering stupid strike method than does the woman's suffrage cause from the militant method.

Wiseest Wage-Earner Works

Prince Rupert at present is looking towards prosperous times, and the efforts of every worker or business executive are most wisely expended to further the progress of Prince Rupert. For motives of self-interest if for none else, even the worst paid worker today in Prince Rupert would be better to keep on working if he means to stay with Prince Rupert. By striking and keeping the city still longer in its transition stage the selfish soul of laborer thinks to gain. He loses. He loses all along. The

striker is but the baffled froth on the back-beaten wave. Bruised, broken, dispirited, starved, with perhaps a wretched wife and family in worse plight, he prides himself that he is advancing the tide of the welfare of labor. He is wrong.

Wastefulness of Strikes

Infinitesimally it may be, but still surely, every backwash retards the incoming tide. So does every strike really retard the advance of improved labor conditions which as history reveals, are steadily coming with the progress of humanity but never by the selfish forward thrusting of the often unreasonable demands of impatient malcontents stirred into disaffection by fanatic strike organizers. Strikes are as wasteful in every way as fires. They are productive of nothing that the reserved strength of wisely organized workers (not strikers) could not far more effectively and economically secure.

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G. T. P. TRACK PROGRESS IN THE EAST

Reports from Cochrane state that the line of the Transcontinental Railway between that point and Winnipeg will be finished by the end of September. Two hundred and six miles of track have been completed west of Cochrane, and the work is progressing at the rate of a mile a day. Rails are down from Winnipeg to Superior Junction, leaving a blank of 184 miles between that point and the present railroad of the line from Cochrane. All the grading has been finished on that gap, and that remains to be laid the steel. Stations are being built at seven-mile intervals, and section houses and trammens' houses are being supplied, while a large roundhouse is being finished at Hearst, one of the main stations west of Cochrane. East of Cochrane there is less haste being shown, as that section will not be needed for the transportation of grain this fall. The line is finished eastward for 156 miles from Cochrane.

RUPERT MAY EXPORT RED CEDAR

The approaching exhaustion of the grade of red cedar used in Germany, Britain, and the United States for the manufacture of lead pencils is greatly worrying the manufacturers. No less than 400 tons of cedar goes into lead pencils daily throughout the world, and of course a like quantity is whittled away by many, smaller knives. It looks as if British Columbia should be able to do a large export trade in cedar soon. — Toronto Globe.

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