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Knotty Lumber Problems

THIS IS A GOOD TIME to consider the outlook for the lumber business. The prosperity of the whole central interior and coast district tributary to Prince Rupert depends greatly upon the lumber business. There is hardly any line of activity that is not indirectly affected, be it farming, secondary industry, or servicing in trades, professions, railway and government.

It is the general opinion that markets for lumber will continue good for a considerable time to come.

Whether markets can be held at higher or even current price levels is a question that few will venture to answer. The internal market is promising while the housing shortage continues and it might be possible that there will be higher prices internally although they are at present fixed at a lower price than the export market. But export markets, which are giving signs of a forthcoming shrinkage, are unlikely to be available at higher than current prices and may take some holding even at existing levels.

Hence, operators and labor leaders who are more concerned with realistic than theoretical economics will watch with keen interest the markets, the Dominion taxation, the provincial Forest Act amendments, wages, and all other factors bearing upon the price of lumber.

We can only maintain prosperity in the whole of B.C. so long as we can profitably market our lumber, which is one of the four chief keys that unlock the gates of production in British Columbia.

Percy Bengough, president of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada and a former B.C. labor leader, has stated, according to press reports, that organized labor in Canada does not anticipate nor desire any new strikes in 1947. "A discussion around the table before the strike," he said, "will save both employers and employees a lot of grief, worry and bad feelings."

It is to be hoped that in the relations between industry and labor this sound advice from a responsible labor leader will be followed.

But we find a different attitude being taken by Harold Pritchett, district president of the International Woodworkers of America. He is reported to have said at the union's convention in Victoria last week that B.C.'s 27,000 organized woodworkers are prepared to strike on June 20 if their demands for a wage increase of at least 25 per cent are not met by the operators. (B.C. woodworkers total 37,000).

Whether that or any increase is justifiable is not our business at this time. But we believe it is fitting and proper and the right time to say that no responsible labor leader should issue a strike threat BEFORE his demands have been made known to the operators and the men and BEFORE the law of the country affecting industrial disputes, conciliation and arbitration has been complied with.

Emulation of the Lewis tactics is not likely to get any farther in this country than in the U.S.A. Bellocosity and threatening are more likely to bring their own corresponding reaction for like breeds like.

It was quite unnecessary for Mr. Pritchett to threaten to strike; unless, of course, he was merely trying to pep up his delegates in what was perhaps becoming a somewhat dull convention.

The strike weapon is the strongest and the last weapon held by labor. It should not be the first weapon to use for, if that fails, there is nothing left with which to fight. We are frankly amazed at a smart man like Mr. Pritchett springing his threat of a strike in June at this moment. He has played or at least shown his only ace card. That is bad play and poor leadership.

Surely the method proposed by Mr. Bengough is the better way: "a discussion around the table." It is definitely the step that should be taken ahead of a threat to strike.

It is to be hoped that good common sense will prevail and on all questions affecting labor relations in the lumber industry there will be conciliation and arbitration and that every effort will be made to maintain our markets so that high production, high employment and prosperity may be assured.

* * *
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PACIFIC COAST RADIO STATION

C.B.C. Heard From in Regard to Transmission Project

Decision to build a short wave station on the Pacific Coast would be a government matter since funds for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's international service are provided by regular Parliamentary estimates each year and do not come out of the regular domestic revenue of the C.B.C., says a letter from A. D. Dunton, chairman of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, in answer to a resolution passed at the annual convention of the Associated Boards of Trade of Central British Columbia at Terrace last August suggesting a high power short wave station on the Pacific Coast, particularly to serve the Orient.

"I think," continues Mr. Dunton's letter, "it should be borne in mind that the cost of such a station in providing service in different Oriental languages would be very high and, according to information we have, there are very few short wave receivers in most Oriental countries."

The present short wave station at Sackville, New Brunswick, adds Mr. Dunton, is delivering a satisfactory signal to New Zealand and Australia but it is doubtful if a good signal can be laid down from Sackville in China, Japan or any other Far Eastern countries.

\$17,000 School Accounts Passed

Prince Rupert and district school board last night approved payment of accounts totalling \$17,102, greatest part of which was for the month of December. The figure also included a delayed portion of the November accounts totalling \$4,481.



CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS OBJECT—A group of conscientious objectors, dressed in prison garb, parade in front of the White House, Washington, D.C., with signs urging President Truman to grant amnesty for some 700 still in prison, and for 5,300 others who have been released from federal institutions, but remain handicapped by loss of their civil rights.

Gyros Are Asked To Donate Blood

Request that members of the club actively support the current Red Cross drive for registration of volunteer blood plasma donors was made at the Prince Rupert Gyro Club luncheon yesterday by Arnold Flaten, local Red Cross president. The members were asked to register for call. Business at yesterday's luncheon largely concerned internal affairs of the club including reports on various activities. G. L. Rorie was appointed editor of the club bulletin for the year.

Train Schedule

From the East—
Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday
—10:45 p.m.
For the East—
Monday, Wednesday, Friday—
8 p.m.

P.T. CLASSES CIVIC CENTRE

Venue There to be Used by Public School

A plan by King Edward Elementary School Principal R. G. Moore to have his three senior grades take a weekly class in physical education at the Civic Centre was warmly received by the school board members when it was presented to their meeting last night.

Mr. Moore proposed that Grades Four, Five and Six at his school should each have a half-hour physical education class a week in the Civic Centre and spoke of co-operation in this regard offered by Rup-Rec director Neil Ross.

The classes, he said, would be the final ones of the school day. The children would march from the school to the Civic Centre under the control of their class teacher, receive their training, then dismiss for home.

The board members commended the idea, and gave it unanimous approval.

Alaska Goodwill Tour Is Lauded

Don Morrell, secretary of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, has written to the Prince Rupert Chamber of Commerce congratulating it on the recent goodwill tour from here to Ketchikan. The value of such trips are emphasized by Mr. Morrell.

PRINCE RUPERT TO VANCOUVER VIA OCEAN FALLS

"Princess Adelaide"
Every Monday, 10 p.m.

ALASKA PORTS

"Princess Norah"
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Full information on sailings from local ticket agent, or write G. Bruce Burpee, C.P.A., C.P.R. Station, Vancouver.

Canadian Pacific



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Every year—on the operating table, after accidents, in childbirth, in serious illness, lives can be saved which would otherwise slip away.

Yes, henceforth you will be able to help save these lives. A great new civilian Blood Transfusion Service has been opened by the Red Cross to provide whole blood and plasma FREE... not even a Hospital Service charge, to all hospital patients in Canada who need transfusions.

The small gift of blood from you is the gift of life itself to someone whose life is in danger. The inconvenience to you is slight.

Contact your local Red Cross Branch or Clinic and say, "Yes, I will be a blood donor!"

DONORS URGENTLY NEEDED

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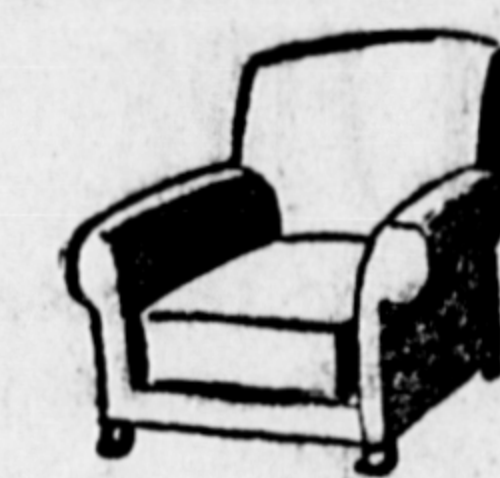
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