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LABOR DAY

LABOR DAY, which falls this year on Monday, September 6, is unique among Canadian holidays because it is the only one this country has adopted from the United States.

All our other holidays—except perhaps Thanksgiving—are of British origin or entirely Canadian, such as Dominion Day, and in Quebec, St. Jean Baptiste Day.

It was a Canadian—Alexander W. Wright, a native of Markham Township in Ontario—who put Labor Day on the Canadian calendar. Wright, who had worked as a newspaperman in Guelph, Ontario, and later became editor of an influential American labor journal, also was largely responsible for United States labor deciding on the September observance. One faction of American labor favored May 1, but Wright, never well disposed towards Communists, stubbornly opposed the date common in European countries.

And it was Wright's zeal that resulted in Labor Day becoming a statutory holiday in Canada, through a bill introduced—oddly enough—by a Conservative prime minister and endorsed by Conservative majorities in the Senate and Commons.

Wright returned to Canada after working in the United States and, without funds, went to Ottawa as a labor lobbyist. The dynamic journalist not only talked a majority of the Conservative members into favoring the idea; he even converted Prime Minister Sir John Thompson, who personally piloted the measure through Commons in 1894.

The holiday, originally observed Sept. 1, later was fixed for the first Monday in September to provide a long week-end.

Though Labor Day is American in origin, the idea of a labor holiday isn't a modern one. It is written that in the Middle Ages processions were organized by trade guilds in England and other parts of Europe. The parades showed the medieval working man's pride of craftsmanship and stressed his position in the society of his day.

HARVEST—OLD AND NEW

THE LONG TRAINS of harvest excursionists have faded into the past. The thousands of husky, adventurous young fellows seeing something of their country for the first time have become but a memory.

Other days, other ways. Getting the harvest in now is different from what was common practice long ago. There may be a few who could be called excursionists but it is nothing more than a weak trickle, and not to be compared with what it was.

When the boys headed toward the Great Lakes and beyond they went in their thousands, accompanied by a few experienced officers to preserve order. As the trains moved across country, they picked up new passengers. There was a cheerful informality. Many lasting friendships were formed. Lads who were out on a big adventure lived to help build new cities, and develop the prairies on a major scale. All were optimists, and without serious care. In their exuberance, fights would sometimes break out, but these were swiftly healed. There would be much singing, to help while away the hours. Dozens had musical instruments with them.

The excursionists brought new and vigorous life to the waiting west. It was the right kind of an invasion.

VANCOUVER WEATHER

AN ONTARIO DAILY prints a despatch from Vancouver. It's about the weather, and is told with refreshing candor. It says:

"Diplomatic relations with the weather man have been severed. Beaches, normally crowded at this season, are virtually deserted. The usual sound of merry-makers is replaced by rain drops. At the Pacific National Exhibition opening day figures showed a drop of 20,000.

"Vancouver streets are almost permanently wet. Skies are lowering and dismal and intermittent rain sprinkles the coatless. Hardy souls, going anywhere usually wear raincoats or ulsters and carry umbrellas.

HUDSON BAY SHIPPING

THE NUMBER of ships carrying wheat away from Port Churchill before ice seals Hudson Bay this year may total six. The brief season has been a busy one. The present is a time when all that's said for, as well as against the port, as a shipping centre is being thoroughly tested. The result, however, is not conclusive. The period when freighters can come and go does not exceed a couple of months. Loadings can continue through all winter in Atlantic coast ports and on the Pacific coast. Hudson Bay, in fact, means doing business in a costly way. Marine insurance for example is away higher. And still Prince Rupert goes without.



LABOR DAY

Here is your man—his name is Labor. He worked hard and long to help win the last war—now he is working hard and long to prevent another war—he is working hard and long to preserve the democratic way of life—he is working hard and long to build an everlasting peace. He is the man responsible for putting Canada first in production. He is the man who deserves the highest tribute and recognition on this day.

Reminiscences and Reflections

By W.J.

Henry Wallace, barnstorming across Louisiana, aroused the displeasure of the southern gentlemen. He can't put his message across—not just yet, anyway. He left Shreveport yesterday, evidently in a hurry. He went with the wind, one might say. A matured egg struck his aeroplane. And seeing the height at which "planes travel, that was darned good throwing.

Apart from all that's said both for and against Labor as an institution, this would be a sweet-scented world without it. Even with all of our troubles of today, compare 1948 with 1848. What then—but a century ago—of living standards, education, health, plain humanity and a thousand other forward steps along the hard path leading away from ignorance and cruelty? There is something to celebrate on Monday.

Mrs. Oskana Kosenkina, Russian school teacher, leaped from a third-storey window rather than continue to live under the Soviet in Russia. She has no quarrel with the Russian people. The woman is in a New York hospital, and may survive. The Soviet call her "an enemy of the State." The odds appear somewhat uneven.

A friend remarked yesterday he felt rather curious whenever he saw the word "motel" in print. He understood it had

been mainly in other parts of the globe. But today, Alaska is on the world's front page. There is too much at stake, now and in the future, to relegate Alaska back to a cold and more or less mysterious obscurity. Alaska, already big, is becoming bigger in more ways than one.

Speaking of moisture, it had been the intention to stage an "Apple Caravan in the Blue River region of Yellowhead Pass" and promoters sent out a scout to report on how the weather had been, which was grim enough. The substance of his wire was "has not stopped raining for 2 weeks. Bridges out on both highway and railroad. Caravan impossible."

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RAIL EXECUTIVES VISITING ALASKA

On board the steamer Prince George making the Alaska trip this voyage is a party of touring officials of the Grand Trunk Western Railway and their wives.

The party is made up of Harvey Campbell, executive vice-president of the Detroit Board of Commerce, and Mrs. Campbell, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Fitzgerald, Mr. and Mrs. S. A. Hill, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph C. Morley, Mr. and Mrs. Bonbright, and Mr. and Mrs. F. E. McAllister. William Connolly, general passenger agent for the Canadian National Railways at Winnipeg, accompanies the group.

The executives and their wives, after making the Alaskan trip on the Prince George will leave in their private car Wednesday night travelling east on the Canadian National Railway to their homes in Michigan.

Canadian Pacific Air Lines Changes

R. B. Phillips has been named supervisor of Canadian Pacific Airlines in western Canada which includes British Columbia, Alberta, Yukon and Northwest Territories. W. A. Andrew has been appointed acting supervisor of C.P.A. in British Columbia, succeeding W. G. Townley. W. B. Riley, with headquarters at Vancouver succeeds A. V. Burns as traffic supervisor of British Columbia district of C.P.A.

FIRE CALLS IN AUGUST LIGHT

There were only three fire calls for the city fire department during the month of August. For the first twelve days the alarm did not tinkle once but on the morning of August 13 the department answered a call to Cow Bay where an explosion on board James Shaw's boat caused burns to his teen age daughters, Sally and Norah. There was no damage to the other two fires of the month.

This month's low number of fire calls equals that of May and brings the total for 1948 up to 67, two fires less than during the same period last year. Records back to 1943 show that August of this year holds the record for having the lowest number of fire calls compared with the same month for the last six years.

Although the fire engines took a rest during August, the ambulance made 30 calls, a record since the fire department took over the ambulance service.

FAMOUS JEWISH ACTRESS

The famous 19th century French actress, Rachel, was born Elizabeth Felix, the daughter of poor Jewish peddlers in Switzerland.

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Customs Revenue Shows Increase

Custom collections at the Port of Prince Rupert during the month of August amounted to \$22,092.71, which is \$111.98 more than was taken in during the same month of 1947. However, except for April when collections were only \$24,797.22, August revenues were the lowest so far in 1948.

Total collections for the first 8 months of 1948 have been \$352,093.22, the highest since 1944 when the same months yielded \$386,637.79.

Extracted Checks From Post Office

SMITHERS—Faulty locks or carelessness of the local box holders in leaving the locks insecure are factors believed to have been taken advantage of by Joseph Forrest, a recent arrival from Saskatchewan, who was sent down for six months' imprisonment at Okalla by Judge W. O. Fulton in a session of County Court here this week on two charges of theft from the post office. It was in this manner that Forrest is believed to have been able to extract family allowance checks from the post office. A third charge was also laid against Forrest of retaining stolen micrometers. He pleaded guilty.

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