

A NEW YORK VIEW OF PROPOSED BOOST IN PRICE OF NEWSPRINT; DESCRIBES IT AS A HOLDUP

(New York Sun)

It will be unfortunate for the maintenance of confidence between the respective publics of the United States and Canada if misleading propaganda in behalf of the Paper Trust's holdup on newsprint prices is allowed to go unrebuked. An attempt has been made to convince Canadians that American publishers are not more exasperated than might ordinarily have been expected over an increase in costs. The irritation goes far deeper than that.

The St. Maurice Valley Paper Company, Price Brothers and the Abitibi Power and Paper Company have set a price of approximately \$60 a ton for newsprint on contract for a three year period beginning with the first of the year. A rebate of \$5 a ton is to be allowed for the first six months of 1930 to all persons making three year contracts; after that period the full \$60 will be demanded.

The present price of newsprint delivered in New York is \$62 a ton; under the new rule it will be \$67, an increase of approximately 8 per cent. The rate charged by the three firms will, in the normal course of events, apply to the great mass of newsprint distributed in North America. Other Canadian mills have already signified their intention of adopting it.

In other words, it is proposed to raise prices to American consumers to \$60 a ton at the mill, whereas it has been found profitable to sell newsprint at from \$40 to \$45 a ton when it is destined for consumption in England. About one tenth of the whole Canadian production will go at this favorable rate to Europe. Canadian mills are now able to deliver newsprint at any seaport in Australia for about the same price as that for which it can be delivered in New York. This is imperial preference with a vengeance—preference at which American consumers are no doubt expected to smile when they are paying the bill.

The truth is that the present price of \$55 a ton at the mill is adequate for mills properly financed and properly run. But the newsprint business in Canada is suffering from over capitalization, overproduction and an alliance of politics and finance.

A Big Boom

Most of Canada's newsprint is made in Quebec and Ontario. After the war there was a big boom in the business, favorable transactions in foreign exchange making it possible to increase earnings beyond normal expectations. Provincial governments encouraged production to such a point that timber could not be obtained from public lands except on agreement to install additional machinery of production.

Then followed a period of recapitalization, in which the stocks of many concerns were liberally diluted of events overproduction became so great that the welfare of an industry was seriously endangered. It became necessary to take drastic action, which was done through the good offices of the provincial authorities. A plan was set in motion whereby output was curtailed by 25 per cent.

That plan is still in effect. The present status of the business is anomalous. It arbitrarily restricts production and at the same time arbitrarily raises prices beyond any figure the normal law of supply and demand would indicate. It seeks to do this because it is virtually a monopoly and because its directors and their advisers in the governments of Ontario and Quebec believe that American consumers must pay the rate whether they wish to do so or not. There is strong reason to believe the paper trust is seeking an understand-

ing with European manufacturers so as to close the doors to future competition from across the Atlantic.

Attempts have been made to justify the proposed increase in the eyes of the Canadian public on the ground that, notwithstanding heavy consumption, the existing price is not sufficient to pay a fair return to investors in newsprint stocks. But surely consumers are not responsible for the payment of profits on businesses which have been overcapitalized.

Overproduction

Premier Taschereau of Quebec has spoken feelingly of overproduction and unwise competition, resulting in prices not only ruinous to the industry itself but likely to affect the prosperity of the country. "If there is overproduction the remedy is not increased prices, but curtailed output; on no other basis can the adjustment of such a difficulty be economically sound. Great Britain's unhappy experiment with rubber valorization ought always to be remembered by States which think of raising themselves by their economic bootstraps.

The Star Quoted

A Canadian newspaper, the Montreal Daily Star, has editorially declared that the manufacture of paper in Canada has been overdone for a decade; that its inflation has been in large measure due to dishonest maneuvering. "Too many forest rights have been granted," it adds, "and too many mills have been built."

Americans who traveled in Canada last summer remember only too well the great concern Canadians felt over provisions in the Hawley tariff bill, threatening seriously to damage important Canadian exports. They tried to assure their Canadian friends that the good sense of the United States would never permit the more indefensible schedules to remain. As a matter of fact, they were eliminated or modified to large extent in the Senate.

In the light of the boldup on newsprint now being attempted, apparently with the connivance of the provincial authorities of Quebec and Ontario, he would be a courageous American indeed who would seek to prevent effective retaliation when the next tariff law is framed.

DEAD SEA IS YIELDING MINERALS

Jerusalem, Dec. 12—The Dead Sea is proving a treasure trove of valuable mineral deposits for the Anglo-Palestine syndicate that obtained the concession of the salt deposits.

Preliminary experiments have almost been completed and an expansion now is being planned. Production for the Eastern market is to begin in 1930. The experiments now being made in the laboratories at the Dead Sea aim at accelerating the process of evaporation. The heat of the sun alone is responsible for a 75 per cent of the actual production at present.

The Palestine mining syndicate, the research department of the concessionaries, also has extended its operations to the minerals that lie in the land about the sea. Petroleum deposits have been discovered, but their value and extent have not been determined. It is not known whether the petroleum is deposited in permeable layers or in basins. Boring operations are very costly, each trial bore costing £20,000 to £25,000.

The potash deposits along the shore also are being investigated to determine their value. It is the intention of the mining syndicate to set up separate companies for the exploitation of each of the various minerals.

The climate difficulties that may interfere with the work in the summer might be met by transferring the living quarters of the workers during the hottest months to a cooler place and driving the men in cars to the site of work.

Wonder if people will continue getting famous at a rate fast enough to satisfy the testimonial ad. demand,—Marshall County Banner.



District Wolf Cub News—Week December 5th-12th, 1929.

On Sunday, December 8th, the 1st Marysville pack held what must have been one of the first services of the kind in the province in the United Baptist Church at Marysville, by kind invitation of the Rev. D. J. MacPherson minister. At 3 p. m., notwithstanding storm weather, a large contingent of the Wolf Cubs, from the 2nd and 7th Fredericton packs; cubs of the 1st Devon pack under Assistant Cubmaster Craik, with the district Honour Flag, the District Wolf Cub Commissioner, Provincial Commissioner Bull and several friends, and Cubmaster T. E. Styran, were with the Marysville cubs, who under Cubmaster MacPherson and Assistant Cubmaster Hodges, were responsible for the arrangement of the service of which the following was the programme:

Hymn: Onward, Christian Soldiers.

The Wolf Cub Promise, led by the District Wolf Cub Commissioner: "Truly our Promise is founded as a House upon a rock. It is rooted in the principles of God. Let us then in pride and thankfulness repeat all together the Wolf Cub Promise: "I promise to do my best, to be loyal, and to do my duty to God and the King, to keep the Law of the Wolf Cub Pack, and to do a Good Turn to somebody every day."

"Faithful, O God, we pray thee, keep us faithful."

Scripture Reading, by a Wolf Cub.

Prayer for the Movement, by Rev. D. J. MacPherson.

Anthem No. 426.

Reading: John Thorpe.

Offering.

Reading: Lloyd Eno.

Hymn: 446.

Address: Prof. R. Pugh, District Wolf Cub Commissioner.

Special Hymn.

Readings: Murray Freer, Charles Hodges.

Hymn (closing): 432 "When He Cometh."

Benediction, pronounced by Cubmaster Macpherson.

At the instigation of the Provincial Commissioner, the District Wolf Cub Commissioner, in the course of his address, said that, since the World Jam boree, the Boy Scouts Association is in a position to pay the way for a Scout wishing to qualify for the ministry of the Church, no matter what denomination. This is done through his minister and is due to the generosity of a friend of the movement. The attitude of the boys was praiseworthy and many parents and others interested filled the church. The substantial offering will be devoted to Pack funds.

The District Wolf Cub Commissioner spent last Wednesday evening at McAdam, where, at the invitation of Cubmaster, the Rev. T. G. Bennett he took charge of the regular meeting of the 1st McAdam Wolf Cub pack. There was a full attendance of 26 Cubs. The following are to be Assistant Cubmasters to this Pack: Scouts A. C. Baltus and A. H. Lewis, both of the McAdam Community Troop, which meets regularly under Principal W. O. Wetmore, of the local school. The Cub pack will adopt the neckerchief of the Community Troop, purple and gold, the school colors.

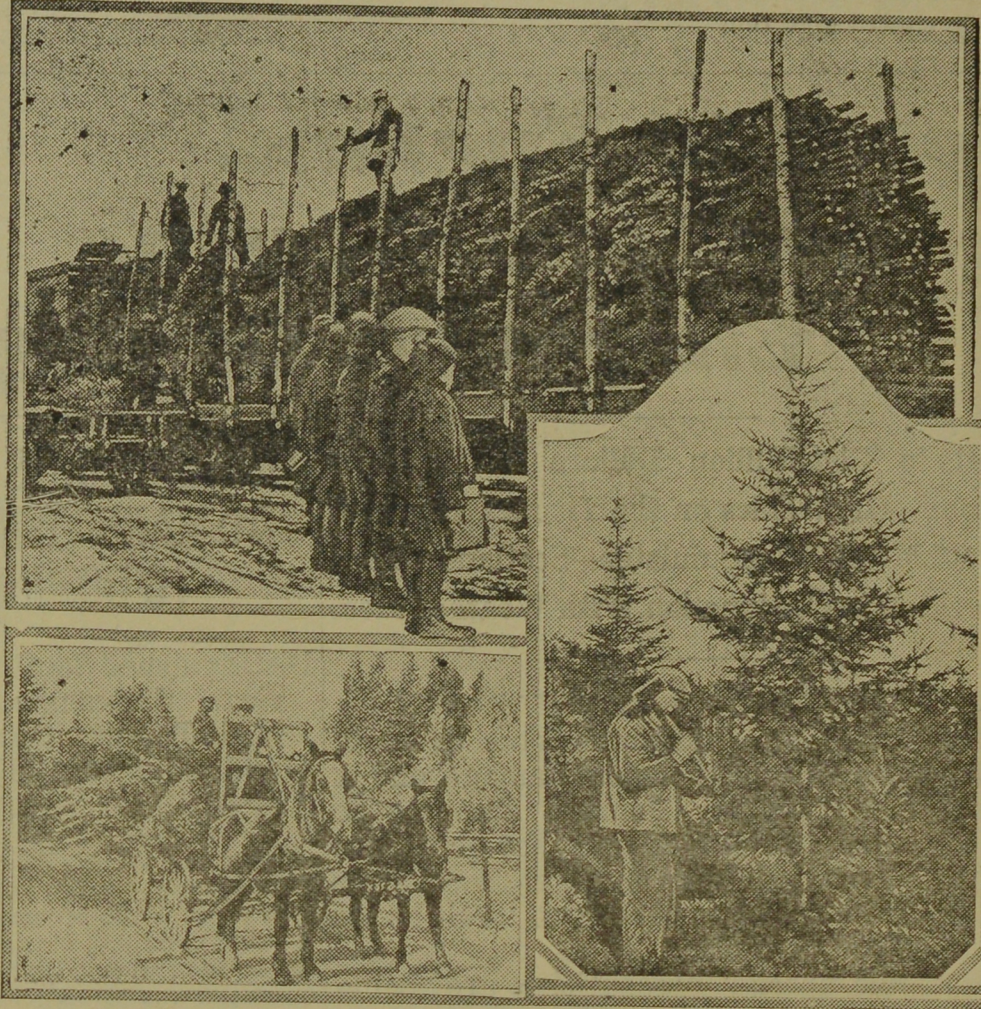
The other two Boy Scout troops meet regularly under Rev. Mr. Grant (United Church) and Rev. Mr. Gibson (Baptist Church). Two companies of Girl Guides have also been recently organized at McAdam.

Never mind this zero weather, in only about a hundred days from now it will be milder.

The last experience of the City Council in the Electric Light business was a sad one for the taxpayers.

They say long skirts are coming back, but the show isn't over yet.

Christmas Trees For Santa Claus



"Santa Claus is finding it increasingly difficult to get Christmas trees for the boys and girls of the United States, and every year he is looking more and more to Canada, particularly the Maritime Provinces, for his supply. This year large numbers of fir trees are being shipped over the lines of the Canadian National Railways for the kiddies of New England and New York State cities. Above (at top), Santa Claus directing the men in the loading of the trees onto a Canadian National Railways flat car. (Lower left), Hauling trees from the forest to the railway. (Lower right), Cutting the trees.

Some of the criticism aimed at the postage stamp has been justified, but nobody should expect a meal for two cents.

Until the word "blah" came into use there were occasions when many found it difficult to express their reactions.

Somebody, it doesn't matter who for the purpose of these lines, holds to the view that tobacco dulls the imagination. The answer is that many imaginations are naturally too vivid.

Texas Guinan is true to the advice giving type. Much married herself, she tells wives ho wto keep their husbands.

There is no appeal in the job of nightwatchman in the New York stock exchange. Too many ghosts of fortune stalking around.

Horseshoe pitching is the only sport where the "ringer" is welcomed with enthusiasm.

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