

Notable Record of Dept. of Labour for Dominion

Hon. W. A. Gordon's Department Instrumental in Obviating 116 Potential Strikes During Critical Period in Canadian History. Some Interesting Facts and Figures.

It should be of interest to readers of The Advance to note the results of the good work of Hon. W. A. Gordon, "Minister for the North," in his departmental work, and especially with reference to the work of the conciliation service of the Dept. of Labour.

A review by The Ottawa Journal summarizes the work as follows:—

To have been instrumental in obviating 116 potential strikes (34 of which directly involved 92,000 employees) during the most critical period of Canadian industry is an achievement that has largely contributed to the maintenance of stability in this country, and one from which the present administration and the public should derive very considerable satisfaction.

Such is the impressive record of the Federal Department of Labour as reflected in its conciliation and arbitration service, during the regime of the present administration—an administration that has had to cope with unprecedented economic conditions on an unprecedented scale.

The significance of this contribution to national welfare in all its ramifications—social and economic—cannot be adequately appraised, but the results indicate that functioning efficiently, without recourse to ballyhoo, is an important government agency that has saved this country financial loss beyond computation, and has prevented the serious dislocation of industrial life with its attendant consequences.

Presenting the picture from another angle, if serious strikes had occurred, resulting in lost wages, and the uncurbed bitterness of industrial warfare; if there had not been an impartial, alert conciliation service in which both employer and employee had confidence—then what? Well, such a prospect is one that does not permit of comfortable contemplation. Canada has been spared all that that would entail in human suffering largely because of the successful mediation of a Department of Labour directed by a minister who has a deep understanding of that more or less perpetual conflict of opposing economic interests, and the necessity of their pacification or regulation in a democratic commonwealth.

The records of the department indicate that during the past four years Canada has not experienced any major industrial disturbance such as has occurred in other countries. That one achievement by itself gives this country a high rating among industrial nations. But these records tell the story of many disputes settled and many more that they had developed to serious proportions; of employees kept

and the time lost in that country are available. The figures give the record in this connection in Canada and the United States. If the basis of population is followed the loss of time and the number of workmen who were the losers through the strikes which developed in both countries will be found appreciably greater in the United States than in Canada, the loss of time being forty times as great in the United States as in Canada.

But that is not the whole story of departmental activity. One of the department's chief duties is the administration of the Fair Wages and Eight Hour Day Act. This measure was designed to ensure to labour the payment of current, or fair and reasonable wages, and the observance of a working day of not more than eight hours in all building, construction, remodeling, or demolition contracts involving the expenditure of Dominion funds. As recorded in the Labour Gazette, official publication of the department, the total number of such contracts awarded during the period from August 1, 1930, to October 31, 1934, was 735, involving an approximate expenditure of \$22,332,448.00.

This required close scrutiny and a wide knowledge of wages conditions. In all these works, financed by Federal money and giving employment to many thousands, not only were current wages maintained, but in some cases (where the prevailing rate was unduly low) the schedule was increased so as to secure fair and reasonable standards of compensation. Thus was labour protected from exploitation in these contracts for public works.

This outlay of nearly twenty-two and one half million dollars on public works does not, however, represent the total expenditure to which the fair wages policy of the government is applied. In addition, there must be included the tremendous cost involved in contracts for the supply of clothing and equipment for such departments as the Post Office, and National Defence, and for relief camps, etc. These orders have helped to keep the supply factories operating in different parts of the country, and have given employment on a large scale. Here again it is protected employment, for the regulations compel adherence to proper working conditions, and the avoidance of anything of a sweat shop nature, enforcement of which, however, falls under the jurisdiction of the provinces.

This buttressing of industry and employment by such governmental activities is being further extended by the Public Works Construction Act, which provides for a Dominion-wide building programme of approximately \$40,000,000. Provincially, the allocation of this total is as follows:—

Prince Edward Island	\$ 96,000
Nova Scotia	2,788,700
New Brunswick	3,017,000
Quebec	9,077,800
Ontario	10,418,950
Manitoba	2,341,700
Saskatchewan	675,000
Alberta	1,707,400
British Columbia	1,971,400
N.W. Territories	18,000

A Bewitching Hostess



FRANCIS DRAKE film player, features this trailing velvet robe of light and dark green, accented by large dull gold buckles studded with green carochons.

Yukon General 6,200
6,200

Total \$39,690,050

In still another way the government has come to the assistance of industry and labour. And again it was done through a department of which the Honourable Mr. Gordon is the directing head—the Department of Mines. Perhaps no Canadian, charged with high responsibility, is more familiar with mining in all its phases—both from the viewpoint of the mine and the executive—than is the present Minister of Mines.

When the plight of the coal-mining industry was apparent, and mines were closing down or operating on a greatly reduced tonnage, the government, largely through the initiative of Hon. Mr. Gordon, instituted a subvention policy whereby the sale of Canadian coal was promoted.

The benefits accruing to the coal industry due to the subvention policy of the government are strikingly revealed in the following statistics compiled by the Dominion Fuel Board:

Movement of coal under the assisted rates (calendar years):

1930—479,228; 1931—721,123; 1932—1,124,788; 1933—1,932,711; 1934 (x)—1,859,513.

(x) January to September 30.

It is estimated that fully 2,000,000 tons will move for the calendar year 1934.

Work for Miners

This assistance provided work for the following number of men in the coal mining industry for the years indicated:—

1930—900; 1931—1,576; 1932—4,536; 1934 (x)—6,000.

(x) January to September 30 (approx.).

Reducing Coal Mining Costs

During the past four years production of coal in Canada declined 32 per cent., although imports of coal into Canada declined 38.3 per cent.

Compare this with a decline in production in the United States coal fields of 38 per cent. over the same period.

It is noteworthy that the cost of mining coal is being reduced. 1934 figures are not yet available but decreases for years 1930 to 1933 are: 1931, \$4.08; 1932, \$3.73; 1933, \$3.59. The reduction of 49 cents per ton will go a long way to secure wider markets for Canadian coal.

FORMER COBALT RESIDENT PASSES AT AGE OF 85 YEARS

The Halleluiah last week says:—"Friends in Halleluiah received news this week of the death of a former resident, James Van Ronselaar Weston, which took place in New York City on the morning of Christmas Day. He was about 85 years of age and up to the day previous to his death had been in active spirits. A seizure of paralysis proved fatal. Mr. Weston was identified with the mining industry in Cobalt for a number of years during high time he lived, with Mrs. Weston, on the Lake Shore Road here. They left about 15 years ago for New York. Many of the older local people will remember them and will extend sympathy to Mrs. Weston, who is the sole survivor."

Dallas Morning News.—Harvard man claims whisky is no good to cure colds. Oh, Doctor, don't say that!

Combatting the Red Menace in the North

Bishop Rheame Leading in Colonization Plans and in the Organization of Bush Workers to Offset Red Efforts.

The following from last week's issue of The Rouyn-Noranda Press will be of general interest:—

"A movement is now under way in the Quebec portion of the Rouyn-Noranda diocese of Halleluiah, fostered by His Excellency, Bishop Rheame, for active co-operation with the provincial government in its plans for colonization.

"Committees of the clergy have been named for Abitibi and Temiscamingue. Rev. Fathers Gauvin, Moreau, Whissel, Lafontaine and Leroux acting for the latter county and Rev. Fathers Minette, Dudemaine, Lalonde, Halde and Morasse for Abitibi.

"In addition colonization committees will be formed in each parish, composed of the parish priest and three members of the congregation to be named by him, whose duty it will be to make a list of parishioners who are anxious and fitted to go back to the land, with the number of children in each family; and also make a list of the farms or land available in or around the parish for colonization purposes.

"These lists will be forwarded to the missionary for the county and by him in turn transferred to the colonization department at Quebec.

"The purpose of the plan as The Press understands it is to give all who are fitted to do so an opportunity to settle on the land under the new government scheme, and assist the department in every way possible to carrying out the new plan.

"It is thought likely that during 1935

Serve the Best Tea

"SALADA" TEA

there will be further extensive settlement in this district, and that new settlements will be opened in Botschattel and Destor townships, and possibly also on land along the Kenogewis river east of Rouyn-Noranda.

"Another movement being sponsored by Bishop Rheame is the enrollment of the bushworkers of this part of the diocese in the Union of Catholic Farmers, the purpose of this being to guard against inroads by communists and other subversive influences. It is felt that most of those now working in the woods in these parts are either farmers or the sons of farmers, and that affiliation with such a union would be helpful in several ways, but particularly in combatting communistic or atheistic efforts on the part of intriguing elements such as last year caused so much trouble in this part of the province."

The Day of the Old-Time Flour Mill is Passing

(Galt Reporter.)

A large stone flour mill that has been in operation at Orangeville, Ont., for the past 85 years, was offered for sale recently under foreclosure action, but there were no bidders despite the fact that the building is imposing in appearance, has eighteen-inch walls and

a plant capable of doing good work in the grinding of grains. The incident is one that marks the eclipse of an industry that was once very prosperous in Ontario and gave employment to a considerable number of people. The mill at Orangeville, like many others of its kind in Eastern Canada, was originally operated by water power and consequently overhead was so low that the grinding of flour and the crushing of other grains for farm use could be done very cheaply. Cutting down of forests rendered the flow of water inadequate to operate this mill and resort was had to steam power, which rendered the work more expensive. Eventually hydro power was installed, but the business was dwindling. The big commercial mills of the country were in a position to sell flour at low cost and it became the habit of the people to patronize these institutions rather than their local mills. The business of the local mill virtually disappeared and thus we have in many parts of the country the spectacle of these fine stone buildings only as a monument to an industry that once flourished.

North Bay Nugget.—An Ohio landlady had her star boarder pinched after he sold her bed-slats and a chair to get money to buy liquor, and then set fire to her skirt in a spirit of playfulness.

The WOMAN with TWO SMILES

or Maurice Leblanc CREATOR OF Arsene Lupin

READ THIS FIRST:

Fifteen years before the story opens, Elisabeth Homain, a beautiful singer, who is a divorcee, is mysteriously murdered as she sings on a high mound on the pretentious country estate of Monsieur and Madame de Jouville at Volvic for the entertainment of the latter's luncheon guests, including the Marquis Jean d'Ermenont, a distinguished society favorite. The tragedy caused the de Jouvilles to sell their chateau but the identity of the purchaser could not be learned; in fact it was occupied only by a caretaker, who died, and then his wife.

CHAPTER 2

Scene, SAINT-LAZARE station. Streams of passengers coming and going between the platform barriers and the booking hall—an intricate confusion of intermingled arrivals and departures. Metal signs indicated times and destinations of trains. Ticket collectors punched and checked busily.

Sautering nonchalantly among the swirl of hurrying passengers were two men who seemed to have some other purpose than travel. One was heavy and powerful looking, of rather unprepossessing aspect and hard expression; the other was delicate and slight; both had mustaches and wore bowler hats.

These two men paused a moment in front of a train indicator where four porters were waiting.

The smaller man went up to the porters and asked politely:—"What time is the three forty-seven due in?"

The porter eyed him up and down and replied caustically:—"Three forty-seven."

The heavily built man shrugged his shoulders as though in pity for his companion's stupidity and inquired in his turn:—"That is the Lisieux train, isn't it? Number 368?"

"It's the 368 all right," he was told. "Due in in 10 minutes now."

"It won't be late?"

"No delay signalled."

The two men strolled away and leaned against a pillar.

Three, four, five minutes passed.

"What a bore!" grumbled the stout man. "I can't see the man from the prefecture."

"But do you need him?"

"Of course I do. If he doesn't bring the warrant, how can I arrest the lady?"

"Perhaps he's looking for us and doesn't recognize us?" the little man suggested timidly.

"Fool! He might not recognize you, Flamant, that's quite possible."

"But not to know me Chief Inspector Gorgoret, after my keeping on all this time with that Volvic case!"

Distinctly mortified, Flamant inquired:—"That Volvic chateau business, but that's ancient history! Fifteen years ago, at least, wasn't it?"

Gorgoret countered with:—"Then what about the burglary in the Rue Saint-Honore? And the time I nearly got Big Paul? D'you call that ancient history? Not two months ago, that was!"

"You got him, you trapped him, but Big Paul's still at large all the same!"

"Maybe, but I'd got everything fixed so well that I'm the one they always send for! Jus' look at this and see if it doesn't particularly mention me."

He drew forth a paper from his pocketbook, and unfolding it, they read:



"I've always been on the track of Big Paul!"

4th June, Prefecture of Police. Special Instruction. (Urgent)

Big Paul's friend, Alais Blonde Clara, has been seen on Train 368 due from Lisieux at 3.47. Send Chief Inspector Gorgoret at once. A warrant for her arrest will be handed him at Saint-Lazare station before train gets in. Description of wanted woman: fair wavy hair, blue eyes, age between 20 and 25, pretty, simply dressed, smart appearance.

"There now, you see... My name's on that, because I have always been on the track of Big Paul and they've sent me to take care of his lady too!"

"Do you know her?" asked Flamant.

"Only just. I caught a glimpse of her that day I broke open the door of the room in which I had her and Big Paul trapped. But I had bad luck that time. As I was tying him up, she escaped by the window, and when I dashed after her, Big Paul got clean away."

"Surely you weren't alone?"

"There were three of us," Gorgoret told him. "But Big Paul began by knocking out the other two!"

"He's a tough customer!"

"Yes, but I'd got him that time!"

"I'd have stuck to him if I'd been you."

"You'd have stuck to him, would you? You poor shrimp, he'd have wiped the floor with you. You know, you're not so hot!"

Chief Inspector Gorgoret considered all his subordinates as feeble-minded and himself as the one bright policeman; he prided himself on always coming off victorious in all his undertakings. Big Paul was a thorn in his flesh.

Flamant made semblance of agreement, saying sweetly:—"After all, you've been very lucky. First you had that Volvic business. Now you've got the job of pulling in Big Paul and Blonde Clara. There's only one thing missing from your program."

"What's that?"

"The arrest of Arsene Lupin."

"When I think that I missed him twice by a hairsbreadth," grumbled Gorgoret. "But I'll get him the third time, never fear! As for that Volvic business, I've always got my eye on it... just as I have on Big Paul. As for Blonde Clara..."

He clutched Flamant by the arm. "Quick! Here's the train!"

"But you haven't got the warrant," Gorgoret cast a comprehensive glance around. There was no one who looked like a detective. It was maddening!

Meanwhile, the engine of the Lisieux train came in sight along the track. Gradually the train drew in alongside the platform and stopped. Carriage doors flew open; people poured onto the platform.

As the descending travelers ap-

proached the barrier, they were marshaled into single files by the ticket collectors. Gorgoret, held Flamant back. There was nothing to do but wait; there was only the one exit and everyone must perform pass that way in turn. It would be practically impossible to miss Blonde Clara.

Suddenly a lovely fair-haired girl, dressed with simple chic, was giving up her ticket! Both inspectors jumped to the same conclusion. Her appearance tallied exactly with the police description. There could be no doubt that this was Blonde Clara, Big Paul's girl-friend.

"No mistake about that," muttered Gorgoret. "That's her, right enough. Ah, there'll be no escaping this time, my lady!"

She was really very lovely, her expression half-smiling, half-afraid. Her golden hair framed her oval face under the demure little traveling hat; her eyes were very blue; her small teeth gleamed when she smiled—and her mobile mouth seemed made for smiles. She wore a quakerish gray linen dress with a severe white linen collar that made her look like an enchanting school-girl. Her appearance was discreet, as though she deliberately intended to avoid attracting attention. She carried a handbag and a small attache case.

"Your ticket, please, mademoiselle!"

"My ticket?"

She was suddenly confused. Where had she put it? In her pocket? In her bag? Her case? None of these yielded it. The people in the queue behind her were obviously amused at her embarrassment, and their audible comments caused her to blush deeply. She set down her case, opened her bag again, and then at last found her ticket securely pinned to one of her sleeves!

She hastily gave it up, pushed through the crowd and passed out under the noses of the detectives.

"Blast!" growled Gorgoret. "What infernal luck not to have that warrant! I'd have gathered her like a peach!"

"Why not get her anyway?"

"Fool! We're going to shadow her. Steady now, and don't blunder. Stick close to her."

(TO BE CONTINUED)

In connection with the issuing of the Semi-Weekly The Advance offers you

A Great Subscription Bargain that means..

MONEY IN YOUR MAILBOX

Here is a real offer that will save you money... Give yourself and your family lasting enjoyment and entertainment the whole year through... This is all you have to do.

Select any 3 of these famous Magazines

Together with your local Newspaper

and you will receive the whole 4 publications for one year from the date we receive the coupon. Here is the amazing combination low price.

\$3.00

- Maclean's (24 issues) 1 yr.
- Chatelaine 1 yr.
- Canadian 1 yr.
- National Home Monthly 1 yr.
- Pictorial Review 1 yr.
- Canadian Horticulture and HomeMagazine ... 1 yr.

MAIL COUPON TODAY →

Our Guarantee to You!
This wonderful offer is available to old and new subscribers to this newspaper. We guarantee the fulfillment of all magazine subscriptions and you have positive assurance that this generous offer is exactly as represented. Renewals will be extended for full term shown.

Please clip list of Magazines after checking 3 Publications desired. Fill out coupon carefully. Gentlemen: I enclose \$..... Please send me the three magazines checked with a year's subscription to your newspaper. NAME..... STREET OR R.F.D..... TOWN AND PROVINCE.....