

# Strikes Cause Concern Among Farmers, Retailers, Consumers

By J. LINCOLN DEWAR  
At times people who have had a rough deal will say, "I feel like the load that went under the harrow." In a sense the entire province might be justified for feeling this way as the result of the nonoperating employees of the railways. Actually whether they are operating or nonoperating does not seem to make much difference nothing operates in any event and that in spite of orders from union officials to the contrary with respect to ferry operation.

Without having all the evidence or all the knowledge that might be available it is, of course, not safe to try and sit in judgement on the matter. However, a reaction that appears to be very prevalent on the part of many citizens is one of exasperation with the action of local strikers exasperation which will focus on the town of Borden which may or may not be really guilty as many of the workers involved live in other parts of the province.

For people who are in the habit of cutting through red tape and obstacles in order to get things done or moving, the present situation is certainly frustrating. Everyone agrees that the tie-up is a very serious matter so far as our economy is concerned but there seems to be very little evidence or indication of what can correct the situation.

Next on the list is the strike of Canada Packers which if it ever had the limelight, has certainly had it stolen. This strike appears to be a rather nice relaxed sort of effort, with nobody doing anything very constrictive about resolving it. Nevertheless damage is being done to the economy and the effects are now starting to cause concern on the part of farmers, retailers and consumers.

Strikes of this nature represent a failure in human ability. We would take the position that where there is real determination to solve a problem that the problem is usually solved.

Just announced is something of a quite positive nature that the RCMP has been ordered to Borden to enable crews to man the boats and passengers to board. No doubt there will be conflicting opinions on this particular action but certainly it is one of a direct and clear-cut nature which certainly should have positive effect on the situation which was an affront to the welfare of the entire province.

**NATIONAL BEEF PRODUCERS**  
On September 26 and 27 in Winnipeg will be held the first national conference on beef production. This is a joint effort on the part of the Federation of Agriculture and the Canadian Cattlemen's Association. The conference will include representatives from all interests, producers, processors, consumers and government officials. One matter that is bound to re-

ceive consideration is the matter of official grades. There is something less than an agreement on the point of beef grades representing fairly what the consumer considers to be desirable quality.

Representing this province will be delegates from the Federation of Agriculture, from the Beef Producers' Association and it is hoped from the Department of Agriculture.

**LAND USE**  
A recent editorial on the acquiring of land by outside interests supports a point of view which the Federation of Agriculture has been promoting for some years. As long as four years ago the Federation recommended the setting up of a land use authority, however,

there appeared to be little interest in or understanding on the part of authorities, the policy apparently being to allow the disease to develop to the point where major surgery would be required to correct the condition. We commend the editorial writer in question for his effort and welcome his support for a proposal which has actually been made on a number of different occasions.

It is becoming very clear that this province has some of the most attractive land and attractive qualities of any part of this continent, and outsiders have been perhaps quicker to recognize the fact than many of us who have lived with these attractions for years. We would like to applaud and

commend the Middleton farmer who stood up to a game warden who in an unauthorized way was attempting to get a sample of the contents of a potato sprayer. The acquittal of the farmer on a charge of resisting a peace-officer demonstrates, of course, that private rights were being invaded. Certainly there is a place for game and fish in this province and there is every reason to maintain streams so far as possible in unpolluted condition. However, it should never be forgotten that agriculture will always be more important than a few brook trout and that the rights of property holders should not be invaded by people inclined to over-emphasize the importance of game and recreation.

**AGRICULTURAL EFFICIENCY**  
Recently in opening the exhibition at Ottawa the Hon. J. J. Greene included in his remarks the following statement:  
"It is estimated, for example, that today about 70 per cent of

our total farm output comes from about 30 per cent of our farms. This would seem to indicate that about 70 per cent of our farms are behind the rest in terms of operational scale, production efficiency and earning capacity. Yet the efficiency revolution has been going on with agriculture at a more rapid pace than in the rest of our economy.

Between 1946 and 1964, net farm production in Canada rose at an average annual rate of 1.5 per cent. During the same period net production in the non-farm sector of our economy rose at an average annual rate of 5 per cent. However, and this is the significant figure, while this was happening, the national labor force was increasing by 34 per cent while the farm labor force was declining by 48 per cent. In other words, the output per man in farming has been increasing by 5.3 per cent per year while output per man in the non-farm sectors of our

economy has been increasing by 2.3 per cent per year. The core of the farm problem in Canada today can be summed up by comparing the net return to the farmer during this period with wage.

Despite the fact that output per man in farming has been increasing at twice the rate in the non-farm industries, the net income from farming has been falling behind. In 1946, the average net realized income for farmers was \$1,670 compared to the average wage in manufacturing of \$1,516. Today the farmer's average net income is about \$3,800 compared to an average manufacturing wage of \$4,200."

## Boiler Firm In Galt, Ont. Doubles Output

By GORDON GRANT  
GALT, Ont. (CP)—Ask for a boilermaker in this "dry" town in southern Ontario and you'll find one.

probably be introduced to someone who works for Babcock Wilcox and Goldie-McCulloch Ltd.—not handed a drink.

The company, the town's biggest employer and industrial concern, has doubled its sales in the last five years to \$30,000,000 annually as Canada's largest maker of boilers for industry and commerce.

It now is casting a cautious eye on increasing its export markets. Sales to such countries as Ireland, Pakistan, Chile, New Zealand and Colombia now account for about 10 per cent of the company's business.

President R. M. Robertson says it would like to step up that business to 20 per cent of total volume, but no more.

"We don't want too large a percentage of our boilers going into foreign markets because there might be a tendency to neglect to some degree the Canadian market, and that's our real bread and butter," he said in a recent interview.

The company has branches in

Montreal, Toronto, Calgary and Vancouver.

**GROWTH EXPECTED**  
Canada's power capacity is expected to grow at an annual rate of 6.4 per cent for the next five years and of increasing importance to Babcock-Wilcox is the trend toward the use of steam to generate electricity.

Good sites for hydro-electric power are becoming too scarce and too costly to develop and, in the next five years, installations of new steam-generating capacity are expected to produce more than twice as much electricity as new hydroelectric operations.

The modern boiler is so complex that some of the larger units take three years to build. Established in 1859 by two Scotsmen, the company now employs 1,200 workers, one-third of them skilled.

## Lionel Blais Alive, Well

KIRKLAND LAKE (CP)—Lionel Blais, 38, who was not a his own funeral Aug. 20 is alive and well in Vernon, B.C., say his brother Dorie, of Kirkland Lake.

Blais was supposed to have died in a Vancouver hospital Aug. 14. A body was shipped to his family. When they opened the casket they found an older man, later identified as Leo Blais, 55, of no fixed address.

Apparently Leo and Lionel had been patients at the hospital July 20 although Dorie Blais said Lionel was there in 1965 and Leo in 1966.

## TANKER RULES SEAS

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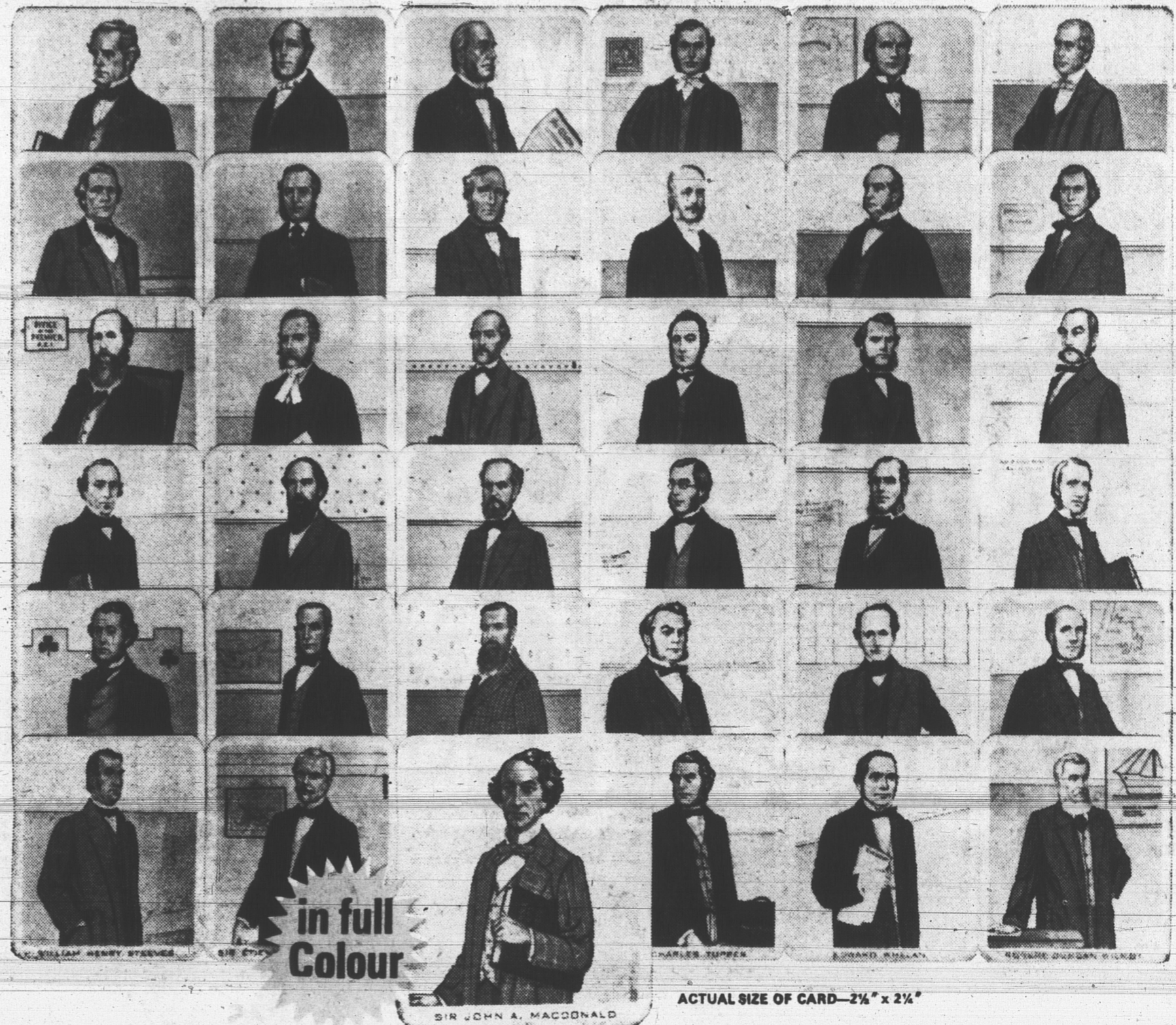
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