

Steel Strike In U.S. Has Canadian Industry Worried

By FORBES RHUDE
Canadian Press Business Editor

Canada can take a short United States steel strike without major strain, but a long will cause distress.

This seems to be the cross-country consensus—gathered by Canadian Press bureaus— but with most observers saying it is too early to make a definite assessment.

A relatively painless strike would be one in the range of two weeks. After that it would start to pinch, a month would hurt for sure, and much longer might mean—in the words of one observer—"an approach to catastrophe."

Canada gets about a fifth of her steel supplies from the United States and even if the tie is ended today it would cause some pain.

ONE-MONTH DELAY

The shut-in of the furnaces, it is stated, means that deliveries will automatically be delayed one month.

Even those most optimistic about the immediate future say a lack of a few vital items can put a bad crimp in production.

The strike comes in the midst of an already world-wide steel scarcity and Canadian plants are already working above rated capacity and don't make many of the items imported.

Major items imported include wide-flange structural steel beams, big pipe, and plates—including plates for automobile bodies.

A shortage of wide-flange steel beams would hit the heavy construction industry, including office buildings, power plants, bridges—and even the expansions of Canadian steel plants designed to make Canadians less dependent on imports.

MAY AFFECT PIPELINE

Trans-Canada Pipe Lines Ltd., now embarked on its 574-mile natural-gas pipeline from Alberta to Winnipeg, says it has on hand or within sight about 115 miles of 34-inch pipe—the size to be used on the Prairies.

It expects to have two crews laying pipe within a fortnight at the rate of two miles a day. The two crews would thus use up the present pipe supply in about 60 days.

The automobile industry seems in good shape so far as its 1956 models are concerned and may get along without major difficulty until the fall. About two-thirds of the steel in the average automobile is imported.

The St. Lawrence seaway and power project, using large sup-

plies of Canadian-produced reinforcing steel, is understood to be in satisfactory shape. Its heavy demand on reinforcing steel, however, will make it difficult for other construction work to shift from structural steel to reinforced concrete, at least in eastern Canada.

RAILWAYS IN GO'D SHAPE

Neither the Canadian National nor Canadian Pacific railways expect immediate difficulties.

Whatever the strike's length, steel will soon cost more—already the United States company still producing has raised its price \$9 a ton and any settlement will be at higher wage levels.

There will be much "scrounging around" for what steel may be available. Brokers, who even before the strike were offering at premium prices steel which they had collected somewhere, may call for higher bids.

Effects will extend at least into next winter, from ore shipments from American points, already below normal because of a succession of navigation difficulties through the Great Lakes waterway, now are stopped for the strike's duration and ore piles may be low six or seven months from now.

Not much relief is expected from Canadian ore because of the complicated nature of steel making.

CAUTIOUS COMMENT

For the most part, cross-country comment was cautious.

In Halifax, H. L. Roper, vice-president of Brookfield Construction Company, said jobs now under way in Nova Scotia probably will not be affected because their steel quotas have already

been received. A long strike would affect future jobs and these might have to try to substitute reinforced concrete for steel.

In Saint John, N. B., John Flood of John Flood and Sons, said steel for major projects now under construction has already been delivered but would be hard to get for future jobs.

A spokesman for Saint John Dry Dock Company, commenting that steel has been scarce for several months, added:

"The difference now is that we don't know when new steel orders will be delivered. Before, we had a rough indication. Some jobs have been delayed several months but none has been cancelled so far."

In Quebec a provincial public works spokesman said a two-week strike wouldn't affect the province's current public-works program, but a long-term strike would probably seriously delay steel scheduled for delivery late this summer, and such orders might not be filled until next spring.

The Quebec Hydro Commission supplies on hand or en route for this season's program.

In Montreal some construction men are thinking of switching to reinforced concrete or timber beams—in such projects as apartment buildings—although timber is also reported scarce.

L. A. Forsyth, president of Dominion Steel and Coal Company, said:

"The strike shouldn't affect us much at this stage but pressure on our mills might get pretty strong in three or four weeks. Buyers will be shopping around for substitute"

Presentation To Mrs. H. H. Hardy

Thurs., July 5, 1956 The Guardian Page 13



DIESEL TECHNICIANS

On Monday evening, June 25, the congregation of Highfield United Church met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Gay to bid farewell to their minister and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Heber Hardy.

Mr. Stillman Frizzell called the gathering together, and after a few chosen remarks called on Mr. Bently Creed to read the address.

Mr. Stillman Frizzell presented Mr. and Mrs. Hardy with a gift on behalf of Highfield Congregation. Mr. and Mrs. Hardy in their pleasing manner thanked every one for their kindness.

The singing of favorite hymns was enjoyed by all, and following this Volton and piano selections were rendered by Norma and Ja Gay. A delicious lunch was served by the ladies.

Following is the address: Dear Mr. and Mrs. Hardy:

As the time for your departure draws nearer, we realize more and more fully how deep our friendship and fellowship has grown during the four years you have been with us.

We do not attempt to assess the value of your work in the Winsloe Charge; but we believe the results will be evident for many years as a monument to your earnest labors in the Master's service; and that our congregational and individual lives will be richer because of your friendship and example.

Farewells are seldom pleasant but we are happy that you are leaving us amid so much evidence of good will and respect, and on your part with the knowledge of work well done. We hope your future location will make it possible for us to meet occasionally and continue the friendships formed during your residence here.

We hope and trust that you will be happy in your new field, and that your labours will be fruitful.

And now we would ask you to accept a little parting gift as a token of our friendship and esteem. May God be with you till we meet again.

The Congregation of Highfield United Church.

Receiving instruction from Cpl H.S. MacDonald from Charlottetown P.E.I. (centre) during an advanced Diesel electric course at No 1 Technical Training School RCAF Station Aylmer, Ont., are Cpl. George Carlow (left) from Langford, Vancouver Island, B.C. and RCAF Station Whitehorse and Cpl. A.O. Sandy Gellatly (right) from Winnipeg Manitoba and RC AF Station MacDonald, Manitoba.

The Diesel electric course, given to tradesmen who are qualified Mobile Equipment technicians in an advanced course on Diesel electric generating sets. Highly trained specialists like these RC AF personnel are an integral part of the Air Defence of Canada.

School Grade System Now Under Fire From Educators

FLIN FLON, Man. (CP)—An experiment designed to help weak students by doing away with grade failure and clever students by enabling them to go through their work at a fast pace will be tried here in grades I to III in the school term starting this fall.

The present grade system, based on yearly quotas of work and assumption of equal ability, has dominated the school system for several generations and has been under fire from some educators.

It has been mainly criticized because it offers no leeway to the weak student who may have to repeat a grade from the beginning, or to the bright pupil who must slow down to the pace of the average.

Several ways of breaking with the one-grade-a-year system have been tried. Among them have been segregation according to ability, enrichment of the curriculum for the clever and the unit system. The latter is the one which is to be given a trial in

This unit system has already been tried in Windsor, Hamilton and York County, Ont. If it works out in Flin Flon it will be expanded to include grades I to VI. Under this system three levels of attainment will be established for each grade in the key subjects of English, reading and arithmetic. When a child reaches the level of attainment in one division he is promoted to the next higher one. After one year of this acceleration pupils are provided with curriculum "enrichment" instead of further acceleration so they will not advance too far ahead of their social age group.

It is felt that unit promotion will affect about 20 per cent of students.

Demands Tax Cuts Now From Fat Budget

OTTAWA (CP)—A Progressive Conservative spokesman says the government's fat budget surplus calls for tax cuts now instead of next year.

Donald Fleming said in the Commons Tuesday the government has no right to continue levying high income taxes when it will end the fiscal year next March 31 with a huge surplus.

The member for Toronto Eglinton said the basic tax exemptions on personal income—1,000 for single persons and 2,000 for married taxpayers—should be increased. He also called for an increase in the 20,000 income level at which corporation income tax

changes from a 20-per-cent rate to 47 per cent.

He spoke during debate on the government's bill to enact a series of minor changes in the Income Tax Act, announced in the March 20 budget of Finance Minister Harris.

Mr. Fleming said the federal treasury ran a surplus of \$274,200,000 in the first two months of this fiscal year, compared with a \$136,600,000 surplus a year earlier. A large surplus for the full year was assured.

The government's tax bill was finally given second reading—approval in principle.


CANADIAN PLAYS ONLY TORONTO (CP)—A playhouse to be devoted exclusively to production of Canadian plays is to be opened here next season, the New Play Society announced Friday. It is believed to be the first theatre to produce only Canadian plays for an entire season.

It is to be supervised by J. Mavor VICTORIA (CP)—The seismograph at the Dominion astrophysical observatory near here recorded a sharp earthquake at 3:59 p.m. PDT Thursday. Attendees placed the centre of the quake in the Pacific Ocean about 470 miles northwest of here off the northern tip of Vancouver Island.


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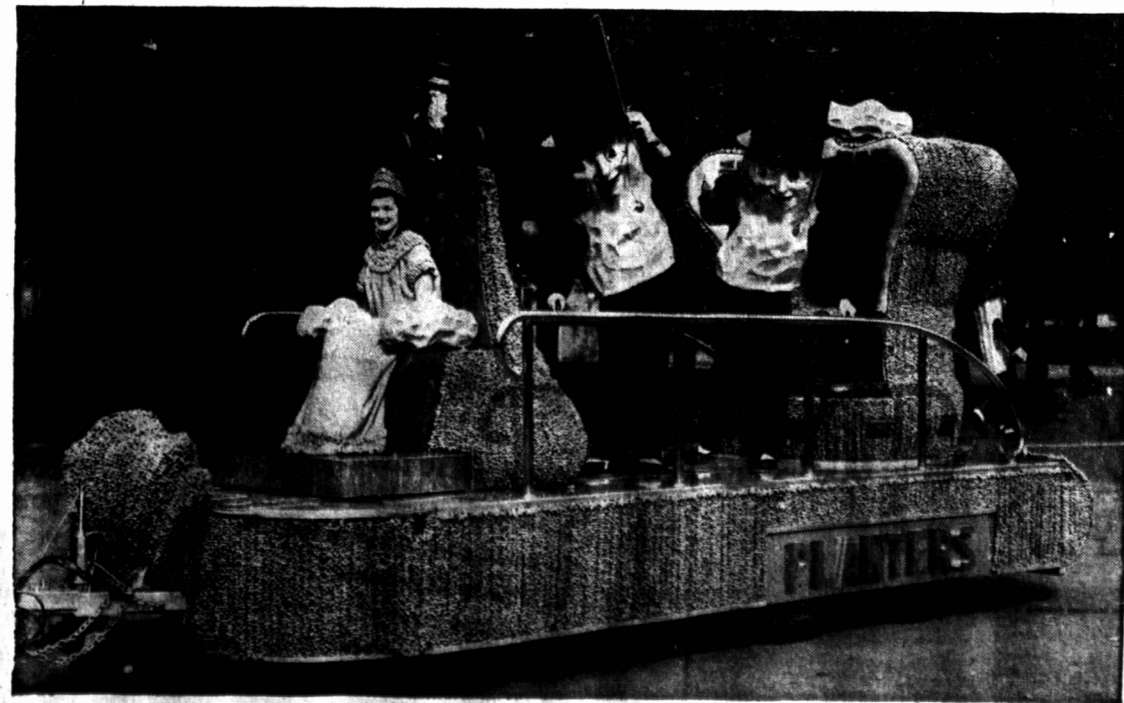
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