

FRANTIC REQUESTS FOR LABOR MADE TO MINISTER BY LARGE LUMBER INTERESTS

**Hon. T. W. Crothers Even Asked
to Release Aliens to go to Shan-
ties—Companies Must Use
Men Fairly.**

Hon. T. W. Crothers, Minister of Labor, is afraid that labor will be scarce this winter. Large employers of labor, chiefly lumbermen, are looking for men and cannot get them. They are hoping for relief when the western harvesters drift into Winnipeg. In that connection an appeal has been made to the Government to assist in bringing these men east. However, it is very unlikely that this will be done.

Mr. Crothers has been asked to assist in getting one thousand men for a great power and pulp plant which is being established on the N.T.R. about 400 miles from Cochrane, and is doing what he can to get them. This work will go on for two years.

Local lumbermen and some in New Brunswick are appealing for men. One New Brunswick lumberman wants 500 men. He states that he cannot induce local workers to go to the camps.

Abolish Old System.

The situation has enabled the Minister of Labor to lay down the law to the lumbermen. He announces to them with emphasis that the old system of making the men board themselves and keeping a store handy in which the men must make their purchases has got to cease. It has too often been found that these men at the end of a month find themselves owing the company money instead of the company owing them money. Exorbitant prices are in many cases charged for supplies. "Now," says Mr. Crothers, "the lumbermen must board the men and pay them something at the end of the month."

To one lumberman who said his charge for boarding the men would be \$25 per month the Minister of Labor said: "That is altogether too much. It won't do."

Want Aliens Released.

Another large employer of labor has asked the Government to release some of the aliens who are prisoners in the internment camps. Mr. Crothers' reply to this is that it must be shown him that this employer or any others has done everything possible to obtain help on a reasonable basis of pay and has failed before he will even consider the question.

"At the present moment," concluded the minister, "it looks as if there would be no lack of employment this winter. Indeed, it seems as if labor in some industries would be very scarce."