

Where Labor is at a Premium.

Winnipeg, July 17.—(Special.)—An acute labor problem is confronting construction contractors for the mountain section of the National Transcontinental Railway, and it is probable the Government will take special steps to solve it. W. W. Corey, Deputy Minister of the Interior, joined Sir Wilfrid and Hon. Mr. Graham, Minister of Railways, on the touring train yesterday. It is understood he came from Ottawa to confer with them. Messrs. Chamberlain and Stewart, contractors for the mountain section, have intimated that it is impossible to complete the section in reasonable time unless they can get more labor.

Existing immigration regulations provide that no foreigner can come into **Canada** except directly from his native country. It is understood the regulation was designed to deal with drifting Asiatics. The United States railways are shutting down in construction to a certain extent, and many **foreigners** accustomed to railway work are out of jobs. Under the regulations they cannot be hired in **Canada**. The contractors reported that they cannot get labor, although they are offering \$2.25 to \$3.00 per day with board. They have 1,600 men at work, and ought to have over 5,000. Chief Government Engineer Collingwood Schreiber, in charge of the western division of the Grand Trunk Pacific, reports to the Minister that he cannot complete the work in time unless labor is immediately secured. The contractors engaged hundreds of men from the United States, but they were turned back at the border by officials of the Department of the Interior under the existing regulations. Mr. Corey is in conference with the Premier and the Minister of Railways, with a view to evolving some immediate solution of the problem.