

MINISTER OF LABOR PREDICTS SCARCITY OF LABOR IN WINTER

Ottawa, Oct. 25.—The Minister of Labor, Hon. T. W. Crothers, predicts a scarcity of labor during the coming winter. He states big employers of labor during the winter months, including the lumber companies, are looking for men and having a hard time securing them. An appeal has been made to bring east the men who went west for the harvest.

It is not likely, however, that such assistance will be granted. Local Ottawa lumbermen and lumbermen from New Brunswick are appealing for men for the winter camps. Last winter the camps had no trouble getting men at low wages, this winter it is hard to get them at any price.

Mr. Crothers has been asked to assist in supplying 1,000 men for a new pulp company to be established on the National Transcontinental west of Cochrane.

The minister states that a new system will have to be inaugurated by the lumber interests, if they are to receive any assistance in securing men. The system by which the men are compelled to board themselves, and in making their purchases from the company's store, he says has been abolished.

It has frequently been found, the minister claims, that at the end of the season, the men are in debt to the particular company by which they were employed. The companies, he says, must board the men, and pay them their wages at the end of the month.

The suggestion has been made by many of the influential lumbermen that aliens in the internment camps should be released and put to work in the lumber camps. This will not be considered unless the lumbermen can show that they have done everything possible to secure labor at reasonable wages and have failed.