RED STAR OVER KOREA is threat to life and happiness of population. This flag of Russian-dominated North Korea, display of which is forbidden in Japan, is being held by Korean in Tokyo. He's careful to keep his face hidden. (AP Wirephoto.)

Japs Claim 'Gyp' Of Half-Million

Probe Commissioner Told Seized B.C. Holdings Sold Far Too Cheaply

A half million dollar claim by a Japanese-owned lumber company is being heard this week by Mr. Justice Bird.

He is acting as Dominion government commissioner appointed to probe claims of former B.C. Japanese residents that they did not receive fair compensation for war-seized properties.

It is the claim of Royston Lumber Co. Ltd., which had extensive holdings on Vancouver Island at the time of Pearl Harbor.

The property, seized, was sold to Somerset Co. Ltd. for $202,000, based on a $3 per thousand rate for 45,000,000 feet of standing timber.

J. A. McLennan, is pressing the claim of G. K. Uchiyama, Kamloops, former general manager of the Royston Co. which controls $525,000 was the proper value of the lumber company's holdings.

RE-SOLD FOR $335,000

He told the commissioner there was 69,000,000 feet of timber and that the real estate and mill were worth much more than was obtained by the custodian.

Evidence was given that the property was resold in 1945 for $335,000.

Eustace Smith, timber cruiser, was the first witness called for the government by G. W. McPherson, former deputy secretary of state, who is acting for the crown on Japanese corporation claims.

"NOT IMPRESSED"

Mr. Smith said he figured the timber on the Royston property was mostly number two and three grade which should bring at the end of 1942 $3 per thousand.

He said he was not impressed with the mill or the logging railway though the whole property was valued at $259,000 for the custodian.

After reviewing several tenders received when the property was advertised, Mr. Smith said he recommended acceptance of the Somerset offer of $202,000.

The case is proceeding.

More Immigrants

MONTREAL, Oct. 21—(CP)—More than 500 immigrants, many of whom had waited for years to come to Canada, arrived Wednesday aboard the Empress of France. Most of the newcomers will go to Ontario and Western Canada.

X-Ray Finds Spot on Lung Of Seaman

WINNIPEG, Oct. 21—(CP)—Preliminary X-ray examination of British merchant seaman Ken Darling has disclosed a large spot on the apex of his left lung, it was reported unofficially here today.

The 24-year-old sailor deserted his ship in New York after having been refused permission to Canada. He surrendered a few days later to immigration authorities at Emerson, Man.

Following detailed correspondence between officials at Emerson, Winnipeg and Ottawa it was decided to grant Darling a medical examination in Winnipeg. Should this test give him a clean slate of health he will be allowed to remain in the Dominion.

Meanwhile, his 23-year-old Edmonton sweetheart, Eileen Newnham, is waiting in Winnipeg for the examination to conclude.

Whether the spot indicates he has tuberculosis will depend upon comparison with old plates. Results are expected within a few days.

Single Word May Decide Fate Of Rebel Woodworkers' Union

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Oct. 21.—The difference between the letter "A" and the definite article "the" will play a major part in the current battle between new Woodworkers Industrial Union and the International Woodworkers of America for union control of B.C.'s logging industry.

For on this difference depends whether Harold Pritchett's WIU will be able to get bargaining rights immediately for workers in plants that have turned to his rebel group, or whether it will have to wait until next June—10 months after the signing of the recent IWA agreement with the coast logging industry.

Legal authorities here are considering the question now and will make a ruling shortly. Pritchett has made his first applications for bargaining rights for the WIU and the question must be settled.

It is a fine point of law that comes about because a section of the ICA Act—B.C.'s labor code—provides that when a collective agreement is in force a new bargaining agent cannot apply for rights until "a" collective agreement has been in force for ten months. Other Canadian laws dealing with the same point use the definite "the."

This section was put into the law to give a union the 10-month period in which to stabilize its control after once negotiating a settlement on behalf of its men.

The point to be settled in the IWA-WIU is this: Do the words "a collective agreement" refer to the last agreement signed in September or do they simply have to do with any agreement that a union has signed.

If the latter interpretation is applicable—on the grounds that the IWA has had agreements in the particular plant or logging camp in question for years and is therefore "stabilized" there—then the WIU could be certified at once, if it had enough members to oust the IWA.

The issue takes on serious importance in the current dispute between the two unions. If WIU had to wait another nine months for bargaining reports it's chance of survival might be slim.

SKUNK GOES TO POLICE FOR AID

STAFFORD SPRINGS, Conn., Oct. 21—(AP)—Westbrook state police hustled to Essex Monday to free a skunk whose head had become stuck in a salad dressing jar.

Yesterday, state policeman James DEK thought he heard someone knocking on the back door of the barracks. It was another skunk in a similar plight.

Dick shattered the jar and freed the animal—without damage to the skunk or to himself.

Organizer Named

OTTAWA, Oct. 21—(CP)—The Federal Liberal Party has appointed Hon. Joseph Jean, solicitor-general in the cabinet, as the party's organizer in Quebec Province, it was learned Wednesday.

But to get established on a bargaining basis now would give the new union a chance to test its strength against the IWA before time and circumstance wiped out any foothold the WIU maybe have secured in the initial break-away.

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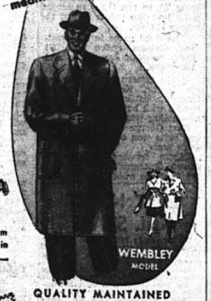

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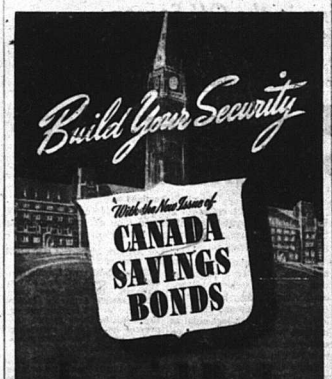

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