

THE B.C. LUMBER WORKER

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(287)

PROPOSED I.C.A. ACT AMENDMENT WOULD COMPEL UNION RECOGNITION

Sub-Dist. Negotiations Prove Highly Successful

Negotiations between the managements of the Victoria Lumber Manufacturing Company Limited, the Lake Logging Company Ltd., and representatives of their employees, 90 per cent of whom are members of Local 1-80 of the International Woodworkers of America (CIO), got under way this weekend. The meeting with the first company took place in the Chalmers office of the VL & M Company, with Manager John

Humbird, Mill Superintendent Harold Evans, and Logging Superintendent Thor Christianson representing the management, and John Parkinson, Burris Boley, John Starling, Cecil Carr, George Parlee, Lorne Atchison, Alex Gammie, Wilf Kileen and Nigel Morgan representing the employees.

The meeting with the Lake Logging Company was held in the head office of Local 1-80 in Duncan. Manager H. W. Hunter, Mr. Kenneth Rounds and mill manager Haskill represented the company, and Albert Kidd, A. McArthur, Cecil Carr, George Parlee, John Parkinson, Lorne Atchison, Alex Gammie, Wilf Kileen, George Grafton and Nigel Morgan, the employees. In addition to the question of a union agreement, the Committee also took up the matter of wages, which it was agreed would be referred to a Committee

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Death Toll In Industry Up

The toll of death in B.C.'s lumbering industry for the year 1943 rose to nine this week with the reports of six more logging fatalities.

Carl Higgins, 60-year-old veteran logger, died on Feb. 24 in the Nelson hospital from injuries received when he slipped from a skidway and fell about 12 feet. He landed on his head on hard-packed snow.

A brief report to Provincial Police, Feb. 19, said Albert Gertmeyer was fatally injured at Oliver, B.C. He was crushed when a log rolled on him. Further details were not available.

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10
Woodworkers
have been
killed in B.C.'s
lumber industry since
Jan. 1, 1943

Highlight of the past week was the long expected introduction last Friday of the bill to amend the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act of British Columbia. The changes in the Act, introduced by Minister of Labor George Pearson, contain several very important steps forward, including the guarantee by law that where the majority of the employees are members of a trade union, that union shall have the right to bargain for all employees affected. This amendment clarifies the status of unions as bargaining agencies—a point which has been the subject of considerable controversy in recent months and the direct cause of more than two-thirds of our industrial disputes.

The original act legalized the right of employees and employers to organize for any lawful purpose, but didn't define the bargaining powers of trade unions as set forth in the amendment.

The new amendment dealing with bargaining status states:

(1) It shall be lawful for employees to bargain collectively with their employer.
(2) Collective bargaining shall be conducted on behalf of employees by bargaining representatives.

Newly Elected District Officers Installed At Board Meeting Mar. 3



Left to right, seated: Mark Mosher, third vice-president, Loggers' Local 1-85; Ernie Dalskog, second vice-president, Loggers' Local 1-71; Winnie Williams, stenographer; Bert Melsness, secretary-treasurer, Plywood Local 1-217; Harold Pritchett, president, Sawmill Local 1-217; Hjalmar Bergren, first vice-president, Loggers' Local 1-80; Jack Lindsay, three-year trustee, Sawmill Local 1-357; Percy Smith, executive committee member from Local 1-357. Standing: Darshan Singh Sangha, two-year trustee, Sawmill Local 1-118; Nigel Morgan, International Executive Board Member, District No. 1, Loggers' Local 1-71. Absent: Heman Valley, one-year trustee, Loggers' Local 1-80; and Frank Carlson, Executive Committee Member from Local 1-71.

The first meeting of the newly elected Executive Board of IWA-CIO District Council No. 1 was held on March 3 at District Headquarters, 504 Holden Building, Vancouver. Nigel Morgan, International Executive Board member, installed the newly elected officers, who then proceeded to discuss the business of the union.

The most important matter was the proposed changes to the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act. Members of the board were of the opinion that the ICA Act was a tremendous step forward in labor legislation. The board instructed Nigel Morgan to proceed Delegation where points such as to Victoria with the Joint Labor (1) the elimination of all reference

to employees' organizations, (2) the inclusion of a clause insuring the signing of a joint agreement between the management and the union on the completion of negotiations, and (3) elimination of the clause permitting changing of the bargaining agency after a six months' period, will be discussed with the Minister of Labor and the government.

Important Notice

Due to office expansion, it has been necessary to change our telephone number. When calling the District Office in the future, please call PACIFIC 4151

The question of time-and-a-half premium overtime pay in the lumbering industry was thoroughly discussed. The executive was instructed to proceed with the preparation and presentation of a brief to the

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(3) Employees may elect bargaining representatives by majority vote, but if a majority of employees affected are members of one trade union, that union shall have the right to conduct bargaining. In that case, union officers or such persons as the union may elect shall be bargaining representatives whether union members or not.

(4) Notification shall be given the Labor Minister of the election of bargaining representatives, whether elected by the employees or through a trade union.

(5) The minister may satisfy himself by such steps as he thinks proper that the election was regularly and properly conducted and, in the case of union claiming bargaining rights, that a majority of the employees affected are members of the union.

(6) If the minister is not satisfied, he may require a new election.

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Courtenay To Have Charter

Loggers in the Courtenay-Campbell River-Fanny Bay area made application to the International Office of the IWA-CIO last week for a new Local Charter, which would take in all loggers and millworkers on the East Coast of Vancouver Island from Qualicum north as far as Menzies Bay. The increased membership and consolidation of the organization which was formerly a part of Local 1-80 as well as new transportation difficulties lead to the application for another local. The application has the official endorsement of Local 1-80 as well as the District Council. The granting of this new Charter will bring IWA Locals in B.C. up to a total of seven with forty-two functioning Sub-Locals.

The head office of Local 1-80, formerly at the foot of Cowichan Lake and for the last year located in Nanaimo, has been transferred to Duncan, which is the most

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LETTERS

Sawmill News

"Every Reader a Correspondent"

REPORTS

CHIPS and SAWDUST

By GREEN-CHAIN PETE

Last week we were very interested to see a leaflet which was written by someone who signed themselves the "Old Timers." No one knows who they are, but they apparently haunt some part of Fraser Mills. They were advocating some sort of a company union. You know the thought just came to me that a certain fellow named Mackin is an old timer in that part of the country. One of the leaflets was signed "Old Timbers," which we think is a better name. Most old timers know that the IWA is a good union. The old whatever-they-ares must have gone sour as old timbers usually do.

For some time past this paper has been delivered to several mills on False Creek. Now it is your turn. If you are interested in bettering your wages and conditions, let us know. The Local and District officers are anxious to help you to organize. Let us hear from you soon.

The log shortage which recently closed several mills is now somewhat relieved and most mills are now reopening. Let's hope that everyone will soon be back on the job so that we can get on with the job of building the union.

Continued

Death Toll

H. V. Harris, 63-year-old Nakusp logger, was fatally injured Sunday, Feb. 28, while engaged in logging operations. Pinned between two logs, he was found after several hours by his own son, Jack.

Jacob Thomas, mill worker, died in Vancouver General Hospital Sunday, Feb. 28, nine days after he was injured in an accident at the mill of Sitka Spruce Lumber Company Limited on False Creek. Inquest will be held by Dr. John D. Whitbread, coroner.

Arthur Manual, of Bradner, and Mike Gaydick, of Vancouver, were drowned Feb. 16 while attempting to clear ice on Goat Lake, Vancouver Island, according to word received by the Provincial Police. They were employed by the B. & K. Logging Company.

August Mettner, 42, faller at Western Logging Company's camp at Forward Harbor, was killed in a logging accident March 4.

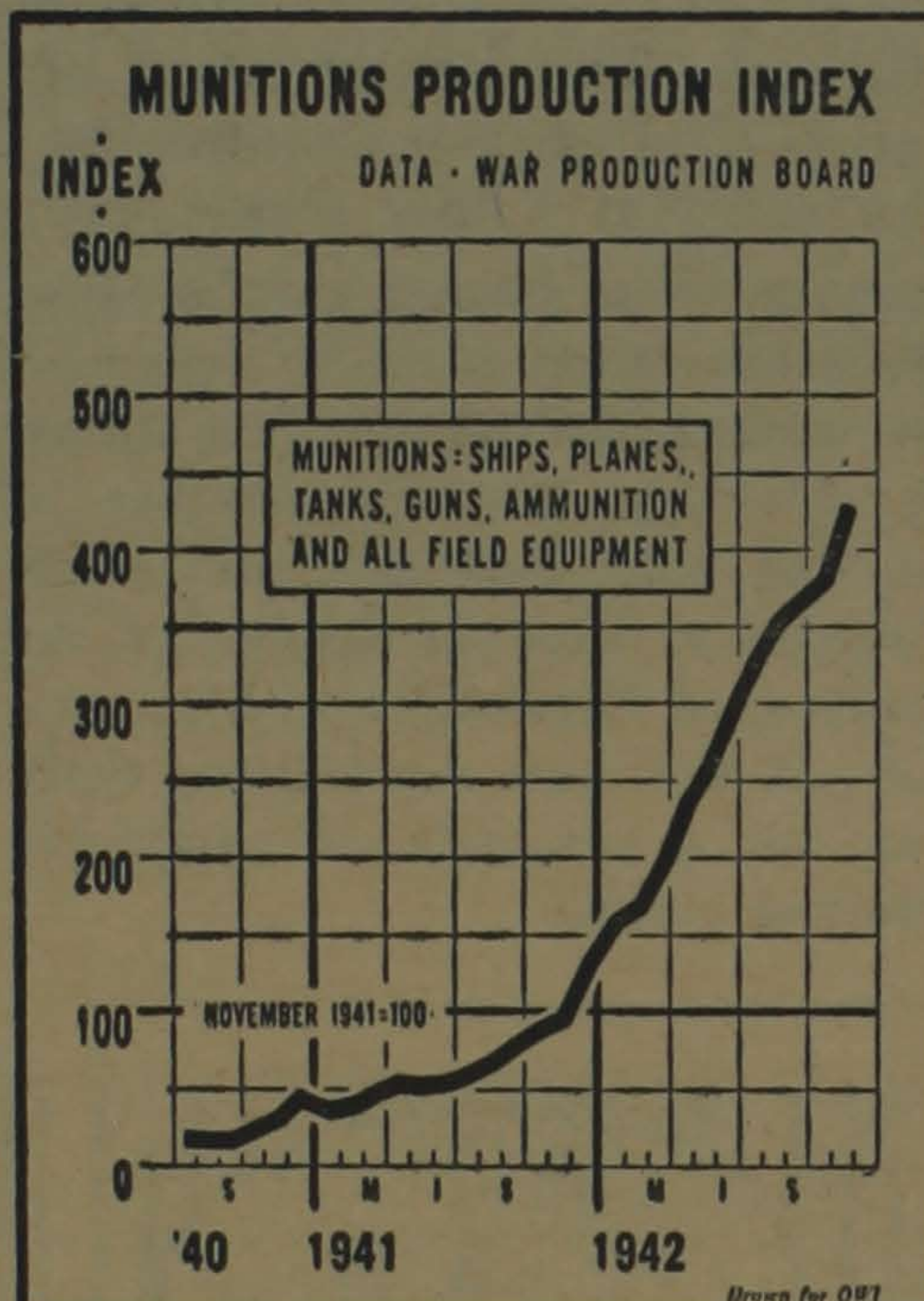
Loggers, Shipyard Workers, Laborers, meet your friends at the **REX CAFE Ltd.** Where All Union People Eat HOME OF TASTY MEALS Union House J. Mirras, Mgr. 6 EAST HASTINGS PAC. 6741

Youbou Orientals Demand Equal Pay For Equal Work

YOUNBOU, B.C. — The East Indian and Chinese workers at the Youbou sawmill, more than 100 in number, appealed last week to officials of Youbou IWA-CIO Sub-Local 1-80 to assist them in obtaining equal pay for equal work. Arrangements were made for a meeting with both groups by Youbou officials in which the Government's War Time Wage Regulations were explained by Nigel Morgan, International Executive Board Member. Later, it was decided to make an application to the Regional War Labor Board to have the principle of equal pay for equal work established. Questionnaires were distributed to get the information required for a presentation of a brief to the Regional Board.

Following the discussion on the wage matter, workers in the East Indian bunkhouses, which are the second in British Columbia to display the "100% Union Bunkhouse Card," unanimously endorsed a resolution addressed to the IWA-CIO B.C. District Council asking their

endorsement of a plea for the immediate release of Gandhi and granting of the democratic right of self-government to the people of India. Attending the meetings with brother Morgan were President John Atkinson, Secretary Wilf Kielen and Grievance Committee Chairman Gibson of the Youbou Sub-Local.



Duncan Sub-Local Dance Successful

A most successful dance was held in the Duncan K of P Hall last Friday night when the Duncan Sub-Local entertained loggers and mill workers from the Duncan-Cowichan area. Crowded they claim, even worse than the Annual Loggers' Ball, this first effort of the Duncan Sub-Local has shown what the IWA members in this island lumbering centre, which has just been made the new headquarters of Local 1-80, can do. A great deal of credit is due to Brother George Nokes, who was the chairman of the dance committee, which, it is announced, are going ahead with the sponsoring of additional dances to raise funds for the Crippled Children's Solarium at Mill Bay and also for the IWA Army Cigarette Fund.

Vice-President Expresses Thanks

My sincere thanks to the members of Local 1-71 for the honor conferred on me when they elected me Third Vice-President. I will do everything in my power to forward the interests of the organization at all times.

MYLES NUGENT.

Hammond Cedar Crews Seek Organizational Aid

Last week a committee of the employees of the Hammond Cedar Company Limited met with the organizer, Jack Greenall, and Percy Smith, business agent of IWA-CIO Local 1-357 to lay plans for the organization of that mill. The company employs approximately 300 men. For many years the woodworkers in these outlying areas have been without organization due mainly to the fact that the union couldn't maintain a staff large enough to cover all points. Now that the IWA has grown and can take care of all outlying areas such as Hammond, Ruskin, Chilliwack and Silverdale, the woodworkers employed in these areas are taking the opportunity of joining the union.

Some months ago, the employees of the Butler Shingle Mill and Sawmill at Silverdale joined the union and now that the organization is extending into the other mills in the area such as Hammond Cedar, it is expected that in the near future the growth of the organization of this area will necessitate the placing of a full-time business agent there.

Alberni Plywood Workers Want Union Conditions

The Alberni Plywoods, with some 300 employees, is a part of the great McMillan Industries Empire and is a vital war industry. As a result of the times, the employees consist mostly of women, of which a majority are girls in their 'teens. These people are desirous of doing their utmost for the war effort and the defeat of Hitler-Fascism.

There is an opinion among many of the female employees that their employment is only temporary or until the war is over, when they will be replaced with men demobilized by the army and those now employed in other vital war industries. The company, of course, is taking advantage of this negative outlook among so many of its employees, by paying from 12 to 28 cents per hour less to women than to men for doing the same job. At the same time, as soon as the women acquire the necessary skill, they replace the men employed; a very profitable arrangement for the company and one that gradually undermines the whole prevailing wage structure in the plant without affecting production.

It is a feeling among union members employed in the plant, that this system now practiced by the company, if allowed to carry on

to its logical conclusion, will mean that equal pay for equal work will be established on the basis of the wages now paid to women, instead of the higher rate paid to men.

The only way the company can be prevented from undermining the wage structure in this manner is by us getting together through organization, which a considerable number of us realize, and take advantage of the opportunity offered by the International Woodworkers of America, Local 1-85.

The company, on the other hand, laid the basis for the prevention of this as soon as the plant was ready to operate, by setting up a Conference Committee consisting of three people each from the management and the employees. This committee serves as a sounding board for the company. Outside of this it has no function except to place the stamp of approval upon any policy that the company may choose to adopt or institute, which could not be otherwise when we consider that irrespective of how willing or honest the employees' representatives may be, they are without authority, direction or the weight of organized backing from their fellow workers.

We believe that a large number of employees in the plant realize the benefits and hope to see the plant organized into the IWA. They are ready to rally around the shop stewards' four-point program for unionization.

Let us raise the slogan of Equal Pay for Equal Work at the rate now paid to men and back it up by joining the IWA 100 percent.

Plywood Press Committee.

Morgan Lectures Study Group

In response to a widespread desire for greater knowledge of the history, functions and problems of trade unions, the Labor Youth Federation is sponsoring a study group at its center, 560 Granville Street. The group is under the guidance of Nigel Morgan, International Executive Board Member of the IWA. Mr. Morgan's years of experience as a worker, organizer and leader, make him well qualified for such a position. The talks commenced on Tuesday, Feb. 23, at 8 p.m. and will meet every Tuesday for from four to six weeks. All those interested in furthering their knowledge and understanding of trade unionism are invited to attend.

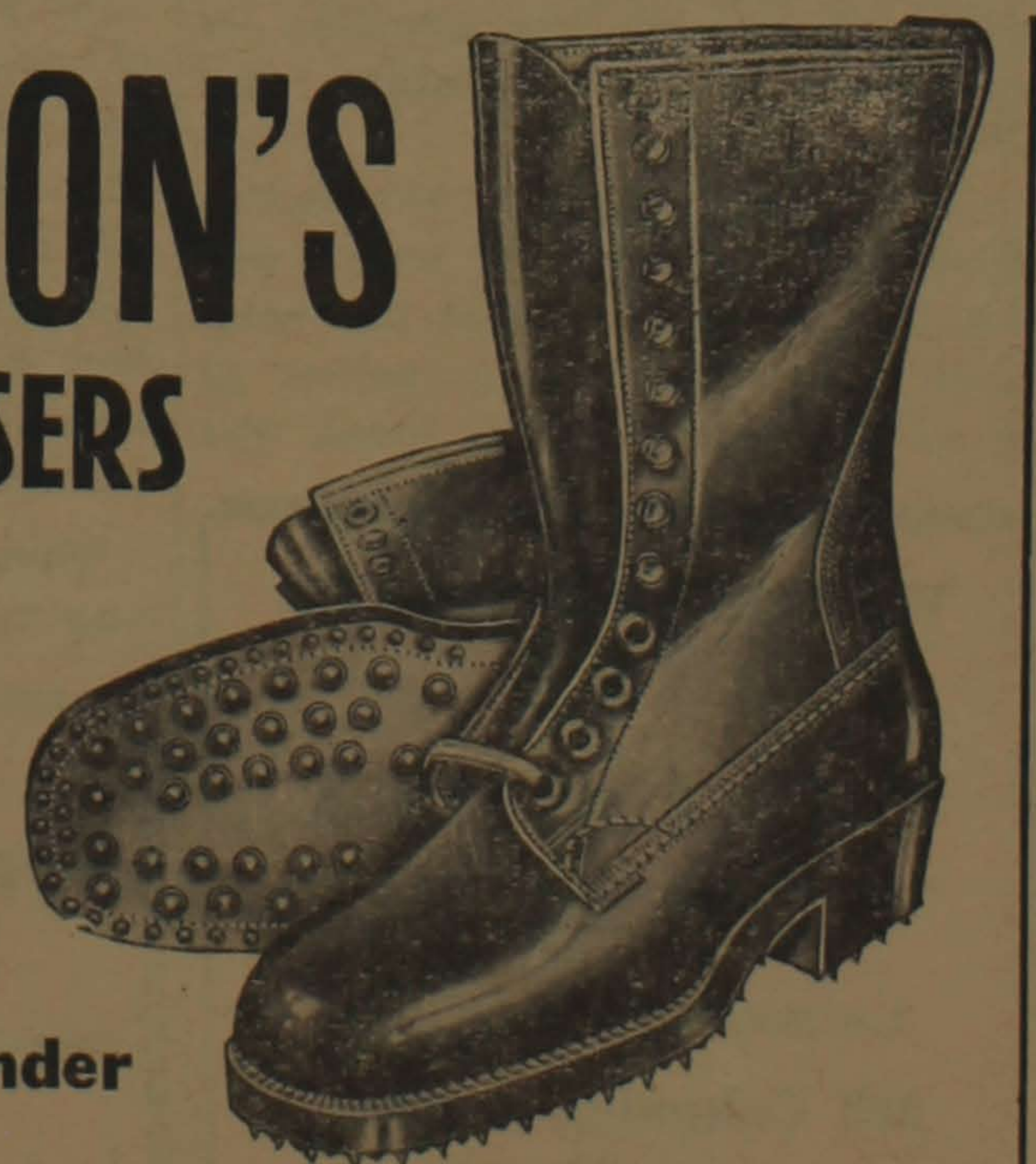
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