

INTERNATIONAL CLAY PRODUCTS, LTD.

G. A. CALVERT
MANAGING DIRECTOR

Manufacturers of



Fine Clay Products

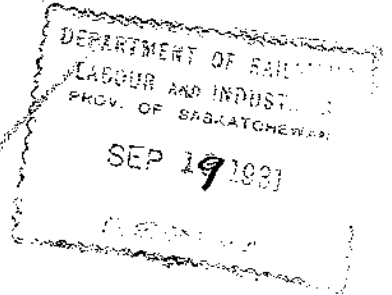
REGINA OFFICE
402 LEADER BUILDING

HEAD OFFICE

ESTEVAN, SASK.

Sept. 18th, 1931.

T. M. Molloy, Esq.,
Deputy Minister,
Department of Railways, Labour & Industry,
Regina, Sask.



Dear Sir:

As you have doubtless learned from press reports our company has been involved in the labour troubles now prevalent in this district. The accounts in the newspapers have been fairly accurate, so that it is hardly necessary to trouble you with the details at this time.

The points in dispute were not originally of very great moment, and could no doubt have been settled by negotiation had the opportunity of doing so been afforded us. The men, however, appeared to have lacked intelligent leadership, and precipitated the strike without warning.

We have reason to believe that there is a very general feeling among them now that the walk-out was ill-advised under the circumstances, and if some means could be devised whereby the self-respect of both sides could be saved, it is highly probable that the men would return to work. Unfortunately, however, since the strike, and not before, the question of recognition of the union has been interjected into the dispute, and so far as the men are concerned, this appears to overshadow the main points at issue.

Our company is not hostile to organized labour, but it has had no previous dealings with this particular union, and has been afforded no opportunity of learning what it stands for and what recognition of it involves. The men, rather unfairly, we think, refuse to discuss this point, but insist upon recognition first, and discussion afterwards. We have a suspicion that recognition will involve the dismissal of those men who have remained faithful to us during this crisis, and this, of course, the company cannot under any circumstances entertain.

It might be possible, however, that in the interests of peace the men who have remained with us might be induced to

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join the union, providing that it was an organization that self-respecting British subjects could affiliate themselves with. This, however, there seems to be strong reason to doubt, and as we are unable to learn anything about the union from the men, we would be obliged if you could give us any information regarding it.

The name of the union is the Lumber and Agricultural Industries Union. We believe it to be affiliated with the Mine Workers Union, and we presume with the Red Internationale. This is all the information we have concerning it. We do not know who its officers are, and in fact the one representative with whom we had a few minutes conversation disclaimed any responsibility for calling the strike. The union, however, appears to insist upon having a say in settling it.

You will understand, of course, that this particular strike has no direct bearing upon the mine strike, although doubtless the latter tends to aggravate our own situation. You are probably also aware that we are just about at the end of our season, and have only a very short period of employment to offer. With this in mind, therefore, it seems to us that it would be a reasonable solution to the present deadlock for the men to return to work for this short period, finish up what we have to do, and close up the plant for the season, leaving the points in dispute to be settled before the plant re-opens next spring. All this could be without prejudice to either side. Such a solution, however, would have to be arrived at very quickly, as the season is getting far advanced.

We would appreciate any comments you might have to make on this situation, and particularly any information you can give us regarding this union. Of course, this is entirely in confidence, and you may depend upon our not quoting you. Similarly the above statements are for your own information only.

Yours very truly,



G. A. Calvert
Managing Director.

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