

LANDS FOR THE SETTLER IS THE LIBERAL POLICY

Conservative Charge and the Facts in Relation There- to--35,000,000 Acres of Land Given to Homesteaders Since 1896

The practice of paining off false-
hoods designed to serve the purposes
of faction, in the guise of truths
uttered for the public weal, is spoken of
by Macaulay as one likely to continue in all
ages. Shakespeare puts in the mouth
of Lear a contemptuous reference to
the same practice:

"Get thee glass eyes,
And like a scurvy politician, seem
To see the things thou dost not."

The American magic lantern as a means
of conveying political falsehoods is
among the modern developments of the
art referred to as it is practised in this
country in this year of grace, says the
Manitoba Free Press. But the most
shameless palming off of party mis-
representations in the guise of truths
uttered for the public weal is that
which is practised in the dissemination
of such statements as the follow-
ing, which is here reproduced from a
recent editorial in the Ottawa Evening
Journal, professing to discuss the re-
cord of the present Dominion govern-
ment:

"The land, instead of going direct to
the settler, has passed first through the
hands of the middlemen, friends of the
government, some of them now even
members of parliament and supporting
the government. They buy for a song
and sell at a profit for hundreds of
thousands. Lands, coal areas, timber
leases, grazing leases, irrigation priv-
ileges, the public domain in the West
in all concrete forms, pass into the
hands of a few groups of men, is
alienated forever at prices ridiculously
incommensurate with its real value and
the man who is to meet the enhanced
cost which the speculators are to exact
is the settler whose interest the Lib-
eral leaders in 1893 pledged themselves
to protect."

This is truly a sweeping indictment.
It amounts, if the words bear their
conventional meaning, to this, that the
Liberal government has failed to do
the government to make it impossible for
the actual settler to get access to the
land without first dealing with a mid-
dleman. But will the statement stand
examination? Lands, coal areas, tim-
ber leases, grazing leases, irrigation
privileges, in a word, "the public do-
main" in the West in all its concrete
form, is pictured as "alienated forever,"
at the expense of the settler.

The Free Press proposes to consider
the first item in this list, namely, the
lands. As for coal areas, timber leases,
grazing leases, and irrigation leases,
these may be left for discussion later.
Suffice it here to point out that these
latter require the employment of large
capital, and thus, in that sense, stand
apart from the case of the settler. For
the development of a coal area, shafts
have to be sunk and machinery install-
ed, necessitating such large outlays
of money as are possible only by com-
panies; the same is the case with the
timber berths. As for grazing leases,
they are necessary for the continuance
of the ranching industry, but they have
not stood in the way of the settler; the
range, as in Southern Alberta, has been
converted into farms and the settlers
have come in. As for irrigation, it is
work which has to be done on a large
scale, involving heavy outlays; and the
very fact of its being necessary in any
area is proof in itself that that area is
one which will be passed by the settler
in his search for a home.

Let us, therefore, to-day discuss the
treatment of the actual settler, for
whom the Ottawa Evening Journal
professes so much concern; and let us
see what light the facts throw upon the
above-quoted assertion of a paper
which, by the way, assumes an air of
being impartial, and occasionally lect-
ures the other newspapers of Canada
in a superior way on their failure to
be even as it is.

The arable land of Western Canada
is divided into odd-numbered and even-
numbered sections. The odd-numbered
sections have until the present time
been reserved from settlement by
homesteading. What for? They were
set aside by the Conservative govern-
ment which was in power in Ottawa
from 1873 to 1896, as a reserve, from
which the railway land grants made
lavishly by that government were to
be selected. When the Liberal govern-
ment took office in 1896, the odd-num-
bered sections were thus tied up. Com-
paratively little progress has been
made in the selection of the millions
upon millions of acres of railway
grants. The first thing done by the
Liberal government was to stop the
policy of granting lands by railway.
Not an acre of land has been granted
by the Liberal government to any rail-
way. But the grants already author-
ized by the legislation of the Conserva-
tive government have been extended to
five years unless Canada was prepared
to repudiate obligations which it had
voluntarily assumed. Until these
grants were so tied up, the odd-num-
bered sections had to remain tied up. To
the work of hastening the selection by
the grantees the Liberal government
upon taking office, addressed itself. It
was necessary to work, as there
were many millions of acres to be se-
lected, and the grantees did not find it
in their interest to hasten unduly in
making their choice; as the longer they
waited the longer would be the extension
of their period of exemption from provin-
cial and municipal taxation. That
work was at last completed; and its
completion meant the reversion to the
government of Canada of some 30,000,
000 acres, of which probably 20,000,000
acres are good arable land, available
for immediate settlement.

If the Laurier government were a
government of graft, as so many are
charged by its enemies, the reversion to
its control of this immense area of
arable land would mean the opening
up of an unprecedented opportuni-
ty for corruption on a colossal scale.
These millions of acres could be

carved up in land deals like those of
the Robin government, for the en-
richment of individuals; and the man
who would have to meet the enhanced
cost to be exacted by the looters
would be the settler. But what course
has the Dominion government taken
in regard to these odd-numbered
sections? It has taken a course which
absolutely bars out the land specu-
lator.

The odd-numbered sections are
thrown open first to actual home-
steaders, and next for sale at the price
of \$3 per acre, fixed by statute, to
men who have already homesteaded,
and who can only acquire title by
fulfilling settlement conditions on the
odd-numbered sections, which they
have the right to buy at \$3 per acre.
The settler thus cannot get in at all
on the odd-numbered sections.
They can be obtained only by actual
settlers.

Does the Ottawa Evening Journal
think, or does it not think, that this
is to the advantage of "the settler,"
whose interest the Liberal leaders in
1893 pledged themselves to protect?

So much for the odd-numbered sec-
tions. Let us now consider the even-
numbered sections, which from the be-
ginning have been sold, with condi-
tions of settlement, to the Saska-
atchewan Valley Land Company.

The results secured by that departure
from the government's fixed policy
have been just what it abundantly
is no part of the government's record
to which it is more entitled to point
with satisfaction. What can the Ot-
tawa Evening Journal adduce in sup-
port of its assertion that the Liberal
government has "alienated forever at prices ridi-
culously incommensurate with its real
value" to speculators? It is easy to
do this. The Ottawa Evening Journal,
which says that all land has been made
over to the grantees. But the making
of such assertions, and the repetition
of them does not make them true.

Before turning to the consideration
of the actual amount of land which has
been taken up in the free homesteads
under the Liberal government, it is
necessary, in order to cover the whole
ground, that a word should be said
about the half-breed scrip. It is a
fact that even-numbered sections of
land have passed to holders of half-breed
scrip without conditions of settlement.
But this procedure was fixed at the
time the Dominion became part of
the Dominion. It was part of the cost
of the Dominion's title; it was based
on treaties involving the granting of
this scrip in extinguishment of the In-
dian title to the public lands; and the
Ottawa Evening Journal will hardly
attempt to question its justice and
wisdom, and cannot question the ne-
cessity of the present government was
to carry out the policy of the system
which on entering office it found estab-
lished by law. In point of fact, more-
over, the land scrip issued by the Lib-
erals to the half-breeds was only one-
third of the amount issued by the Con-
servatives between 1873 and 1896.

With the exceptions thus noted, the
Ottawa Evening Journal cannot point
to any even-numbered land disposed of
by the present Dominion government
otherwise than to settlers.

We now come to the free homesteads
given to settlers. The official annual
report of the Department of the Interior
for 1907, when a six months' period
was the stepping stone to having the
immigration year and the fiscal year
coincide. In 1908 it was decided to have
the Dominion's fiscal year begin on
March 31st, and the official year in
each of the government departments
coincide with the fiscal year. Year by
year, since 1896, the free homestead
system has been working, and the fig-
ures available for 1907-8 being for nine
months only, August 1st to December
31st:

1897 .. 2,884

1898 .. 4,848

1899 .. 8,884

1900 .. 7,428

1901-1902 .. 8,167

1902-1903 .. 31,383

1903-1904 .. 30,373

1904-1905 .. 30,373

1905-1906 .. 41,569

1906-1907 .. 21,647

1907-1908 .. 25,682

Total .. 221,860

Each homestead is 160 acres. By
multiplying 221,860 by 160, we find that
35,500,000 acres were given free to set-
tlers in the period from January 1st,
1897, to December 31st last. The Ottawa
Evening Journal has been very liberal
in making no mention of these 35,500,000
acres of free homestead grants under
Liberal rule, but sweepingly declares
that all the land has been "alienated
forever at prices ridiculously incommen-
surate with its real value, and the man
who is to meet the enhanced cost
which the speculators are to exact is
the settler whose interest the Liberal
leaders in 1893 pledged themselves to
protect."

By way of contrast, let us see how
many acres the Conservative govern-
ment, which granted tens of millions of
acres in railway grants, granted to
settlers whose interest the Liberal
homesteaders. The official records of
the homestead entries during the eight-
een years of Conservative administra-
tion from 1870 to 1896, deserve atten-
tion. They are given in the report of
the department of Interior for 1896, the

last issued by a Conservative minister
of the Interior, as follows:

1870 .. 4,068

1880 .. 2,074

1890 .. 2,753

1891 .. 2,753

1892 .. 2,753

1893 .. 2,753

1894 .. 2,753

1895 .. 2,753

1896 .. 2,753

1897 .. 2,753

1898 .. 2,753

1899 .. 2,753

1900 .. 2,753

1901 .. 2,753

1902 .. 2,753

1903 .. 2,753

1904 .. 2,753

1905 .. 2,753

1906 .. 2,753

1907 .. 2,753

1908 .. 2,753

1909 .. 2,753

1910 .. 2,753

1911 .. 2,753

1912 .. 2,753

1913 .. 2,753

1914 .. 2,753

1915 .. 2,753

1916 .. 2,753

1917 .. 2,753

1918 .. 2,753

1919 .. 2,753

1920 .. 2,753

1921 .. 2,753

1922 .. 2,753

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1924 .. 2,753

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1926 .. 2,753

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1981 .. 2,753

1982 .. 2,753

1983 .. 2,753

1984 .. 2,753

1985 .. 2,753

1986 .. 2,753

1987 .. 2,753

1988 .. 2,753

1989 .. 2,753

1990 .. 2,753

1991 .. 2,753

1992 .. 2,753

SAYS THE BYLAW IS MEANINGLESS

LAWYER ATTACKS THE PARKS REGULATIONS

H. H. Shandley Considers Them Badly Drawn—Can- not Understand Them.

(From Wednesday's Daily).

Another city by-law came in for rough
handling in the police court this morn-
ing in the course of the hearing of a
charge against George W. Mitchell of
allowing his dog to run at large in
Beacon Hill. H. H. Shandley, who ap-
peared as a witness, attacked the by-
law from several sides, saying it
was void on account of its uncertainty,
and Magistrate Jay agreed with him
that it was badly drawn in places. The
case eventually dismissed, the magis-
trate held that under the by-law it
was necessary to prove that the dog
in question was in the park with the
knowledge of its owner, something that
the prosecution was unable to do. Mr.
Moore, city solicitor, informing the
court that if this view held it would
be absolutely impossible to enforce this
portion of the parks board regulations.

The charge against Mr. Mitchell was
that he allowed his dog to be in Beacon
Hill park last Sunday without the an-
imal being on leash, contrary to the
provisions of section 12 of the parks
board regulations. As soon as the case
was called on, Mr. Shandley, who ap-
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portion of the parks board regulations.

Manzanillo, Sept. 1.—In a duel on
Sunday night which was the outcome
of a political quarrel, Manuel Elias,
editor of the Conservative El Vilante,
was shot and killed by Manuel Es-
trada, editor of the Liberal paper El
Reportero, and also Liberal candidate
for congressman.

FATAL DUEL BETWEEN EDITORS.

Manzanillo, Sept. 1.—In a duel on Sunday night which was the outcome of a political quarrel, Manuel Elias, editor of the Conservative El Vilante, was shot and killed by Manuel Es- trada, editor of the Liberal paper El Reportero, and also Liberal candidate for congressman.

ANOTHER ROYAL CITY

PIONEER IS NO MORE

Capt. T. Ackerman was Highly Respected Citizen—His Career.

New Westminster, Sept. 1.—With the
dawn yesterday another of the pio-
neers of the Royal City breathed his
last, leaving one more blank to remain
unfilled among the ranks of the many
who counted him a friend. Captain
Thomas Ackerman has for some time
been in ill-health, and three weeks ago
was compelled to seek treatment at
the hospital. He was operated upon,
and it appeared that he would pull
through successfully until a few days
ago, when he suffered a relapse, falling
lower and lower until the end came.

At this late age, Captain Ackerman was 59
years of age, and was a native of New
Westminster. For many years he lived a
quiet life in the city, and was a great
number of earlier days being spent in Cal-
ifornia. In 1887 he came to New West-
minster and made it his home, and with
a brother, O. B. Ackerman, started a
contracting business, afterwards aban-
doning this for a saw and door factory
on the North Arm. In 1888 he was ap-
pointed chief of the fire department
with J. H. Taylor, the present chief.
In 1890 Captain Ackerman holding
the position for ten years. Leaving
fire fighting to Chief Watson, Captain
Ackerman turned to steamboating and
in partnership with Captain Croft
bought the Stranger, a small tug still
operating on the river. Later he
bought out the interest of his partner
and took into partnership his brother-
in-law, E. B. Nobles, who in turn ob-
tained title to the public lands, and
was proffered the command of the
government cruiser Georgia, which po-
sition he retained until his death. He
was a member of only one society, the
Knights of Pythias, in which he held
the highest rank, grand chancellor,
also becoming a member of the
New Westminster branch of the uni-
form rank, at present non-existent. A
handsome residence for the captain is
now almost completed at the corner of
Sixth avenue and Eighth street.

The late Captain Ackerman leaves
to mourn him a widow, a daughter,
Mrs. Metville Bryson, of Ashcroft, two
brothers, Asa Ackerman, of Sumas,
customs officer, and O. B. Ackerman,
at present in California, and a sister,
Mrs. Boley. The funeral will be con-
ducted by the Knights of Pythias, who
fulfilled honors on Wednesday afternoon.

ENGLAND'S FAITH IN

CANADA'S UNDERTAKINGS

Bank of Montreal Big Factor in Maintaining Good Credit.

Vancouver, Sept. 1.—Despite the re-
cent depression Canada's credit in Eng-
land continues to stand high, accord-
ing to P. W. Taylor, manager of the
London, Eng., branch of the Bank of
Montreal. Mr. and Mrs. Taylor are
here on a holiday trip.

"Our bank," he said, "has made
more money in the last few years than
any other bank in the metropolis, and
since its establishment there has never
been any issue whereof interest and
principal have not been paid at matu-
rity. This discrimination our institu-
tion has shown has largely contributed
to maintaining the credit of Canada in
the English money market."

"The credit of all provincial govern-
ments, municipalities, and railroads
will be higher, if they adopt the
practice of the Imperial government in
selecting undoubted channels through
which to place their loans, instead of
hawking them about. The public suc-
cess of an issue is of the utmost im-
portance, where frequent appeals have
to be made to the money market, and
the effect that the negotiation of a loan
will have on future borrowing should
always be borne in mind."

Magistrate Jay: "No knowledge on
the part of Mr. Mitchell has been
proved. I think it is necessary to prove
knowledge on the part of the owner of
the dog. If your honor holds that

view it is impossible to enforce the
regulations. It would be impossible for
the prosecution to provide such evi-
dence. Isn't it necessary for the de-
fence