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Manager.

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IS THE C.P.R. AFTER MACKENZIE?

In the debate on the Blainmore townsite incident in the House on Friday last the puzzle was to determine whether the chief objective of assault was the Department of the Interior or Mr. MacKenzie. The war was waged with not more fury about the action of the Department than about Mr. MacKenzie, his conduct, his politics and his possessions. It was asserted, repeated and re-repeated by an adroit perversion of the language of the court that Mr. MacKenzie had "obtained the land through fraud" and that the use of this equivocal language was at no pains to explain that the fraud had not been committed by Mr. MacKenzie but by another person and without his knowledge, consent or suggestion. The conspicuous discrepancy between the persistent repetitions of the equivocal statement and the very casual admission of the exonerating circumstance was so apparent that nothing short of a direct charge could have been better calculated to give to the House and the country that Mr. MacKenzie had personally made fraudulent representations upon the strength of which he had secured the land.

Another line of attack deliberately pressed against Mr. MacKenzie was the fact that he was a Liberal in politics, had been a Liberal candidate in a Federal election and was now a member of the legislature of Alberta and a supporter of the Liberal Government of that province. These facts were repeated and reiterated as if supplying in themselves all necessary evidence that his claims to the land were ill-founded and providing good and sufficient reason why his title to ownership should be set aside. This was the half-expressed but ill-concealed grievance which gave the under-tone to the entire discussion and was solemnly paraded in the resolution to which the Opposition were pleased to attach their speeches.

Yet another ground of offence was found against Mr. MacKenzie—that the land in question had become valuable. The mover of the resolution estimated it at a value of from \$100,000 to \$200,000 or cited others who did so. Forthwith the ears of Opposition gentlemen pricked up. "Western lands" is a soul stirring topic with certain of them these days and at the appalling suggestion of a Grit holding land valued at \$200,000, "Billy" Bennett dropped his eye-opener while the dull-grey visage of Hon. Geo. E. Foster emerged from under his hat—a duller grey than usual. The figures probably were suggestive—the sum was exactly the rake-off gathered in on the first shuffle of the Pope-Fowler land. Whether the disturbing emotion was envy or recollection for neither Mr. Foster nor Mr. Bennett were in their seats in the evening. Whether they were wearing tears of jealousy or repenting in privacy will probably never be known. Meantime their less sensitive or less acquisitive friends continued to assail Mr. MacKenzie because the land was valuable. What earthly connection the value of the land could have to the question of its ownership they did not deign to inform the House but coolly took the position that the land was valuable—therefore it should be taken from the possessor forthwith.

That the administration of the Department of the Interior past and present is a proper subject for parliamentary debate is not a matter open for argument and those who introduce such debate are quite within their right and duty, but why this simultaneous assault on the character of a gentleman not at all connected with that Department and having no privilege of defending himself on the floor of parliament? The mover of the resolution was careful to announce that he held no brief for Mr. Lyon or any other claimant but was asking simply for the dis-possesion of Mr. MacKenzie and his land was followed faithfully by his colleagues. That any other claimant was dissatisfied with the finding of the Exchequer Court was not advanced as a reason for introducing the subject into parliament. The Opposition occupied therefore the position of having either brought up the subject of their own violation and in the hope of scoring a political point by the defamation of private character or

speaking for some party or parties whose interests were not more concerned in discrediting the Department of the Interior than in destroying the reputation of Mr. MacKenzie.

Now if it was competent to consider in connection with this matter the political complexion of Mr. MacKenzie, his political ambitions and his political standing it surely is quite as proper to consider also his political accomplishments. If it was fair to launch an inference from his political convictions and associations if surely is quite as fair to launch an inference also from his political performances. If it was competent to avow Mr. MacKenzie's political relationship as an excuse for an attack for which no other excuse was offered, it surely is quite as proper to search in Mr. MacKenzie's political record for the real motive and cause which lies behind the excuse.

Has Mr. MacKenzie then initiated or espoused any cause likely to draw upon him the hostility of an element in Western politics powerful enough to demand revenge at the hands of the Opposition? The outstanding event in Mr. MacKenzie's political record was the movement for the taxation of railway companies. This movement Mr. MacKenzie originated, developed, and advocated until it was transmuted into law and carried into execution, to the satisfaction and benefit of the people of Alberta and the corresponding cost and displeasure of the railway companies.

During the campaign for the provincial elections in Alberta Mr. MacKenzie announced a plan by which the Canadian Pacific Railway exemption might be evaded. His plan was that while the C.P.R. main line was exempt the province should simply assess and tax the branch lines heavily enough to make up to the province the loss sustained by the exemption of the main-line. Upon this question of how to tax the Canadian Pacific Railway rested the whole question of whether or not the railways of the province should or should not be taxed, for if the older and stronger company could not be taxed it would only be confirming and entrenching its monopolistic features to tax its younger and weaker competitor.

That the Canadian Pacific Railway appreciated the situation was immediately revealed an all the influence that a company could command was thrown into the fight against Mr. MacKenzie and every other Liberal candidate in the province. Fortunately the people of Alberta also appreciated the position and the Government endorsed by overwhelming majority. One of the bills passed at the first session of the legislature coined Mr. MacKenzie's plan into law and forthwith the railways of the province became tax-payers. By reason of this movement began and advocated by Mr. MacKenzie the C.P.R. finds itself up against a new proposition, a somewhat disagreeable one, that of paying taxes to the province of Alberta.

That this will be either forgotten or forgiven neither Mr. MacKenzie nor any other Liberal member in Alberta need imagine, and that the Canadian Pacific Railway will call upon its friends and allies wherever and however possible to wreak vengeance upon the originator of the fell decision may be assured. Throughout Western Canada the Conservative party and the Canadian Pacific Railway go hand-in-hand and under normal conditions it would doubtless be left to the corporation's allies in Alberta's average the taxation of the company. But the unholy alliance is not in normal condition in Alberta today and the two lone survivors of the fray have not even weight enough to launch a slander. What more natural than that the Federal Opposition should be called upon to discharge the service to the common ally which the Alberta detachment is not in a position to discharge? That the assault was in parliament directed against Mr. MacKenzie simply and solely on the ground that he was a Liberal, had been a candidate in a Federal election and is now a member of the Alberta legislature is quite as good evidence as is needed that the Federal Opposition stands prepared to feel the character of the provincial legislator who dares consider the interest of his province superior to the interest of the C.P.R.

BESIDES LAURIER.

Conservatives who wait with patience they can for Mr. Foster's most advertised and long-delayed essay at vindication, and who stave off as long as they can the necessity of passing judgments upon Mr. Fowler and his associates, are as ready as any to concede that Sir Wilfrid Laurier's handling of the other side of the argument has brought him increase of prestige. He has dealt with every case as it has arisen in such a way as to clear himself of even the

suspicion of weakness, and to maintain his Cabinet in a state to challenge the criticism of a fair-minded electorate. As between what Sir Wilfrid has done and what Mr. Borden has left undone there is so great a gulf fixed that no fair-minded observer can entertain any doubt about the extent of the alteration in their relative positions. Instead of drawing up closer, and becoming in some real sense a rival of the Prime Minister, Mr. Borden is seen to have fallen back in the comparison, his failure to deal with the Foster and Fowler cases being as conspicuous a demonstration in one way as his inability on questions of trade policy was in another.

The fact is, Sir Wilfrid Laurier's personal prestige has been so much augmented by his method of dealing with colleagues whose reputations were attacked outside their quality as administrators, that there is just a tendency to lose sight of the circumstance important enough none the less that when Sir Wilfrid Laurier sees fit to cross the ocean and withdraw himself for the time from home controversies he is able to leave behind him at Ottawa a Cabinet strong enough, and many times over strong enough, to meet any force the Opposition can put into the field against it. He leaves Sir Richard Cartwright, Mr. Fielding, Mr. Fisher, Mr. Scott and Mr. Patterson, five members of his Cabinet who have been members of it for better than ten years now, against not one of whom has there been a whisper of scandal, public or private, in all that time. And not merely have they the advantage of this negative sort of commendation, but in any impartial study of the situation it must be conceded that their talents, their experience, their character, afford ample guarantees for safe and conservative conduct of both the legislative and the administrative Branches of the business of Parliament, guarantees far superior, indeed to anything the Opposition, after ten years of gathering their forces, can as yet present for the acceptance of the public. Sir Richard Cartwright is not as young as he was, but that is an affair of the limbs entirely; his political discernment is as keen, his political judgment as unerring, his devotion to the country and to the party as unflagging, as in the days when he carried the fiery cross through Ontario and made himself, of all Liberal politicians in Canada, the best hated of his foes. Mr. Fielding continues his truly wonderful career of political success one that has been uninterrupted since the day he took office in Nova Scotia. No one has ever dreamt of challenging his integrity any more than anyone has dreamt of disputing his great talent for political conduct. Of Mr. Fisher it can be said, too, that while the Opposition do clearly love to put little difficulties in his way, even the Opposition, in moments of good temper, make willing admission of the great benefits that have accrued to Canadian trade from the work of the Department of Agriculture during his long term at the head of it; and there could scarcely be asked a higher compliment to a public man's all-round fitness than that which Mr. Fisher has received at the hands of the House during this session, when he has handled the Department of Public Works in addition to his own, and shown the most complete familiarity with all the details of its manifold and most important operations. Mr. Patterson maintains his reputation as the most satisfactory Minister of Customs business men ever had to deal with; and Mr. Scott, octogenarian though he be, has shown that he possesses the confidence of his colleagues in the Senate to a degree that is much to his honor.

Even outside this quintette of the old guard, there is material enough in the Cabinet to hold its own, and more, with anything the Opposition have to offer. Of that we shall probably be able to say more in the future. Mr. Foster makes good his threat to at last have the proof tomorrow, if Mr. Ayleworth has not been thoroughly routed by anything that has happened this session, but if Mr. Foster will have it so he can count upon a Roland for his Oliver. And with Mr. Ayleworth stand Mr. Lemieux, whose reputation as a successful administrator of the Post-office Department has been added this session a considerable accomplishment in directing important legislation; Mr. Oliver, whose reputation has been raised by the courage he showed in reversing experiments initiated under the high authority of Mr. Sifton when they did not turn out well in practice; and Mr. Templeman, young to the Ministry but old in political warfare, who bears many scars got in fair fight but no stain upon his reputation. All these count for something when political parties

are weighed in the scales. And over against them is what? Well it will not tax anybody's ingenuity to go through the list and still have a couple of fingers on one hand to spare.—Montreal Herald.

DISCRIMINATE IMMIGRATION.

Five years ago when Mr. Oliver as member for Alberta stood up in Parliament to contend that Canada's immigration work should be directed to secure a discriminate or selected rather than indiscriminate immigration he stood alone so far as His Majesty's loyal Opposition was concerned. Last week a resolution was introduced in the House condemning Mr. Oliver as Minister of the Interior for bringing the principle of discrimination or selection immigration into the immigration work of Canada, and His Majesty's loyal Opposition marshalled their forces to support the resolution to condemn the practical application of the principle.

The people of the west will hereafter have no ground for uncertainty as to the attitude of the Opposition toward immigration. They would that the immigrant as a political element be reviled or lauded as party advantage votes and consistently register their votes in opposition to the principle of directing immigration work to secure a discriminate as distinguished from an indiscriminate immigration. When by the condemnation of immigrants from certain countries they may hope to gain popularity among other elements of our people no condemnation is too severe or too extravagant; but when the Government adopts a practical means for securing immigrants most likely to be in every way satisfactory they do so under the certainty of assault from the Opposition.

CONTEMPTIBLE POLITICS.

One or two newspapers particularly the Calgary Herald, have been making rather unseemly personal remarks about the Minister of Agriculture. This kind of politics reflects most discredit upon those who practice it, but public men usually have enough criticism of their political actions without being annoyed by a small squad of name callers.

Mr. Finlay's assuasive have criticism to offer upon the conduct of the work of his department. For over a year he has directed the work of the Agricultural Department in a progressive and capable manner carrying on an aggressive educational campaign in many sections of the country. He has been successful in his practical and effective work. He has given his time diligently and faithfully to the public service and has shown that he has the ability and the energy necessary for the task. Some of his critics would wish to have the land is filled in the primitive ways of the days of Abraham, this great waste, where slavery is carried on in the most primitive way, but those who know him will agree that what he has done has been conscientiously performed, and that his honesty of purpose should be called in question by a discredited rag like the Calgary Herald is simply disgusting. The present situation calls to mind the Herald's vulgar attack upon Mr. Macleod about a year ago. It is little to be wondered that the Tory party is pleased to spew the Herald out of its mouth.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

Our mayor has dementia parliamentensis.

As yet we have heard that no one but Roosevelt for this backward spring.

D. D. Mann may have a reputation for building railways but he has yet to make his reputation in running a railway.

A pressing need of the west—a passenger train service independent of the eastern timetables.

Calgary is going to get a candy factory. It certainly does need something to sweeten its days.

A report from Calgary says an Edmonton boy was captured there who ran away from home. Bet he was trying to escape carrying the winter's ashes out of the cellar!

Finland has 19 women in the Finnish diet—The first resolution of the new diet will be to put a tidy on the speaker's desk.

We are afraid the delegates at the Hague conference will insist too much on keeping up the batting average.

And still remains 7 jurors in New York who are not subject to dementia Americana.

We have no room in Canada for a little Canada party. The true Catholic and virile nationalism of the 20th century is against it.

Dr. McIntyre, the member for Strathcona, has won prestige and deserves congratulation for his splendid defence of the immigrants who are settling among us.

The immigrants to the west are not as Mr. Bourassa says the scum of the earth. Some day in the not far distant future a scion of a Canadian of Ruthenian family will take his place in the Canadian Parliament with the same ability and versatility as Mr. Bourassa, and let us hope with more toleration.

RESIGNS A SECOND TIME.

Supplementary Estimates Total Ten and a Half Millions.
Ottawa, April 20.—In the House today the Speaker read the second resignation of Hon. C. H. Hyman, as member for London.

Supplementary estimates to the extent of ten and a half millions were brought down last evening.

The bill creating a department of mines comes up for its second reading to-day. For the remainder of the session the House will meet on Saturdays.

A BAD CROSSING.

To the Editor of The Bulletin:
Dear Sir—I would like to call the attention of the commissioners to the disgraceful condition of the crossings to the city market on Queen's avenue, which have been almost impassable for the past two weeks.

The crossing of this street has been a source of trouble to the city since the crossing leading to the centre of the market was closed. The crossing is a narrow one, and the street rather than go through mud ankle deep, which is always the case in this particular crossing, day and night. I might mention that this crossing is within a few yards of the market of this city. Seeing that the city employs two highly paid officials to perform the duties that pertain to the crossing, it is a pity that these officials could use to advantage the workers to solve the problem of this crossing. It is a pity that these officials are kept in a constant state of alarm.

Edmonton, April 19, 1907.

"FINANCE MENACING MOROCCO."

To the Editor of The Bulletin:
Sir—In Thursday's issue I notice under the heading that "the general situation in Morocco is grave owing to the resentment of the Moors at the French occupation of Oudja." To my personal knowledge it is perfectly true that the French occupation of Morocco has caused much trouble to the Moors, and that during the last thirty years parts of Morocco have from time to time annexed to the French empire. But the situation in Morocco remains the same.

The rich country abounding in minerals capable of growing almost anything that modern times require, where the land is tilled in the primitive ways of the days of Abraham, this great waste, where slavery is carried on in the most primitive way, but those who know him will agree that what he has done has been conscientiously performed, and that his honesty of purpose should be called in question by a discredited rag like the Calgary Herald is simply disgusting. The present situation calls to mind the Herald's vulgar attack upon Mr. Macleod about a year ago. It is little to be wondered that the Tory party is pleased to spew the Herald out of its mouth.

Late Acting British Vice-Consul at Magador, Morocco.

Edmonton, April 19, 1907.

LAMONT.

Mr. Haddon has gone to Alberta College to write on his examination.

Rev. A. D. McDonald, Mr. and Mrs. F. R. J. Torrie took a force of men visitors in the Capital last week.

Mr. A. McKee is in Calgary getting ready to start a new business. He tests the market for a company is to be formed to manufacture brick, and a good market is ready for such a line of business.

Miss MacMurdy, of Boston, Mass., and Mrs. Clarke, of Pasadena, California, are here visiting at Mr. Jos. Alton's.

The Methodist congregation has had a pleasant committee appointed, and they have decided to erect a building on Mr. W. Woodruff's property. A half-acre of land has been donated to the committee on the condition that they build. Material for building has been ordered, and the work will be carried on as rapidly as possible.

The managers of the Presbyterian congregation have decided to build a house, and at present they are looking for a suitable site.

Miss L. Fluker has come to visit her parents.

Mr. F. Stafford has been adding some new equipment to his livery stable to give the travelling public greater accommodation.

The Sons of Temperance hold an open meeting on Monday evening, and a good programme is expected, as the division has a large membership.

The poor train service of the C.N.R. is crippling the business of our merchants as well as keeping a number of the new settlers on land tributary here from getting the necessary implements to carry on their spring work.

A number of men here are expected to start work under Mr. E. Simpson also by the government itself. The date of the harvest will vary with the latitude, and the famine stricken region is spread over such a wide area, five times the size of France, that more than ten degrees of latitude are involved. Funds will be needed till the end of July to feed all these millions, and then the harvest will bring relief.

But there are many hundreds of thousands to whom the harvest will not bring relief, for they have neither land nor cattle. The few cows that are in existence are in such a pitiful condition that themselves that they are useless for milking purposes. The milk is that babies and young children are being forced to eat the coarse black bread and the indigestible young cucumbers which are luxuries

The Mormons of Alberta

By Frank Yeigh in the New York Tribune.

The mormon, for the sake of his faith, is ever ready to obey the man date of his superiors and move to fresh fields. For the sake of the power-political, social, religious—that is involved, he is an earnest advocate of a policy of territorial extension, says Frank Yeigh in the New York Tribune.

Hence it is that the Mormon power has invaded Western Canada and is already causing some apprehension there. In the newly organized province of Alberta, bordering on the foothills of the Rock Mountains, is the latest stake at Zion. There eight thousand trekkers from Utah are farming and ranching, and incidentally building up a strong cause of Latter Day Saints in the Dominion, as an integral part of the army of those hundred thousand that constitute the sect the world over.

No less than eighteen hundred Mormon missionaries are scattered over the globe, zealously propagating their faith, without remuneration from the home centre. It was this ruling thought of expansion that led a small company of eight or ten families to leave Utah a few years ago, under the guidance of C. O. Card, who thus became one of the pioneers of his people on the Western Canadian plains, and who has had his reward of fame by having a town named after him.

They were a delegation appointed by the Salt Lake hierarchy to spy out the land, and their report must have been favorable, judged by the success of the settlement, and that is still under way.

A few miles north of the international boundary line Card and his company pre-empted government lands and laid the foundations of their prairie homes. They were the first agriculturists to settle in what had up to that time been looked upon as exclusively a ranching country; in fact it was manifestly in the interests of the cattlemen to circulate such a report. But the Western Mormons who have overcome the seeming obstacles of nature in cultivating the unpromising soil of Utah, were just the type of men to settle in what had up to that time been looked upon as exclusively a ranching country; in fact it was manifestly in the interests of the cattlemen to circulate such a report.

More than a decade ago there were few signs of human occupation outside of the wandering cowboy and his roving herds, now there are a score of towns and villages, each the prosperous centre of a grain and stock raising region.

Low Abiding and Frugal.

The Mormon has brought it to pass as an industrious and law abiding, frugal settler he is a welcome addition to Canada's western pioneer population, where the dominant need is men, to cause the soil to bring forth its abundance; where, according to the Celtic fancy of Lord Dufferin when governor-general of Canada who has only "to tickle the prairie with a plough" to have it laugh back with a harvest.

But many thinking Canadians are, nevertheless not so certain about the value of this human inflow, judged by their history as a religious-political organization. In numbers the Mormons are steadily increasing in Alberta, with a corresponding increase in influence and wealth. The first town, Raymond, was founded in 1901. In the period since then several other populated centres have come into existence—Cardston, Magrath, Stirling and Taber—each of which large districts are tributary. Herefore Lethbridge has been the Northern gateway of this Canadian Mormon land, but the movement is spreading northward in the direction of Calgary, the town of High River having recently been started between Macleod and Calgary.

Further evidence of Mormon activity in this "Stake of Zion" under the British flag is found in their recent purchase of the famous Cochrane ranch, a composite of 50,000 acres of the choicest land in southern Alberta, for \$6 an acre. A large beet sugar factory is in operation at Raymond, and this industry bids fair to be an important feature of their industrial life.

Raymond is named after a son of Jesse Knight. The latter believes his life to be the instrument, in the hands of Providence, for gathering together the long lost Ten Tribes of Israel, and that they will ultimately re-assemble in the city of Zion.

Jesse Knight himself is one of the picturesque figures of the great west. Once very poor, now he is correspondingly rich, and the requirement of his wealth is in itself a strange tale. Some years ago the old mormon had a dream that at a certain point in the mountains he would find a mine of great value, and that he was to use its wealth for the good of mankind. In due time, the treasure mine was located in Canada, and in two years thereafter Knight was a millionaire. Now, by process of evolution, he has several mines and is also carrying out the terms of the compact by causing thousands of acres of irrigated prairie lands to be plowed for beet raising, and his schemes for the benefit of his people are many and wide-spread. He himself works in the field with the humblest of his men, when in Alberta, and sets an example in his personal life for simplicity and abstinence.

Cardston's Founder.

Cardston is the creation of Joseph Card, a son-in-law of Brigham Young. Mr. Card is the president of this Canadian "Stake of Zion" and conducts a large co-operative store, for the purchase of the land and communal use of steam threshers and in the erection of grist mills and cheese and other factories. Surrounding Cardston are a number of smaller settlements.

A majority of the "saints" live in village communities for the sake of the social life and the educational and religious privileges involved in such an arrangement, the church and the school constituting an important part in the economy of the sect. A deep interest is taken in the schools. Excellent buildings are provided and fairly well equipped teachers are secured. The system of the schools is a more than perfunctory interest in the work entrusted to them by frequently visiting the schools. In Canada, they have steadily pursued the policy of preparing their own young people, thus making the part of a year or two there where no gentle teachers needed and none employed. Furthermore, they will take full advantage of the law which allows a half hour of daily religious instruction, and with few schools all in the hands of Mormon teachers, as they will soon be, it will easily be seen that the educational system may be made subservient to the interests of the church. A large church school is built at Raymond this fall.

System of Land Tenure.

In the matter of land tenure the holdings are arranged so that the owners may live in a village or town. A small piece of ground is attached to each dwelling, and the garden produce is grown. Orchards, vineyards, being planted, with good prospects of reaching maturity. The main farm area, averaging about 50 acres, lies out in the territory around the settlements, and a drove any direction will reveal what has already been accomplished by irrigation and otherwise on land that was once declared to be useless for grain growing.

The Mormons who settled in Canada gave a pledge to the Canadian government that they would refrain from the practice of polygamy. Complaints were soon made that they were violating the compact. But investigation at the time proved the charges to be groundless. In 1890, however, to quiet the public unrest regarding the matter, an amendment to the criminal law of the Dominion "made any person guilty of a misdemeanor who practised polygamy and liable to imprisonment for five years and a fine of \$500. This applies to any one who practises polygamy or spiritual marriage or assists in any such ceremony.

Will these Mormon immigrants be Canadian and British? Many a Canadian anxiously asks. Time is necessary in which to reply.

They are undoubtedly steadily increasing in numbers and are as steady aggressive, as is to be expected. It is true, also, that the Gentile population in southern Alberta is growing less in view of the ceaseless proselytizing influences of the Latter Day Saint neighbors, and it is equally probable that they will gain in time a corresponding weight in the balance. There is as yet, however, no evidence that the Mormons in Canada are doing other than to abide by the laws of the land. Indeed, they complain that they are constantly being misinterpreted in various questions that have arisen regarding their suitability as immigrants.

Famine Stricken Russia

Twenty Millions are Starving

London, April 19.—Writing from the Russian famine district Dr. Kennard, who was sent by the Society of Friends to investigate conditions among the peasantry, draws an appalling picture of the suffering. After calling attention to the urgent and immediate need of funds he says—

"This is the worst famine Russia has ever known. Over twenty million people distributed over the southeastern provinces cannot live without aid to see another harvest. And I may say that this figure has not only been approved by the Zemstvo organization but also by the government itself. The date of the harvest will vary with the latitude, and the famine stricken region is spread over such a wide area, five times the size of France, that more than ten degrees of latitude are involved. Funds will be needed till the end of July to feed all these millions, and then the harvest will bring relief."

But there are many hundreds of thousands to whom the harvest will not bring relief, for they have neither land nor cattle. The few cows that are in existence are in such a pitiful condition that themselves that they are useless for milking purposes. The milk is that babies and young children are being forced to eat the coarse black bread and the indigestible young cucumbers which are luxuries

HE WANTS DUTY PUT ON LUMBER

From United States. Evident Before Last Session of Commerce Committee.

Ottawa, April 17.—The committee on the investigation of the lumber combine held its closing session yesterday. The principal witness examined was D. E. Sprague, of Winnipeg, president of the Western Retail Lumbermen's association. He declared that the consumer in Winnipeg paid his lumber at reasonable prices, as long as the demand was good, price would be maintained. He stated that in 1904 he had sold the lumber required by the T. Eaton Co., for the department store in Winnipeg. The average cost of the lumber was \$1.50 per thousand, and the only profit made out of it was \$1.25 a thousand, which was practically nothing.

Mr. Sprague did not think that the consumer received any advantage duty having been taken off rough lumber. He admitted that the retailers' association might have the effect of restricting trade to a certain extent, but on the other hand the association had the beneficial effect of requiring dealers to keep an assortment of lumber to meet the requirements of consumers at all points. He produced lists to show that the certain manufacturers charged \$2 a thousand lower than the United States.

Mr. Sprague put forward the view that the corporation of the Western Retail Lumbermen's association was the only practical means of maintaining uniformity in the price of lumber and assuring the consumer at a fair margin of profit to the dealer. He urged that the provisions of the dumping clause should be applied to the lumber industry in order to prevent the United States manufacturers from dumping their production into Canada.

As matters now stood the American manufacturer could keep up the price on his own side of the line by sending the surplus of rough lumber to Canada to be sold at a lower rate than the Canadian goods. He urged that duty should be placed on rough lumber were it merely nominal, so as to permit the dumping clause to apply to save Canadian lumber dealers from unfair competition.

ARE TO ACQUIRE THROUGH ROUTE

Associated Press Dispatch.

Montreal, April 19.—Some very important announcements are expected to be made when the Premier of the Canadian Northern returns from London, where he has been sojourning for the past two weeks, after conferring after the corporations' financial affairs.

It is known that Mackenzie is due to reach this side of the Atlantic some time before the end of the present month, and then rumor has it that the proposed sale of the Quebec and Lake St. John line to the Mackenzie and Mann interests will be confirmed and work will be started on the extension which the new owners have in mind. The projected line from Hawkesburg into Montreal will be carried on to completion or perhaps to speak more strictly the work will be carried on to completion. Back River, where a halt will perhaps be made until a definite decision has been received as regards the C.N. terminals in the city of Montreal. It is understood however that the route from the town of Hawkesburg to a point about opposite Isle Bizard, has been permanently located. It is also added that the road can be completed into the Island of Montreal before the snow flies, supposing, of course, that the labor difficulty can be got over and the story says that a large number of men are expected to arrive.

Mackenzie and Mann have always declared that the most pressing sections of their entire system were the Edmonton and Lake Superior line, and that from Ottawa to Montreal and Toronto, and those who knew say that the Hudson's Bay road will be added to the already defined routes. The greatest effort will therefore be made to bring the three lines just named into direct communication by the Canadian Northern system.

The statement has also been made that this company has fully decided to reach the centre of the business section of the city of Montreal. The announcement may also be expected in a very short time that the Canadian Northern directors have as good as decided to accept Premier Pugsley's terms for the construction of a line from the city of Montreal to the city of St. John River valley. When completed this line will form part of the through system of the Canadian Northern, which may be terminated at Hawkesburg, or may be at a harbor in the County of Gaspésie, east of the St. Lawrence capital. By this plan of railway campaign Mackenzie and Mann will have a winter port at St. John and a road one on the Nova Scotia coast.

Then comes a pretty well authenticated report that pending the construction of their own railway around north shore of Lake Superior, the C.N.R. will secure running rights over the Grand Trunk Pacific between Ottawa River and Port Arthur.