ZEPPELIN AIRSHIPS PAY VISIT TO ENGLAND; CANADIAN PARLIAMENT PROROGUES TODAY

MR. TURRIFF'S GENEROSITY AT GOVERNMENT'S EXPENSE

Gave Away 28,000 Acres of Grazing Lands in Southern Alberta—More Sensational Revelations in Connection With Land Stealing Under Laurier Administration.

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, April 14.—The balance of Commissioner T. R. Ferguson's report upon land manipulations under the late government which has been tabled is replete with sensations in addition to those already published.

Hon. Frank Oliver and Robert Cruise, M. P., have been seriously involved in the revelations already made, but in the matter of a grazing lease in Southern Alberta, J. G. Turriff, at present Liberal M. P. for Assiniboia is involved.

In this case the nominal applicant for the lease was H. P. Brown, of Great Falls, Montana, the real applicant was J. D. McGregor, of Brandon, Manitoba, and the beneficiary A. J. Adamson, of Winnipeg.

J. G. Turriff, a brother-in-law of A. J. Adamson, was at that time land commissioner of the department of interior at Ottawa, and voluntarily increased the acreage of the lease granted from 32,000 acres to 60,000 acres, an unasked for increase of 28,000 acres. Not only that, but a closed irrevokable lease was granted, although it was not applied for.

The nominal applicant for this lease had no knowledge that he had been granted an area of 28,000 acres additional until he was informed of the fact by Commissioner Ferguson. Not only did he not know but he had assigned his right to the grazing lease before the same was granted.

H. P. Brown in his evidence, swore that when he was in Ottawa on or about May, 1902, he met James D. McGregor, of Brandon, and Mr. McGregor asked him if he would allow him to use his name in applying for a grazing lease in Canada. McGregor gave as a reason that personally he held about all the land that he was legally entitled to. Brown acceded to the request. On September 17, 1902, an assignment of his right to the ranch was sent to him by mail by McGregor, and he executed it. He swore that he had never seen the assignment until he received it from McGregor.

Some months after receiving the assignment and during 1904 A. J. Adamson, caused to be incorporated, through his solicitor G. E. McCraney, M. P., a company known as the Calaway Horse and Cattle Co., and the name of that company was written into the blank asignment, and other blanks filled in. In this way the company became the holder of the application.

The commissinoer calls attention to the fact that the Galway Horse and Cattle Co. had acquired the tract without paying anything for it. It cost nothing and after holding it, and paying one installment of rental to the Dominion government, amounting to $650, it was sold about March, 1906, to one John Gowdney of MacLeod, Alberta, for the sum of $22,500 without having been used or stocked in any way.

Mr. Adamson in his evidence swore that this money was paid to the shareholders of the Calway Horse and Cattle Co., Ltd., of which he held 1,125 shares his wife 375 and A. J. Bell, his partner, 375 shares.

The commissioner finds that the evidence shows conclusively that neither J. D. McGregor nor H. P. Brown had anything whatever to do with the increase in the acreage from 32,000 to 60,000 acres. It was simply a scheme to enrich Adamson, although neither Brown nor McGregor were taking any interest in this application in March, 1903. Mr. Turriff placed a memorandum upon the file to this effect, dated Ottawa, March 3, 1903.

"In January last H. P. Brown made application to have township 13 and that part of township 14 west of the Bow river added to his former application for a grazing lease. Please have it added and included and also have a memorandum to council prepared."

(Sgd.) J. C. TURRIFF, Commissioner."

The commissioner finds that Mr. Brown never made any such application, he never gave instructions or authorized Mr. Turriff or anyone else to make the statement contained in the memorandum.

McGregor swore that the first knowledge that he had of the increased acreage he obtained from Commissioner Ferguson.

Turriff's Lapse of Memory.

With regard to Turriff notwithstanding that statement contained in his memorandum, he states upon oath that he cannot say he got those instructions from Mr. Brown, in fact he admits that it is reasonable to assume from the evidence that he did not.

The commissioner is surprised at Mr. Turriff's poor memory in connection with this transaction, particularly as he made a trip to the ranch in company with Mr. Adamson, his brother-in-law.

The commissioner now calls attention to the fact that it was a rule of the department that notice of such applications for grazing leases should be publicly advertised. The rule was that the notice should be posted in different places, but it was not observed in this case. The notices sent out were for a tract of 32,000 acres.

Oliver Knew Rentals Were Not Paid.

The commissioner directs attention to another new departure in this extraordinary lease. When Mr. Adamson sent in his assignment and check to the department there was more than $2,400 rental due, however it was never paid nor demanded. The evidence also goes to show that Hon. Frank Oliver the minister knew that these arrears were due.

In the matter of Craven Dam, Walter Scott, George W. Brown and J. G. Turriff and certain Dominion lands the evidence discloses three different parcels of land embracing 1,000 acres, more or less, were applied for by George W. Brown, at present Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Saskatchewan. They afterwards received some notoriety by reason of proceedings in the exchequer court of Canada, on a petition of right and by reason of expropriation proceedings, instituted by the Dominion government upon the occasion of the construction of what is known as the "Craven Dam" at the south end of Long Lake, Sask.

The commissioner finds that the evidence shows that the relationship existing between J. G. Turriff, then land commissioner, George W. Brown, and Walter Scott, now Premier of the Province of Saskatchewan, was such that the land commissioner unhesitatingly acceded to terms in some instances Brown could not himself obtain from the department. The evidence according to the commissioner also shows that in acceding to the request made by Walter Scott, Turriff did not hesitate to use his political influence in Mr. Brown's behalf and succeeded where the latter failed.

This is in every respect a very remarkable transaction. It was clearly shown in evidence before the commissioner that this one thousand acres of land was acquired by the Browns from the government at $1 an acre, 518 acres were purchased for $1 an acre, and the balance acquired by the application of half-breed scrip.

In writing to Walter Scott, asking him to procure these lands for him, George W. Brown represented that they were of very small value. "Five hundred and eighteen acres,' he says, "are submerged by the waters of Long Lake and the remaining 122 acres being worthless land gravelly and stony." The only way the land could be made valuable, he said, was by irrigation. It is only on occasional years that the crops amount to anything.

That letter was written on April 24, 1900, at Regina. Yet in January, 1906, when the crown proceeded with the construction of the dam at Craven, Saskatchewan, and required this land it had risen in value, according to Mr. Brown to $100 an acre. The land was expropriated and the value of the lands was fixed at $25.00 per acre, which sum, the then owner, James W. Brown, was paid, although he had purchased them six years previously at $1.00 per acre.

The commissioner finds that these lands were sold without inspection by the crown and the commissioner suggested that no government lands should be disposed of without reliable inspection and valuation.

The commissioner finds that the lands secured by Mr. Brown had been improperly held for him at the request of Walter Scott, although other applications came into them.

The officers of the department were entirely in the dark as to whom these lands were being held for, but Mr. Turriff knew, as is proven by the order, which he wrote across Mr. Goodeve's memorandum.

OBITUARY.

W. O. Phinney.

The death took place about eleven o'clock last night of William O. Phinney, aged 34 years, at his residence, corner Germain and St. James' street, after a short illness of pneumonia. The deceased was the well known proprietor of the saloon on Canterbury street and besides his wife he leaves one sister and three brothers to mourn. The brothers are Howard and George of this city and Thomas of DesMoines, Iowa. The sister is Mrs. William Duffy, of Exmouth street.

MORE LIGHT ON OLIVER'S GET-RICH-QUICK SCHEME

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Oliver then went on to deal with the report of the commissioner of the subscriptions by the Grand Trunk Pacific for $15,000 worth of stock in the Bulletin Company, Limited, in which the ex-Minister holds a controlling interest. Mr. Oliver stated that in 1905, or 1906, owing to the development of the country, through the building of the Grand Trunk Pacific, more money was needed for the development of the Bulletin. A limited liability company was formed, and was subscribed to by citizens of Edmonton. It appears also from the commissioner's report that the G. T. P. had taken shares in the company. Mr. Oliver said he did not know that it would interest the House or the country, but the probability was that the G. T. P. had lost its money, as he, himself, had lost money by his connection with the Bulletin Company.

Mr. Ferguson, however, seemed to think that the G. T. P. had bought $15,000 worth of interest in the Interior Department, but after an exhaustive investigation he had been able to find no evidence to support such a finding.

Mr. Oliver supposed that the G. T. P. being interested in Edmonton as a junction point, had subscribed for the same reasons as the citizens of Edmonton had subscribed.

Mr. Oliver claimed that the commissioner had no right to probe into his private affairs, any more than any government has the right to investigate the private affairs of its political opponents.

Mr. Oliver took up, in detail, each of the cases mentioned by Commissioner Ferguson, and maintained that in every instance the regulations of the department, and the statutes safeguarding the public interest, had been absolutely adhered to.

Explains How Cruise Secured Homestead.

As to the report reflecting upon Mr. Robert Cruise, M. P., this also had been held back until Mr. Cruise had started west for his home. Fortunately, however, the facts could be proved. To secure his homestead under the act, Mr. Cruise had to have twenty head of cattle. Mr. Cruise had only thirteen at the time, so he purchased seven more and gave a promisory note. The whole transaction was absolutely and unquestionably within the law.

In regard to Southern Alberta Land Company's lease, Mr. Oliver noted that the present government was apparently convinced of the bona fides of the company, as they had taken steps during the past year or so to help the company out of its bargain, and had placed on the estimates $140,000 for re-payment to the company. He declared he would stand by the principle that private development of irrigation schemes under government supervision was justified. In regard to theAylwin irrigation tract bargain, entered into in 1909, Mr. Oliver pointed out that there was nothing to show that the regulations of the department had been departed from, or that the influence of Mr. E. A. Robert, of Montreal, with Sir Wilfrid Laurier, or other ministers, had secured any rights which others would not have got under the same conditions.

In the Craven dam case, with which the names of Hon. Walter Scott and Lieut. Governor Brown, of Saskatchewan, were mixed up, Mr. Oliver said that there was nothing wrong in the transaction. The present Lieutenant Governor, then Mr. Brown, had secured some flooded hay lands near Regina in 1900 for one dollar per acre. There was nothing in the evidence to show that Mr. Brown bought these lands for less than they were worth at the time, and the subsequent enhancement of price could hardly have been foreseen by the government.

As to the findings of the commissioner concerning the transactions of Messrs. Pedley, White, Smart and other government officials in Indian lands, Mr. Oliver said that while he was minister he had never permitted government officials to deal in public lands. Years ago, when land values were small and the department's business was not so large, officials were allowed to do things which were not permitted in later years.

Hon. Dr. Roche Riddles Oliver's Defence

Hon. Dr. Roche, in reply, thought that Mr. Oliver could not have read the reports of the commissioner very thoroughly. They showed, said he, that hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of land—even millions—had been alienated to private corporations. In answer to Mr. Oliver's complaints that the Conservative press had misrepresented the facts, Dr. Roche retorted that the Liberal press had misrepresented the recent proceedings of the Public Accounts Committee. The minister thought that there was certainly something wrong when a railway like the G. T. P. invested $15,000 in a paper controlled by a member of the government, presiding over a department with which the company had dealings. If Mr. Oliver had been a private citizen, Dr. Roche doubted if the company would have invested in his paper. As to the homestead which Mr. Cruise had been given as a squatter, Dr. Roche pointed out that the evidence showed Mr. Cruise was not a squatter, and that he had fulfilled the requirement as to cattle by simply making a temporary deal with a neighbor for cattle which he had given back as soon as the patent was secured. Dr. Roche also noted that Homestead Commissioner Davis had sworn that forty per cent. of the applicants for homesteads were not legitimate squatters, and that the department, under Mr. Oliver, had allowed this state of things to exist.

As for the Southern Alberta Land Company's transaction, the minister declared that the action of the present government, in coming to the assistance of the company, was simply to prevent the west from receiving a black eye, and was to be regarded in no means as an endorsation of the original agreement. In the Aylwin irrigation deal, he contended that Mr. Robert of Montreal had made a profit of $12,000, while Mr. Frank Denton of Toronto had made similar profits, simply owing to their having "influence" with Sir Wilfrid Laurier and other Liberal ministers.

In reference to the land deals of Lt. Gov. Brown, of Saskatchewan, Dr. Roche said that the main fact that stood out was that land bought from the government for one dollar an acre was valued three or four years after at $100 per acre. He declared the valuation of the land had been approved at the time of the sale by Mr. J. G. Turriff, and that Premier Scott had used his influence to get the concession for Mr. Brown. Dr. Roche charged that the ex-minister had been derelict in his duty in not properly valuing the land before it was sold.

Oliver Received Royalties Which Belonged to Government.

Then Dr. Roche proceeded to delve into new matters. A case which Mr. Ferguson had not brought out could, he said, be shown from the files of the department, in which Mr. Oliver himself was directly interested. In 1890 Mr. Oliver had taken a homestead within two miles of Edmonton, and instead of performing homestead duties he had bought the land from the government at one dollar per acre. In the sale by the Crown it was distinctly stipulated, said the minister, that mineral rights were reserved for the Crown. Yet in 1906 Mr. Oliver had leased these mineral rights to a man named Willis and the latter had paid royalties to the ex-minister, amounting to several thousand dollars. Although Mr. Oliver must have known that the mineral rights were reserved to the Crown, nevertheless he had continued to accept the royalties until after the present government came into power. A few months after the change of government Mr. Oliver applied to the departmentf or a lease of the mineral rights in his own name, and got it. He then issued a sub-lease to Willis. No restitution of the royalties collected from Willis had ever been made to the government. Much had been said, continued Dr. Roche, by the opposition about the forced restitution of $6,300 by a drug clerk as a result of the Public Accounts Committee investigations, but nothing had been done yet to get any restitution from Mr. Oliver.

Mr. Oliver declared that if Willis had stated that he had paid him royalties totalling as much as $1,000 he had stated an untruth.

"The honorable member admits that he got some royalties?" asked Dr. Roche.

"Yes," said Mr. Oliver.

"Then it is simply a question of amount," replied Dr. Roche.

Hon. Dr. Roche read to the House receipts and leters to Willis from the ex-minister during the months of 1908, and demanded, on behalf of the Crown, restitution from Mr. Oliver, of the moneys so collected.

A second charge made by Dr. Roche involved several parties. According to the minister, a man named Christopher Fahrni purchased twenty-three sections of the Michelin in the Indian Reserve from the late government for the sum of $25,000 to be paid in five annual installments of $5,000 each. Fahrni made an initial payment of approximately $5,000, but failed to meet additional payments as they fell due.

On June 7th, 1910, the department wrote Fahrni cancelling the cancellation, a thing the minister said, was not authorized in any regulations. Subsequently, the minister charged, the property was purchased by John J. Anderson, Mr. Oliver's son-in-law, from Fahrni for the $5,000 paid and the liability of $20,000, and was later transferred by the former to Mr. Oliver.

Mr. Fahrni had come to the conclusion that he had been buncoed. His son, had thereupon, on November 15, 1914, addressed a letter to Mr. Oliver, in which he complained that his father had been the victim of "an infamous conspiracy," charged that he had been induced to part with the lands by "fraud and misrepresentation," and demanded restitution.

"I think," said the minister, "Mr. Ferguson has disclosed enough to show that the country has been despoiled of thousands of acres of land, thousands of acres of timber land handed out to politcal friends of the gentlemen opposite, and has placed us in a position to demand restitution."

Laurier in Ignorance of Deals.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier declared that he was ready at any time to "defend the good name which Liberals have been able to preserve through a pretty long public life. "If," he said, "there has been such wrong in the conduct or record of the government over which I was entrusted to preside, I do not know it. I urge, however, that the government enter upon its task with all the power it possesses; that it make diligent search over all the years; that it prosecute any and all cases of wrong-doing it may discover; that it compel restitution to the public treasury, if it is found that anything has been wrongfully taken; that it deal with all offenders as they may deserve, and that it proceed with its task in the spirit of strict justice and fair play."

Sir Wilfrid said he was not in a position at the present time to discuss the matters brought to the attention of the House by Hon. Mr. Oliver and Dr. Roche, by reason of the fact that he was entirely ignorant of them.

At the adjournment of the House at 12.40 a. m., this morning (Thursday) Speaker Sproule announced that prorogation would take place at four o'clock this afternoon.

DIED.

CARLETON—At 229 City Road, on the 13th inst., William Carleton, late of H. M. Customs, in the 84th year of his age.
Funeral on Thursday morning at nine o'clock to Church of Holy Trinity for solemn high mass of requiem.

BELYEA.—At Public Landing, on April 14th, Amanda, widow of James A. Belyea, aged 85 years.
Funeral Friday.

PHINNEY—On the 14th inst., William O., son of the late William and Agnes Phinney, aged thirty-four years, leaving a wife, one sister and three brothers to mourn.
Notice of funeral hereafter.

ZEPPELIN RAID IN ENGLAND

Newcastle, April 15—A Zeppelin raid was made in the Tyne district of Northumberland county last night. It appears that the Zeppelins reached Blyth, from across the North Sea about eight o'clock, passed over Blyth and Cramlington, and proceeded to the north of Seatonburn. Bombs were dropped on several of the villages passed by the airship—five at Choppington, three at Wallsend, two at Seatonburn and one at Bedlington.

The airship passed near North Shields and Newcastle. While neither city was visited, both took precautions against attack by extinguishing the electric lights.

London, April 14—A German Zeppelin airship passed over Blyth, on the North Sea in Northumberland county, at eight o'clock tonight, dropping bombs, says a despatch to the Central News, from Blyth. The bombs, it is added, fell in the outskirts of the town.

London, April 14 (11.45 p.m.)—A despatch to the Exchange Telegraph Company from Newcastle says the Zeppelin passed over Blyth, the Tyne, Wallsend and Cramlington, in Northumberland and Seaton and Burn, in Durham, dropping bombs at each place.

MONTE THOMPSON HAS PASSED AWAY

Word of the death in Cambridge, Mass., of Monte Thompson, well known theatrical man, was received in the city yesterday. Mr. Thompson was head of the Thompson-Woods Compnay which has the lease of the local Opera House.

Mr. Thompson, who was about fifty years of age, had been suffering from Bright's disease and this was the cause of his death. He was a Southerner by birth and had attained prominence and success in the theatrical world. From small beginnings he worked his way up to the head of several successful theatrical companies.

His first visit to St. John was as manager of the Bennett-Moulton Company. Three years ago his company secured the lease of the Opera House here and established it in the chain of theatres controlled by the Thompson-Woods Company. Among the theatres controlled by the Thompson-Woods Company are Brockton Opera House, Merrimac Square Theatre, Lowell; Scenic Theatre, Waltham; Dedham Park Theatre and the St. John Opera House.

The company also controlled and owned many plays and also had several companies on the road, among these being the Adams-Good Stock Co., Avery-Strong Stock Co., Thompson-Woods Stock Co., Bennett-Moulton Stock Co., Thompson Musical Comedy Co., Mack's Musical Revue.

Mr. Thompson was a prominent meminent member of the New England Managers' Association and his office at 39 Court street, was the headquarters of many people prominent in the profession. He was also a Mason and a Shriner.

RIVER OPENED

The river is said to be open for navigation as far as Fredericton and some of the tugs used for bringing down the logs are expected to arrive in Fredericton today.

The steamer Champlain returned to the city yesterday from Belleisle with a general cargo and several passengers. The Majestic is still up the river, and it is expected that she will be in Fredericton today. A large quantity of ice was still running in the river and this impeded navigation to a certain extent.

At Fredericton today the St. John River Log Driving Company will place booms in the river in order to catch the logs as they come down.

It is expected that the river will be free from ice by the first of next week, and it is the intention of the steamboat men to have their steamers in operation as soon as possible.

Scott Guptill, M. L. A. of Grand Manan, was at the Victoria yesterday.