

"SOME OF THE BENEFITS MR. PORTER HAS SECURED FOR WEST HASTINGS"

For about two weeks a two-column advertisement has been running in the Intelligencer under the heading, "Some of the Benefits Mr. Porter has secured for West Hastings." Twenty-five separate and distinct "benefits" are specified.

We now take the liberty of examining these alleged benefits seriatim. We will try to determine if they really are benefits and, if so, how far Mr. Porter was responsible for obtaining them for his constituents.

Benefit 1:

He was instrumental in securing the expenditure of \$250,000 for the new wharf and warehouse at Belleville for the use of the business men and producers of the district.

The building of this new wharf was not a benefit except to the contractors who carried all the money away from Belleville. Not a ton of freight has ever been shipped from it in the regular way. It was \$250,000 thrown away to no purpose. It is badly designed, is too narrow and cannot be safely used for horse traffic. The "business men and producers of the district" have not used it and never will.

Benefit 2:

Arranged to have the Belleville Post Office raised to the status of a city office with a house-to-house mail delivery twice daily by letter carriers.

This is in reality due to R. J. Graham. Belleville Post Office was raised to the status of a city following an appeal by the board of trade. As soon as Belleville had attained to 12,000 in population and had a postal revenue of \$20,000 it automatically was accorded city standing. Mr. Graham, as the one who brought the population and helped to produce the revenue is the person entitled to the credit.

Benefit 3:

Secured the establishment of Rural Free Mail Delivery throughout the country district.

Rural mail delivery was introduced into West Hastings and widely extended during the Laurier regime. Mr. Porter, in common with his party, opposed the new movement. A few routes have been added or extended since 1911 but these are in no way attributable to Mr. Porter and came only as a natural development of the system.

Benefit 4:

Secured \$87,000 to assist in the erection of the fine bridge which spans the river at Trenton, and had the Post Office in that town enlarged.

Mr. Porter had about as much to do with the Trenton bridge as had the mayor of Timbuctu. This was part of the construction scheme of the Trent Valley Canal and was built by joint agreement of the Town of Trenton and the Dominion Government.

Benefit 5:

The British Chemical Works, which has brought thousands of dollars to West Hastings was secured through the persistent efforts of Mr. Porter.

The Ontario is informed, on the best of authority, that Mr. Porter knew absolutely nothing about the coming of the British Chemical works to Trenton until long after the land had been purchased and everything settled. In regard to this matter a leading citizen of Trenton writes,—"I see Porter claims credit for bringing the British Chemical Works to Trenton. The facts are,—The publicity agent of the C.P.R. got hold of the men connected with the promotion of the plant and brought them to Trenton. In the middle of the night Mayor Ireland and these men tramped all over the place and the situation was by nature so suited for the plant that they made a proposition to the town then and there. In twenty-four hours the deal was closed and the town applied to Toronto for special legislation to make the agreement valid without having to wait to submit to the people. The whole affair was managed by the C.P.R. Even our councillors take no credit for it."

Benefit 6:

The welfare of returned soldiers and their dependents has always been the first thought of Mr. Porter and he has always been at their service. Good positions have been secured for many returned soldiers through Mr. Porter's efforts, and he has been able to help the returned heroes and their dependents in many ways.

Probably Mr. Porter refers to the famous "Wanted" advt. which appeared a few days ago in The Intelligencer. Mr. Porter has thought so much of our "returned heroes" that he has taken the most of it out in thinking and has rarely had time even to go to the station to meet them on their return.

Benefit 7:

Compelled the Government to pay proper compensation for land taken for and damages sustained by reason of the Trent Canal.

As far as The Ontario can learn Mr. Porter's efforts to secure "proper compensation" were confined to an action entered on behalf of a single client in the exchequer court. We have no doubt but that the aforesaid client also rendered proper compensation to Mr. Porter.

Benefit 8:

Procured a remission of duty on raw mineral products shipped to the United States for refining and reshipment into Canada.

made in the finished article. It is an accomplished fact on record that Mr. Porter opposed the very scheme that would have brought this about in 1914.

Benefit 9:

Resurveyed mineral products in Hastings County in the name of the Ontario (years) and work will begin this next year.

Benefit 10:

As a result of his strong departmental visits to Ottawa, Mr. Porter, was, we believe absent from the capital at the time.

Benefit 11:

Has given thousands of dollars for Patriotic and Red Cross work and bought War Bonds to the extent of his ability, being a man of very moderate means.

Benefit 12:

We know neither the extent of Mr. Porter's means nor of his patriotic contributions. Matters of this nature are not proper subjects for advertising or newspaper comment.

Benefit 13:

Fought the city's case to compel the C.N.R. and C.P.R. to build suburbs on Front St. South and on the west side of the river, spending weeks of time and making many journeys to Ottawa free of any cost or charge to the city.

Benefit 14:

Mr. Porter put up a very poor "fight," many were of the opinion that he did not "fight" with his accustomed vigor because there was no fee attached.

Benefit 15:

Secured the dredging of the harbours of Belleville and Trenton.

Dredging is a common and necessary operation of governmental services. It is not a gift secured by "benefit"-bringers.

Benefit 16:

Insisted on and procured increased railway facilities for North Hastings, keeping up daily mail service, after service had been reduced to three trips per week owing to war conditions.

When and where did Mr. Porter appear before the Railway Commission to secure these "increased railway facilities?"

Benefit 17:

Had established a number of new post offices where there was no rural mail delivery.

We believe one new post office was established and named "Porterville" to immortalize its founder.

Benefit 18:

Procured contracts for local contractors on Trent Canal and the finishing of the Trenton end of the Canal first; on which large amounts for material and labor were expended to the advantage of the people of West Hastings.

The letting of the contracts mentioned and the decision to construct the Trenton end of the canal first, were matters of history, long before the Liberal government of Sir Wilfrid Laurier went out of power.

Benefit 19:

Procured inter-switching of freight between all railways running through Belleville.

Interswitching was the result of a fight put up by R. J. Graham. Mr. Porter had almost nothing to do with it.

Benefit 20:

Procured by his advocacy orders from the Railway Commission to properly protect the Railway Crossings of the C.N.R. and C.P.R. in Sidney Township near the cemetery and at the Bay Bridge.

The Bay Bridge crossing is protected only by a bell which is liable to ring whether trains are in sight or not. A watchman is stationed at the Cemetery crossing but it was on other representations than those of Mr. Porter that the railway commission acted.

Benefit 21:

Procured the abolition of net fishing in the Bay of Quinte from the Murray Canal to the Telegraph Light for the benefit of sportsmen and the protection of fishing interests.

This is within the jurisdiction of the Provincial Government. Mr. J. W. Johnson, M.P.E., who always takes a keen interest in matters affecting his constituency, is the one whom we may thank for any "benefits" we may have received along this line.

Benefit 22:

Procured the dredging of the Narrows at Telegraph Light to allow deep draught boats to navigate our bay.

This is another improvement that was brought about during the Laurier regime. Mr. Porter had nothing whatever to do with it.

Benefit 23:

Advocated and was one of a Special Committee to urge upon the Government the construction of a National Highway from Montreal to Detroit which would pass through Hastings County, but the Bill was killed by the Senate.

Benefit 24:

All that Hansard shows is that Mr. Porter voted in favor of the National Highway scheme. As planned, it would have been a huge corruption scheme for Hon. Robert Rogers. The Senate was justified in bringing about its execution.

Benefit 25:

Secured the appointment of an Immigration Agent in West Hastings to encourage British laborers to locate here; many scores of whom did so.

An immigration agent was appointed at Belleville by the Laurier government several years before its defeat. All that Mr. Porter had to do with it was to bring about the dismissal

Benefit 26:

of the Liberal government in securing the same.

Procured Belleville to be a military headquarters for recruiting and training by the military authorities, as well as the purchase here, for merchants getting the benefit.

It would have been a strange thing if Belleville had been made the single exception in Canada of being a city where the military authorities had been established. We do remember, however, that after the 235th battalion had been ordered into winter quarters at Belleville that an organized movement at once began to secure their expulsion from the city. Up to the hour of going to press we have not heard of a single thing that Mr. Porter did to combat one of the most disgraceful schemes in the history of Belleville.

Benefit 27:

Was instrumental in procuring contracts for various local manufacturers to produce clothing, munitions and war material, which brought many more thousands of dollars to Belleville.

In response to inquiries of various manufacturers in Belleville, The Ontario has not been able to learn that Mr. Porter was "instrumental in procuring" a single contract for any of them. All the contracts that come to Belleville, were procured on merit alone and not by pull or patronage. It was purely a matter of straight business. The best proof that Mr. Porter is not regarded as a benefactor by Belleville manufacturers is that they are, without exception, opposing his candidature most actively.

Benefit 28:

Arranged to have the marble quarried at the Bancroft quarries, used in the new wing of the Parliament Buildings, thus giving great prominence and valuable advertising to that product.

The Ontario Marble Quarries Ltd., of Bancroft and Toronto is at present in liquidation. Bryan Pontifex Esq., of the Excelsior Life Building, Toronto, is the liquidator. The preferred claims for wages have not yet been paid. Strange that such things should happen to the company for which Mr. Porter has done so much.

Benefit 29:

Obtained grant of \$22,500 for construction of steel bridge at Frankford and the free use of the Government grounds there for a Recreation Park for the citizens.

Also a part of the general construction scheme of the Trent Valley Canal. This bridge was a joint enterprise paid for by the Dominion Government, the Ontario Government and the County Council of Hastings.

The Ontario desires to give Mr. Porter full credit for every tangible benefit that he has been instrumental in bringing about. We are not, however, willing to admit the reality of "benefits" that do not exist outside of Mr. Porter's imagination.

Benefit 30:

If we have misstated or understated any of his claims for consideration we will very gladly publish explanations or corrections. We wish to do Mr. Porter full justice and believe that in our estimates of his work we have done so.

It is very instructive to compare the claims made by Mr. Porter with those found on another page made in behalf of Mr. Graham. We do not think that Mr. Graham will suffer by the comparison.

"THE INSULT RESENTED"

"The official enumerators resent the insult and aspersions on their characters as upright citizens. The enumerators were carefully chosen for their ability and honesty and one of their number, so wantonly insulted, is a soldier whose gallant deeds on the battlefields of France won him the approval of His Majesty the King and the honor of wearing that badge of honor and courage, the Military Cross. This gallant young man with his associate enumerators is publicly insulted and accused of wrongdoing by the sheet which seemingly has but a single thought and that the ignoble one of desiring the defeat of the Union Government and to divert votes by any means, fair or foul, from officially endorsed candidates of that Government."—Editorial Daily Intelligencer, Dec. 5.

The Ontario would be very sorry indeed to cast aspersions, either by inference or assertion upon the government enumerators, whether they be private gentlemen or returned soldiers. If they came within the latter class anything in the nature of aspersions or insults would be even more regrettable or unpardonable.

Our statement that scores of names were left off the lists can hardly be construed into either an insult or an aspersion. It is a plain statement of fact and easily capable of verification. That excellent and irreproachable journal, The Toronto Mail and Empire, said identically the same thing, only it was asserted more strongly and definitely, about the enumerators of Toronto.

The failure to secure all the names does not necessarily imply intentional wrongdoing on the part of an enumerator. It may not even imply carelessness. Omissions are bound to occur in a work so hurried and comprehen-

sive. If the omissions are confined to a reasonable number that is all that can be humanly expected.

of an enumerator, fully disregarded the instructions of Sheriff Morrison and willfully added names to the voters' list that he knew had no business to be there, then that enumerator did wrong.

We are told that about twenty of the enumerators outside of Belleville, after being instructed by Sheriff Morrison to add no names of males whatever to their lists, were re-instructed by another individual in Belleville to disregard the Sheriff's plain admonitions and add the names of males with impunity.

Every enumerator took a solemn oath to do what was right and fair. They should not have listened to anyone outside of the returning-officer, Sheriff Morrison.

The majority of those who are reported to have received orders from a foster-instructor, we are proud to say, followed their chief rather than the voice of the beguiler. They absolutely disregarded everything but the plain directions of the sheriff. For those who acted differently and added the unauthorized names, there is something to be said in extenuation. We have no doubt whatever but that each one thought he was doing right. He had the utmost confidence in the advice of the one who is alleged to have told him to go out and get the names, regardless of anything Sheriff Morrison might say to the contrary.

The game on the part of the alleged chief adviser was one well worth playing. The stakes were high. It was a game in which he could not absolutely lose. If he won, there were 2000 votes, each one of which would be dictated by a spirit of gratitude to the all-powerful one who could ride over statutes rough-shod, and bring to them the great privilege of being able to exercise the right of suffrage. If he lost, or the scheme was discovered Graham would have 2000 or so against him who had been deprived of the right to vote through his (Graham's) mischievous activities. They would have no right to vote but they would still have the privilege of working and of using their influence to prevent the election of Graham.

It will be noticed that our elusive contemporary ignores completely the central point in what appears to have been the most comprehensive plan ever devised here to defeat the free will of the electors.

PATRIOTIC FUND WOULD CLOSE DOWN.

Mr. Porter's zealous campaigners in Belleville have the "Fiction Factory" outclassed on every count. Our humble efforts to trifle with facts look more amateurish than ever when we hear of the superlative concoctions that are being relied upon to do yeoman service for Mr. Porter.

The campaigners assume, in the first place, that all the new women voters are fools. Therefore, the more crazy the pipe-dream, the more likely it is to go. The more recent efforts in the fertile field of fabrication are somewhat as follows.—

If Mr. Porter is defeated the grants from the Patriotic Fund will cease.

It was Mr. Porter who recently increased the Separation allowance.

It was Mr. Porter who originated the Patriotic Fund.

Mr. Porter is the only man who can bring back the boys from overseas.

Graham is a follower of Bourassa and favors having Canada drop out of the war.

These tales have been so widely and industriously circulated that they suggest a common origin. Practically every soldier's wife in Belleville has heard of Mr. Porter's consuming passion for assisting the deserving poor and the downtrodden.

It is possible the Little Tammany tigers underestimate the intelligence of the new electors.

"AN UNNECESSARY ELECTION"

"An election was entirely unnecessary in West Hastings and if Mr. Porter is the friend of the Union Government that he professes to be he can even now step out and permit the true Union candidate, Mr. Graham, to be returned by acclamation. And Mr. Porter would be a bigger man for so doing and respected for a patriotic action. Energy is being wasted here that could be used to advantage in other constituencies to fight the forces which would wreck the nation and break faith with the soldiers overseas. All the turmoil and strife of an election in West Hastings is just the result of personal ambition backed up by great lack of performance and is entirely unnecessary."—Mr. Graham from his record of useful service for West Hastings should have been returned by acclamation."—Editorial that was not in The Intelligencer, Dec. 6.

OH YOU IONA BOND.

We like the beautiful brunette. We don't despise the winsome blonde. But the best of all the girls we've met Is little Miss Iona Bond.

—Springfield (O.) News.

Other Editor's Opinions

MAKING VOTES

It is impossible to say what effect Mr. Borden's promise to exempt from military service bona fide farmers whose labor is essential to agricultural production will have on the farm vote. The farmers will probably require a more definite formula. The gains which he may make are, on the other hand, not unlikely to be more than offset by losses in the towns, where the young men, who have largely applied for exemption will protest against making the whole contribution required by the law. It is not conceivable that the manufacturers and industrial labor will vote for a drift from which only the farmers are exempted. On the whole, the promise to the farmers, if kept, will not do much to relieve the stress on the farms or to increase farm production. The depopulation of the land of late has been due mainly to the higher wages in the towns. If now, in case Mr. Borden wins, 100,000 draftees are taken from the towns, town wages will inevitably rise, and the attraction of labor from the land will be stronger than in the past. —Toronto Sun (Ind.)

INCONSISTENCY

In June, 1916, the Borden Government suppressed the Sault Ste. Marie Express, because its editor expressed the idea that we should need "no more Canadian soldiers for overseas service," and that "what the Empire needs right now is peace." This led to the suppression of the paper for a time.

Of course, the sentiments expressed are not in accord with the mass of Canadian opinion or our national responsibility, though that in regard to peace is not greatly different from what Lord Lansdowne, a former Governor-General of Canada, and a leading British Statesman, is saying today. That, however, didn't excuse the sentiments of the Sault Ste. Marie Express, nor fail to largely justify the penalty implied in suspension of publication.

This penalty, however, though it is regarded as rightly imposed in the abstract, is entirely inconsistent with the attitude of the Government in relation to a much greater offender, Mr. Bourassa's paper Le Devoir.

While the "So" paper was promptly suppressed, Bourassa's paper, that has been for years preaching treason—declaring that Canada should send no soldiers, and especially since the war began—is allowed to appear day after day and circulate broadcast throughout Quebec to the number of 25,000 or 30,000 daily.

More than that, Bourassa's vilely seditious sheet, that reeks of treason, was specially subsidized by Conservative campaign friends in 1911 to help elect, as supporters of Sir Robert Borden, twenty-eight or thirty Quebec Nationalists who held the doctrine that Canada should not send a rifle or soldier to help in Britain's wars.

It is to Bourassa and the Nationalists, with the aid, encouragement and support of the Borden Government, that we owe the fact that we have a solid Quebec against Canada's work in the war. It is to this virtual conspiracy between organized treason and sedition and lust for party gain that Quebec fell down on recruiting. The public opinion of Quebec was debauched by the wholesale injection of the virus of treason by the Nationalist propaganda, carried on while the Borden Government, like Saul at the martyrdom of St. Stephen, held Bourassa's coat, and more than that, officially patronized, protected and encouraged the emissaries of Nationalism, whose ablest and most virulent representatives for six years have occupied seats as the King's advisers in the Cabinet of a loyal Dominion.

This is the outrage upon the loyal sentiment perpetrated, or at least encouraged and permitted, by a Government that, in a new disguise, claims to stand for all that is loyal and imperialistic and calls upon honest Canadians to sink their honest convictions and votes to help retrieve the disaster for which, directly or indirectly, they are mainly responsible. —Peterborough Examiner (Lib.)

A Medical Need Supplied.—When medicine is found that not only acts upon the stomach but is so composed that certain ingredients of it are unaltered through the stomach to find action in the bowels, then here is available a purgative and a cleanser of great effectiveness. Parole's Vegetable Pills are of this character and are the best of all pills. During the years that they have been in use they have established themselves as no other pill has done.