

THE PUBLIC DOMAIN

There is no logic and neither rhyme nor reason in the belief of Premier Oliver that the Government will be better able to handle the affairs of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway by endowing that company with an acreage of the public domain larger than Vancouver Island. Mr. Oliver makes a point of the fact that the land will not in reality change ownership, inasmuch as the railway is a provincial concern. That is quite true. It will not change ownership unless a sale is consummated, and in that case the buyers of the railway, provided they are willing to continue it to the eastern boundary of the Province, are to receive a bonus of over 25,000 square miles of land, which, at a very low estimate, is valued at \$80,000,000. With a grant of this value available as an inducement to purchase what will be the price asked for the Pacific Great Eastern? Mr. Oliver has given the Legislature no information in this regard.

The endowment of land that it is proposed to give to the Pacific Great Eastern is to be exploited in the event of the Government being unable to negotiate a sale and it is to be exploited by the Government itself. The land could be exploited just as well without any transfer of the acreage into the name of the Pacific Great Eastern. The Government, if it has a steelment policy which will develop traffic for the railway, can implement that policy without any such conditions as are contained in Bill No. 78. It could have done so years ago if it believed that thereby good results would ensue. That it has not done so would indicate that the Government has little if any faith in the policy it proposes. Bill No. 70 savors of a political death bed repentance by the Premier, who is aware that his Government has failed to solve the tangle of the P.G.E.

The truth of the matter is that the land endowment policy now devised is put forward for the specific reason that the Government may be given power to negotiate a sale of the railway, subject to approval by the Legislature. That sale, however, if consummated on the basis of what is proposed, would mean the alienation of over 25,000 square miles of the public domain. It would mean that land colonization schemes could be devised by which selected acreages might be disposed of at figures which would net the promoters not only their out-of-pocket expenses in buying the railway, but also a profit, and, in the long run, the railway might never be completed as a colonization road, unless, indeed, it were taken over by either the Canadian Pacific or the Canadian National. There is no indication whatever that either of these railways could be persuaded to purchase the system even with the inducement of a monster land grant, for both will naturally assume that if the Government has done nothing up to date with the land in question there must be too great an expenditure involved.

On the basis of Bill No. 70, if the Premier implements his promise to go ahead with the construction of the Pacific Great Eastern to the Peace River country, and to go ahead with the reconstruction of the present road, in the event of there being no sale, British Columbia will be faced with an expenditure of at least \$75,000,000. It will be faced with this expenditure without any assurance of positive results. It will be faced with a continuance of provincial ownership of a railway which will have a prospective debt of some \$125,000,000 (the \$75,000,000 for new construction and the \$50,000,000 constituting the present obligations). It will be faced, too, with heavy expenditures for the development of the lands in the endowment grant for colonization purposes. The implications of Bill No. 70 are far too serious for the Legislature to contemplate at the time. No step of such a sweeping character should be taken until the people are consulted. The Government which evolved this policy should be prepared to seek a mandate for its being put into effect.

Canadian roses grown at Brampton, Ontario, and sent to Sir George McLaren Brown, European general manager of the Canadian Pacific Railway, stationed in London, scored a decided hit with Londoners. Large crowds gathered to see the Canadian blooms which were on display in the windows of the offices of the Canadian Pacific Railway in Trafalgar Square.

Christmas holiday passenger traffic to the British Isles was especially heavy this season on Canadian Pacific Railway lines. Over 1,200 passed over these lines in the last two weeks of November, while others arrived later in time to get the S.S. Melita and the S.S. Metagama which sailed from Saint John, N.B., on December 10 and 11. Westerners all seem to be in very good financial circumstances owing to the good crops the past season.

Victoria.—Some illuminating information with regard to the growth of the Japanese population in British Columbia is contained in answers given by the Minister of Education to questions put in the Legislature. The Minister stated that whereas there were 1422 young Japs attending public schools in 1923 and 1725 in 1924, there are no less than 2414 enrolled in 1925. The Chinese attendance, on the other hand, is going down slightly. It was 1346 in 1923 and 1423 in 1924, but this year it is 1313. Of Hindu children there are 26 as compared with 30 last year and 16 in 1923. The white school population, which would naturally be expected to be increasing at a greater ratio, is relatively standing still. It was 92,120 in 1923, 93,156 in 1924 and this year 94,228. In other words, the number of white children attending the public schools of British Columbia in 1925 has increased by two and one-third per cent over 1923, while the attendance of Japanese children has increased by seventy per cent.

AROUSING CURIOSITY

The female form recently became a bone of contention out in Sioux City, Iowa,—not that the particular form which caused the trouble was itself boney. Sioux City boasts a Society of Fine Arts and conducts classes of instruction. Recently a ten-day exhibition of sketches by members of its summer classes was held on the top-floor of a building owned by the County Board of Supervisors. After it had been in progress for six days the County Commissioner made the discovery that the show contained some fifty sketches of the nude female form, and ordered their removal. His legal right to do so was questioned and for two days the offending pictures remained on the walls. Finally the Commissioner took overt action and removed them himself, thus vindicating the morality of the State of Iowa, which holds that there is something inherently sinful in pictures of ladies in their birthday aspect.

The actual result of this campaign against nudity was to give the exhibition such an advertisement that during the two days when the controversy was in progress the whole population went to see the show and nudity screamed in the newspaper headlines as the leading topic of the day. It turned out that the offending sketches were all studies of a single individual, Mrs. Wilbur Davis, who had served as her husband's model and had afterwards consented to pose for the entire summer class of the Sioux City Art School. Following modern custom Mrs. Davis gave interviews to the newspapers in which she vindicated her right to pose in the "altogether" if she wished to, and declared her opinion that there was no ethical difference between an artistic pose in the nude and one less revealing. To give interest to the interviews with Mrs. Davis, whose physical endowments, it is said, furnished justification, pictures of her both nude and clothed adorned the front pages of the newspapers. Thus those who had not troubled to go and see the Fine Arts show were treated to an exhibition of the unveiled feminine form.

One result of the moral campaign started by the County Commissioner was that school children hearing that something supposed to be improper was to be seen betrayed a sudden interest in art. They flocked to the building where the sketches were on view, and the County Commissioner devised a counter measure, by ordering the elevator man to exclude children from his cage. The youngsters were not daunted. In droves they climbed eight flights of stairs to gaze on the fully revealed charms of Mrs. Wilbur Davis. Thus the population of Sioux City got a more widely diffused experience of nudity than it has ever previously enjoyed.

All this goes to show the persistency with which so-called moral reformers defeat the ends which they aim to serve. Had the County Commissioner ignored the show it would probably have been seen only by the limited Iowa coterie that is interested in art; but within forty-eight hours nearly every man, woman and child in Sioux City had had the whole subject of nudity thrust on them in the most prurient and offensive way. No one would have taken any harm from a series of drawings, necessary to any intelligent art study of the figure; but the county authorities managed to load with pornographic suggestion what was at the outset innocent.

The girl was a knockout, so she married a boxer.

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From Winter's Bite To Summer's Glow



President's Palace and new Plaza at Havana.

Manila-Filipino tree hut near Guadalupe.

She slips out of New York harbor and the Statue of Liberty fades into the wintry mists behind her. It is the good ship Montroyal of the Canadian Pacific Line on her first trip of the season to the West Indies and it is midwinter with all the harshness of that time of year apparent. Icy gusts and cold snow falling into the water where ice is floating. In every way the prospect is uninviting and the passengers are below decks in the warmth of well-lighted, gay saloons and cabins. A little over twenty-four hours of sailing elapses, and what a change! We are back in the good old summer time.

Small islands pass and reefs so close on either hand that a golf ball thrown from the deck might waken the dormitory of lazy gulls. In the distance there develops like a smoke pall, an immense range of mountains, and it is a surprise over a calm sea steered in the glories of color almost beyond imagination, while the air is so warm that the lightest of summer clothing is de rigueur.

The landfall grows, as it were, and stands smiling at us. Gliding smoothly along, one feels minute, with

the insignificance of a fly on a floor, gazing at a huge piece of a gilded brown color, so marked are the indentations shadowing the island's precipitous sides—all jags and points.

The little town on the island is hidden with an African shyness, among palm trees. Some fine buildings, church and government, offset the mile upon mile of negroes' wooden habitations that persist until the foothills of the island's watershed backbone; from below, so solemn in its eminence; from above, so impracticable in its crenellations, gullies and rifts. Through the crazy interior splash threading streams and frothy torrents over rocky shelves often garlanded with greenery and rare fronds.

To the north-west where the mountain turbulence subsides, the serried ranks of the sugar-cane are marshalled as far as the eye can see, and banana trees grow in the rich red loam. Ginger roots, the sprouting pineapple, and tobacco are cultivated; but the genial heat of the sun aiding and abetting native indolence, breeds theft and petty larceny. So sugar is this island's staple industry. Permission to view a sugarmill can be obtained. Nor should the experience be missed. The bundles of sugar cane, loaded with sap, are run up an endless sliding band, to be crushed in a mangle, the stems coming out in dry shreds, the rich juices flowing away to the circulators, large drum conveyors, and copper kettles that boil it. Then vases, revolving internally, whisk the juice at high velocity thus crystallizing it to the consistency seen in bowls at the breakfast table. A by-product of the process, once thrown away, now as important as its parent industry, is the well-known West Indies rum.

Down grassy slopes by the northern shore where a sea of crystal blue cleanses a strip of shining sand, bathers swim for hours, unwilling to leave the pleasant warmth of the water for the slightly cooler outside air.

Leaving New York on January 28 for the West Indies the Canadian Pacific Liner Montroyal makes fifteen ports of call before returning thirty days later. The Montroyal makes a second trip to the West Indies, taking in different ports, leaving New York March 1 and returning March 30. Shore excursions are arranged for ports where interesting sights may be taken in.

NEGATIVE EVIDENCE IN THE MERCURY GOLD CASE.

When A saw a man and B didn't see him, the evidence of B is usually of highly regarded. Dr. Adolph Miethe and others say they have produced gold from pure mercury. Experts employed by the Scientific American have tried the process without success. This is negative testimony, but in the opinion of the Engineering and Mining Journal-Press, the conditions and details of the experiment are such that it must be considered as discrediting the news from Germany and Japan. We read: "Some time ago we duly chronicled the claim of Dr. Adolph Miethe, of Germany, that he had transmuted mercury into gold, and the rival claims reported to have been made by a Japanese scientist that he had done the same thing and done it first. While we, like all the world, recognized that individuality of an element is no longer secure, since various elements have been shown to change into others, and therefore that transmutation of cheaper metals into gold was a possibility, yet we pointed out editorially the unlikelihood that Dr. Miethe had accomplished what he claimed; and further suggested that Dr. Miethe had committed the amateurish error of not testing his raw material and determining whether gold were present in the gold in the beginning. We observed that mercury almost invariably contains a small impurity of gold, the proportion of which coincides in a general way with the amount of gold held to have been formed by transmutation by the scientists in Berlin and Tokio.

"The Scientific American has had Dr. Miethe's tests repeated by competent scientists, and it has just given out the results, which are negative. It finds that the method does not change the mercury into gold. The Spanish Mercury used by Dr. Miethe, it states, contains a little gold; and this gold separated out during the experiment. The observers state that the mercury that they used was California mercury, and therefore free from gold, but our editorial shows that California mercury does, as a rule, contain gold, although the Scientific American workers did not find it in the material with which they worked. This report closes with a sardonic seriousness: 'Gold can be extracted from mercury, but mercury can not be transmuted into gold.'

Still if a law satisfied everybody there wouldn't be any need of a law.

According to a report just issued from Canadian Pacific Railway headquarters, an average of one instance of gross carelessness on the part of automobilists every seventeen days is the record during the last three years and two months in connection with level crossings in New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario and the Algoma districts. These instances number 69 from September 1, 1922, to October 31 last, or a period of 1,167 days. They resulted in injuries to 53 persons, of whom two died.

"GOVERNMENT LIQUOR ACT"

Notice of Application for Beer Licence.

Notice is hereby given that on and after the 1st day of January, 1926, the undersigned intends to apply to the Liquor Control Board for a Licence in respect of Premises, being part of the building known as the Great Northern Hotel, situate on Lots 2 and 3, Block 15, on the North side of Northern Avenue, in the Town of Natal, in the District of Kootenay, Map No. 792, for the sale of beer by the glass or by the open bottle for consumption on the premises.

Dated this 14th December, 1925.

Eva Pelech
Dmytro Woliansky
Applicants.



Fernie Electoral District

Notice regarding closing portion of Armstrong Street, Michel Townsite

NOTICE is hereby given, that, under authority conferred by Section 11 of the "Highway Act," Chapter 103 of the "Revised Statutes of British Columbia, 1924" it is the intention of the undersigned, after thirty days from date, to discontinue and close the portion of Armstrong Street between Blocks 1 and 3, Michel Townsite, Lot 4589, Group 1, Kootenay District.

W. H. Sutherland
Minister of Public Works
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, B.C.
24 Nov., 1925.

SYNOPSIS OF LAND ACT AMENDMENTS

PRE-EMPTIONS

Vacant, unreserved, surveyed Crown lands may be pre-empted by British subjects over 18 years of age, and by aliens on declaring intention to become British subjects, conditional upon residence, occupation and improvement for agricultural purposes.

Full information concerning regulations regarding pre-emption is given in Bulletin No. 1, Land Series "How to Pre-empt Land," copies of which can be obtained free of charge by addressing the Department of Lands, Victoria, B.C., or to any Government Agent.

Records will be granted covering only land suitable for agricultural purposes, and which is not timber land, i.e., carrying over 5,000 board feet per acre west of the Coast Range and 4,000 feet per acre east of the Range.

Applications for pre-emption are to be addressed to the Land Commissioner of the Land Recording Division, in which the land applied for is situated, and are made on printed forms, copies of which can be obtained from the Land Commissioner.

Pre-emption must be occupied to five years and improvements made to value of \$10 per acre, including clearing and cultivating at least five acres, before a Crown Grant can be received.

For more detailed information see the Bulletin "How to Pre-empt Land."

PURCHASE

Applications are received for purchase of vacant and unreserved Crown lands, not being timberland for agricultural purposes; minimum price of first-class (arable) land is \$5 per acre, and second-class (grazing) land \$2.50 per acre. Further information regarding purchase or lease of Crown lands is given in Bulletin No. 14, Land Series, "Purchase and Lease of Crown Lands."

Mill, factory, or industrial sites or timber land, not exceeding 40 acres, may be purchased or leased, the conditions including payment of stumpage.

HOMESITE LEASES

Unsurveyed areas, not exceeding 3 acres, may be leased as homesites conditional upon a dwelling being erected in the first year, title being obtainable after residence and improvement conditions are fulfilled and land has been surveyed.

LEASES

For grazing and industrial purposes areas not exceeding 640 acres, may be leased by one person or company.

GRAZING

Under the Grazing Act the Province is divided into grazing districts and the range administered under a Grazing Commissioner. Annual grazing permits are issued based on numbers ranged, priority being given to established owners. Stock-owners may form associations for range management. Free, or partially free, permits are available for settlers, campers and travellers up to the limit.

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