

# GOVERNMENT FRIENDS MADE FAT PROFIT

### Three Townships of Indian Lands in Algoma Bought from Government at Small Figure and Re-sold at a Profit of over \$91,000—No Conditions Attached.

Ottawa, July 15.—The government's management of Indian affairs has had the searchlight turned on it recently by the opposition and sufficient has been discovered to show that it was as extravagantly and prodigally administered as the marine and militia departments. J. E. Armstrong, East Lambton, severely arraigned the methods adopted by the minister of the interior, and he was followed up today by A. E. Boyce of Algoma, who exposed a deal in New Ontario by which friends of Sifton secured a profit of a trifle one thousand per cent. and over. With the present government, indeed it seems as if a profit of anything less than a thousand is desired.

Mr. Boyce spoke of the sale of Indian lands in the three Algoma townships of Fisher, Haviland and Tilley. The lands totalled 29,301 acres and were sold for \$9,017.50. The patent was granted absolutely free of conditions and the lands were sold by patents for \$101,830, or a profit of \$91,813.

These patents were W. C. Wilson of Brandon, A. E. Philp, a former law partner of the Hon. Clifford Sifton and is still, it is said, associated with Mr. Sifton in private business. Dawson Reesor is a prominent Liberal worker in Brandon. A letter of April 20, 1900, was read stating that application was put in the name of A. H. Gale at the wish of Mr. Sifton.

The deal exposed by Boyce was put through in those Elysian days when Sifton and the big four ruled supreme and unmolested. The fortunate speculators were W. P. Wilson of Brandon, A. T. Philp a former law partner of Sifton's, and D. A. Reesor, a well known Liberal worker of the Brandon district. A. F. Gale, who gave his address as Oxford, England, acted as stool pigeon for the two and put in the original application, it being afterwards transferred. The townships affected were Haviland, Tilley and Fisher.

The initial step in this peculiar affair was taken July 25, 1899, when A. H. Gale, who gave the address of Oxford, England, made application to the Indian Agent at Sault Ste. Marie, to purchase the three townships. On July 27, 1899, the Indian agent at the Soo, forwarded Gale's application to the department. The next heard of the affair is March, 1900, when W. F. Wilson, Brandon, wrote Deputy Minister Smart, enclosing application to purchase these same townships, subject to the following conditions:

- (a) Erection of a saw mill with a capacity of from three to five million feet per annum.
(b) To place a number of settlers on the land found fit for settlement.
(c) Price to be ascertained by valuation.
The affair was not making the progress Wilson wished, and on April 20, 1900, he wrote from Brandon to Deputy Minister Smart, asking him to hasten an answer to his application. In this letter Wilson refers to the original application dated July

25, 1899, filed by A. H. Gale, of Oxford, England, with the Indian agent at the Soo.

Wilson states that the application put in in the name of A. H. Gale, would not interfere with his application, as Gale was working with him in the matter and that the department could deal with either application. He further advised that Mr. Sifton wished the application put in in the name of Gale at the time. This was considered sufficient justification for the department to transfer the application standing in Gale's name to Wilson and his associates.

A few days later, on May 3, 1900, Gale wrote from Waterville, Que., to the department identifying himself with Wilson. However, previous to this on April 18, a letter was sent to Wilson at Brandon offering to sell the three townships under the following conditions:

- 1. Value under regulations by competent valuator under oath, and payment to be made in cash at the time of sale at the value placed thereon.
2. Sections and broken sections fit for settlement to be subject to the following settlement duties:
One settler on each section or broken section, a house at least 18x34 ft., to be erected thereon and occupied for three years, and 5 acres in every 100 acres, or in that proportion, to be cleared and cultivated.
3. Sale to be subject to existing timber licenses.
4. Pine and spruce not removed by licensees within three years to be paid for by purchaser at value placed by valuator.
5. Purchaser to erect a sawmill at Batchewana Bay, with a capacity of from 3 to 5 million feet per annum, and to give Indians the preference in the employment of labor.
6. All... and base to be reserved.
7. Letters patent to be issued after the expiration of three years from date of sale and upon proof being furnished of the due fulfilment of all conditions.
8. Purchaser to pay proportion of the amount of cost of value for the land found to be unfit for settlement.
On April 24, 1900, Wilson wrote, stating that he and his associates were prepared to comply with the terms outlined. One McCauley was nominated valuator, and was appointed on June 5, 1900. The appraisalment he placed on the property was as follows:

- Fisher, 10,701 acres, price \$3,681.70.
Haviland, 13,358 acres, price \$4,397.05.
Tilley 5,242 acres, price \$1,909.00.
Totals 29,301 acres valued at \$9,017.50.
The department, however, did not sell at this valuation, but sold the whole of the land at \$9,017.50, and the sale was not completed until Sept. 11, 1900, although there was a ruling of the department of justice, dated April 19, 1905, upon which the department notified the purchaser that interest amounting to \$1,167.32 was payable on overdue purchase

money and should be paid, and a statement of this amount was sent to Wilson. The interest, however, was generously remitted by an order-in-council, dated March 8, 1906.

Between the date of the contract and the date of the sale, by negotiations with the department the conditions upon which the sale was originally made were one by one abandoned, and when the patent issued on September 11, 1900, for these lands, it was granted absolutely free from conditions.

The purchasers never entered into possession of the lands, nor cut any timber thereon, but were offering it for sale during the time of negotiation with the department and before the deal was closed.

The deal became so notorious that even a Liberal member was led to protest, and on May 30, 1905, D. A. Gordon, M.P., wrote the department expressing surprise that such a large tract of land was sold for 30 cents an acre and asking an explanation. No explanation was forthcoming and he was curtly informed that on June 2, 1905, the lands were sold to W. F. Wilson and his associates at a price based on the sworn examination and valuation, the sale being made on specific conditions.

In 1906 Wilson, Philp and Reesor sold their three townships to an American lumber firm.

The profits realised by the purchasers on this speculation with Indian lands were as follows:

- Fisher, price \$3,681.70, re-sold at \$37,346.00, purchasers' profit \$33,564.30.
Haviland, price \$4,397.05, re-sold at \$49,000, purchasers' profit \$44,602.95.
Tilley, price \$1,909, re-sold at \$15,484, purchasers' profit \$13,575.
A total profit of \$91,813.50.

Another significant feature in the transaction was that McCauley, who was the sworn valuator appointed by the officers of the government to make the original valuation, and who valued the lands and timber on them for the purpose of sale by the government to Wilson and his associates at \$9,017.50, acted as agent of the purchasers on the re-sale to the American lumber firm, and made the valuation upon which such sales were made, aggregating for the three townships, \$101,830.

## THE TORTURES WOMEN SUFFER

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Mrs. Joseph Kinney, Gilbert's Cove, N.S. says: "For ten years I suffered from nervousness and those troubles that make the lives of so many women one of almost constant misery. At times I would be confined to my bed for weeks. I spent sleepless nights and seemed to lose all courage. I tried several doctors but they failed to give me any relief. The last doctor I consulted told me frankly that he could not undertake my case unless I would undergo an examination. It was then I decided to give Dr. Williams' Pink Pills a trial. After taking six boxes I was much improved in health, but I continued to take the Pills for a couple of months more when I felt like a new woman, and was enjoying such health as I had not experienced for ten years before. I have had no return of this trouble since, but I have used the Pills once since that time for the after effects of la grippe and the result was all I hoped for. These are plain facts from my own experience and I have always felt that I cannot too strongly recommend Dr. Williams' Pink Pills to the many women who suffer as I did." You can get these Pills from any dealer in medicine or by mail at 50 cents a box or six boxes for \$2.50 from The Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

At a meeting of the Scotchmen held in the Oddfellows Hall last Friday evening a Caledonian Society for Regina was formed. The following officers were appointed for three months to draw up a constitution and prepare for the next general meeting: President, W. M. Ballantyne; vice pres., J. H. Kelly; secretary, J. Arnott; treas., A. Wylie; committee, McCallum, Adams, Alexander, Cowie and Eadie.

Minard's Liniment cures Diphtheria.

## PROVINCIAL NEWS

Prince Albert, July 16.—The board decided to build the new high school by day labor. The tenders received were away above the architect's estimates. The central school here was built this way and the result was very satisfactory. Chas. Hamilton was appointed superintendent of construction. The excavation is already done. The school is to cost eighty thousand dollars and will be finished by May next year. The city council struck a rate tonight of nine and one half mills. The rate last year was fourteen mills.

Mr. B. Rothwell, an old timer of the Melfort district had a very narrow escape yesterday morning. He was walking alongside the track on the way to town and did not notice that the C.N.R. work train was coming up behind him. The engineer whistled, but as Mr. Rothwell is rather deaf he did not hear the warning signal and before the engine could be stopped it struck him, knocking him to one side. A number of people ran to the spot thinking he had been killed, but it was found that beyond a few bruises and a bad shaking up he was alright.—Melfort Moon.

Dr. Todd professor in McGill university intends paying a professional visit to Grenfell some time during the latter part of July for the purpose of studying the more obscure diseases of domestic animals. The doctor is particularly anxious of obtaining all possible information on Swamp Fever, so as to submit it to specific investigation and if possible discover a remedy. Those who have had experience with and suffered loss through this or any other obscure disease of horses and cattle are asked to communicate with Mr. B. P. Richardson with whom Dr. Todd is in communication. Such a visit will be a very important one, and all possible assistance should be given Dr. Todd in his work.—Grenfell Sun.

The case of J. F. Cairns of Saskatoon, summoned for conducting a lottery, was sent up to the higher court by Magistrates Turner and Jackson last week. The case is purely formal one, evidence being submitted for trial in a short time. Jas. Stratton for the defence wanted a summary trial, but the magistrates submitted the case to the attorney general and was informed that they had no jurisdiction. Accused was admitted to nominal bail. The scheme complained of consisted of giving each purchaser of a dollar's worth of goods a coupon for a drawing, the articles drawn for running from a heavy team worth \$500 or a trip to Europe, to a suit of clothes of the value of \$20. The prosecution was taken at the instance of other merchants who saw trade going past their doors. The case will come before the judge in December unless a speedy trial can be arranged.

An interesting discovery, says the Lashburn Comet, was made on Tuesday of last week, when men employed on the grading of the Battle River Hill unearthed the remains of a large fish, petrified and embedded in the rock. The creature was found at a height of seventy feet above the present water level, and fully a quarter of a mile from the banks which now confine the battle river. Unfortunately, it was not possible to remove it from its bed of rock intact, and as a result many of the employees of the grade are carrying round the broken pieces on each of which the scales are quite visible. Some light has been thrown on the ancient history of that stream, and we consider fairly establishes the proof that what is now a river of almost insignificant, flowing in a comparatively narrow channel, was once a noble water course, probably filling the valley from bank to bank. At what remote period of the earth's history this was, it is only possible to conjecture, but presumably it may have been at the end of the glacial period many millions of years ago.

## QUEER STORY

The Drinkwater Advance is responsible for the following: The cell of our newly arrived bird cage, was inhabited for the first time last week. That sounds like a commonplace item, but why it was inhabited is another tale, and a queer one at that. Twelve months ago the man who occupied the cell last week drove up to a farm near Minot, N.D., where lived two brothers. The brothers asked the old man into the house but would not let his companion enter, and from that day to this the old man has never been seen. The inmate of the cell witnessed the murder through the window and was told by the two murderers to leave the country unless he wished to share a like fate. He came to Canada and filed on a homestead near Wood Mountain. One day while in Moose Jaw in connection with his homestead he met the two brothers, who had secured homesteads in the same township as his, and they again threatened him. He then came to Rouleau and asked one of the local magistrates for police protection. The authorities at once got into communication with the United

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States officials and the sheriff from Minot arrived in town last week. The witness was brought into town and it was evident that... brought to bear upon him for, in spite of assurances to the effect that accessory before the fact and despite he would not be proceeded against as accessory before the fact and despite the efforts to frighten him by placing him in the cage, he would not return to the States under any conditions. That there was a murder in certain and that the body of the murdered man lay hidden in the cellar of the brothers for three days before it was removed beneath a pile of potatoes is known although it cannot be proved. That the man seeking police protection witnessed the murder and that the old man was strangled is reasonably certain. If the star witness disappears mysteriously it will not be surprising, and anyway they are most undesirable specimens to have at large in the country.

## WANTED TO SEE LIFE

Fired with a desire to see the world and Life with a big "L," the most prominent citizens of "The Flub" lit out yesterday on the noon train. Who the instigator of the scheme was is wrapped in mystery, but the long finger of coincidence points more or less unerringly to the eldest of the trio, who has been unconnected with similar escapades before. The names of the historic trio are Bobbie Chubb Elmer Hune and Byron Lamb, and their combined ages can't be very much over forty. Anyway, they had a real lovely time planned out. First of all they drew out of the bank, or rather, Hugh Chubb did, about \$288. This they divided between them, the two older boys getting about \$100 apiece, and the one to whom the cash belonged about the odd \$88. They then stealthily packed their grips and hid them to the depot. Arrived there they bought tickets for Winnipeg and had gotten on the train before anyone was aware of what was in the wind. That they expected to be up against something is evidenced by the fact that having divided the money, which the young financier drew from the bank of Hamilton in the morning, they proceeded to hide it in their boots. What was the ultimate destination of these adventurous spirits is unknown they had bought tickets for Winnipeg, but it is reported that Fargo or some such pleasant spot was their final destination. Any way they were out to see the world. Alas for the best laid schemes even of youths.

The eagle eye of a stern parent got a glimpse of their departure from the station, and a message to J. Griffin Willoughby, a fellow passenger, had them put back on the northbound train at Dundurn, and the travels of the modern Midshipmen Easy came to an untimely end. It is reported that at least one member of the party is taking his meals standing today.—Saskatoon Capital.

## GOAT 23 MONTHS

P. Nicola, who tried to pass a raised cheque on A. E. Matheson got 23 months in Prince Albert prison. There was not sufficient evidence to convict in the opinion of Judge McMillan. Then the prisoner went into the witness box and admitted the crime. He said he had got the cheque for \$29.70 for working on the C.N.R. near Saskatoon and had raised it to \$59.70. Nicola is a cute one. First he was a Frenchman, but when Chief Forsyth got an interpreter, he was an Italian. When an Italian interpreter was secured Nicola was half Italian and half French and couldn't talk either very well. He finally consented to talk Italian and was his own undoing. The attempt to alter the cheque was very crude.—Prince Albert Times.

## Comic and Serious

Bangs: "I notice you call that dog of yours 'John D.'"  
Henter: "Yes. Never lost a scent in his life."—Cornell Widow.  
Host: "Have you seen the wedding gifts, old man?"  
Guest: "No, not yet."  
"Well, wait a moment. I'll get one of the detectives to show you through."—Life.

"It's hard," said the sentimental lady at the dinner table, "to think that this poor little lamb should be destroyed in its youth, just to cater to our appetites."  
"Yes," replied the smart boarder, struggling with his port, "it is tough."—The Congregationalist.

Do you know what keeps the majority of young men dragging along with no aim, simply living mechanically from day to day? It's lack of ambition, lack of push, lack of decision. Be practical, "don't be a c-

phor" be something, be somebody, be true to yourself, make yourself felt. Life is what you make it. Disabuse your mind of all delusions in regard to "fate," "destiny" or "luck."

Satan's Servant: "Your honor, a gent just arrived."  
Satan: "What's his crime?"  
Servant: "Keeping people who called to see him waiting unreasonably long."  
Satan: "Give him a seat over the hot air shaft and tell him to wait."—Life.

Mr. Jawback: "My goodness! What are you in such a stew about?"  
Mrs. Jawback: "Well, I have a right to fuss. I'm to deliver an address at the Don't Worry Club this afternoon, and I'm afraid its going to rain."—Cleveland Leader.

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