

Twice-a-Week Times

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FOR WHOSE BENEFIT? It is little more than two months since the provincial government by order-in-council placed a reserve on certain large districts of the public lands and at the same time raised the cost of public lands in each of the two classifications by doubling the purchase price.

Both the reserve order and the fact that the doubled price was made to apply retroactively for all lands, the title to which had not been completed, raised a storm of criticism. Among those whose interests were hazarded and whose good faith in the state, surveying and sale of lands was endangered were many political friends of the government. This was pointed out when in isolated cases political opponents made complaint of the new order, and it was the proud boast of Hon. W. J. Bowser, who no doubt was the instigator of the order-in-council, that the government of the province was not one of the kind to pass an order one week and rescind it the next. The public was given to understand that the laws of the province of British Columbia, even when authorized only by order-in-council, were like those of the Medes and Persians. Albeit, before six weeks had elapsed, just as the premier and his aide, the attorney-general were about to step on board ship at New York on their way to the coronation, the objection order was rescinded and the proud boast of the attorney-general was discredited.

Naturally the public is interested in these two contradictory orders issued and each reversing the other within so short a period. The discovery of the reasons will not increase the confidence of the public in the purity of the administration of the McBride government, nor will it tend toward the placing of confidence in any future order-in-council that may be passed, ostensibly in the public welfare.

The Times has before it the prospectus of the Fort Fraser Land Company, Limited, a company which was incorporated in England early in April, or coincident with the passing of the order-in-council which came as such a surprise in this country. The company was capitalized at \$500,000, and was formed, as the prospectus states, "particularly for the purpose of acquiring about 42,800 acres of agricultural land in Central British Columbia in the new district now being opened up by the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway."

This land is described as among the very first to have been purchased from the government, and the statement is made that considerable choice was then open in the selection of lands. The succeeding paragraph of the prospectus reads as follows: "A point worthy of special consideration is that a year ago the B. C. government put a reserve on all this district, stopping further purchase of lands from the government, so that it would now be impossible to acquire such another area on such terms."

The prospectus invites purchase of shares in the company and appraises the land "under option" at a value of \$30 per acre, but it calls the attention of the prospective investor to the following remarkable circumstances: "Since the date on which the above purchase consideration was fixed the British Columbia government has, by an order-in-council, dated April 3, 1911, increased the prices charged for similar government lands 100 per cent. The price of the property to be acquired by this company was based on the value of land before the issue of the said order-in-council, and consequently the full benefit of such order will accrue to this company."

It should be stated that in the prospectus all that the new company offered its subscribers was certain contracts or options given by parties in Victoria who were the "ultimate vendors." The new company was to pay \$100,000 of the sum that these ultimate vendors had to pay the government of British Columbia for its uncompleted title to the lands involved. The option expired on May 31, 1911, and the subscriptions for shares in the company closed on May 26, 1911.

The Times is not in a position to state whether the full amount of stock in the company was subscribed at the date fixed for closing the books, but it is a singular circumstance that on the eleventh day of May the order-in-council was passed redefining regulatory a previous order which made it obligatory that all uncompleted titles should only be issued at a new rate, which was an advance of 100 per cent. on the purchase price of this land from the government by the original locators.

It may be stated that Mr. E. H. Heaps, of Vancouver, is the only Canadian director of the company. It should be stated further that the British Columbia solicitors for the company are Messrs. Bowser, Reid and Wallbridge, of Vancouver, the head of which firm is the Napoleonic attorney-

general of the province and second boss of the provincial government. The Times makes no comment upon the serious yet happy concatenation of circumstances and asks again: "For whose benefit?" An order-in-council is passed April 3 doubling the price on public lands already under registration but with incomplete titles. About the same time a company is formed to complete the purchase of some 42,800 acres of land which have been surveyed, partly paid for, and offered under option to British brokers. The new company is to pay \$100,000 of the amount still due to the government for these lands which were purchased at the low price in force before the first order-in-council. It points out that no more lands in that vicinity can be purchased excepting at double the price if it has agreed to pay for its own purchases, if, indeed, any can be purchased at all under the new ruling.

The option expires May 31 and the offer of stock closes on May 26 without the company or the original owners or anyone on behalf having paid the government for clear title to the lands. Clear title to these lands at the first purchase price cannot be obtained without a rescinding of the order-in-council and Hon. W. J. Bowser, the head of the firm acting as Canadian solicitors for the embarrassed company, is on his way to England. Of course there can be no suggestion that the Attorney-General was consulted in the matter even in these wireless days. The acting premier and acting attorney-general, left at home and faced with a situation so involved and so embarrassing, could see no way out of the difficulty but the rescinding of the former order. And they did it; but, of course, without acquainting the Attorney-General with the fact that neither the government nor his own private business as the head of a firm of solicitors can be successfully carried on in his absence. Thus the province loses in one fell stroke of the pen a quarter of a million dollars, or the difference in the purchase price at \$5 per acre under the old regime and \$10 under the new.

DISCREDITABLE TACTICS. Elsewhere in this issue of the Times appears a report of the modus operandi adopted by the Anti-reciprocity League of Canada, a society which has its headquarters in one of the eastern cities. One does not need to be gifted with strong attachment to any political party or to any political system to be able to feel convinced that the adoption of such methods for the prosecution of a political propaganda is not creditable to those who are responsible for it or engage in it. Nor among people who take their politics seriously and with honor will the resort to such methods win favor. It is no reflection upon the intelligence or political honor of men that they should differ in the attitude they choose to take on a commercial or political policy, but it is a serious reflection against that policy when its friends are compelled to resort to chicanery and deception in order to advance their own cause.

That deception was the deliberate intention of the perpetrators of this organization is apparent from its own literature and the instructions given to organizers. It is conceivable that a Liberal might, for business reasons, be opposed to reciprocity. We opine that business interests naturally come before political attachment in individual cases. But a Liberal might be enticed into an organization represented to be strictly non-political to discover only too late that he had been hoaxed. If he should happen to be a man of position and influence in business circles in his community his name would be used, despite any protests that he might afterwards make, as one aligned in opposition to the policy of his political party. This would be something he would not bargain for nor buy at any honorable price.

We do not know how far the leaders of the political party opposed to reciprocity sympathize in this method of advancing their position nor are we much concerned about that. It is the obvious weakness of any cause which is compelled to resort to unworthy and dishonorable methods in order to count heads among its following that we direct attention. Unfortunately, both in Canada and the United States there have been exposures of too many of these surreptitious methods. Unfortunately, too, for those who are mixed up and tainted with them, they are all on one side—that opposed to reciprocity.

HEART OF EMPIRE. It is less than half a month since the Imperial conference at one of its most important sessions discussed and disposed of the proposal of New Zealand for the adoption of the principle of Imperial federation. The Times took the stand more than a month ago while Sir Joseph Ward was advocating this policy in Canada and before his arrival in England, that while the proposal was not Utopian it would be long in realization. We said also that it was perhaps because of this latter fact that Sir Joseph had brought the scheme to the early attention of the conference. The arrival to-day of the

British papers with extended reports of the attitude of the members of the conference confirms us in this view. Not one of the premiers from any of the Overseas Dominions supported New Zealand's premier and Premier Asquith's outline of what would result in practice from the adoption of the principle was so clear and forcible that enthusiastic as he had been, Sir Joseph withdrew his motion. The authorized report of the session of the conference gives the information that Premier Asquith stated, while His Majesty's government had the strongest sympathy with any practical step in the suggested direction, if it came to anything in the nature of getting up a new constitutional machine, the initial step must have the unanimous consent of the Dominions themselves. It was in this connection that he pointed out that it would impair, if not altogether destroy, the authority of the government of the United Kingdom in such grave matters as those of foreign policy, the conclusion of treaties, the maintenance of peace and the declaration of war. He pointed out that the responsibility of the Imperial government could not be shared, and the co-existence, side by side with the government of the United Kingdom, of this body, with the function and jurisdiction which was proposed would be fatal to the present system of responsibility. The proposal, he further stated, would give the suggested body power to impose upon the Dominions a policy from which one or more of them might dissent, such a policy might involve taxation inflicted upon one or more of the Dominions which might not approve the policy. Referring to these complications he said the Imperial government would not depart from the fundamental principles upon which the Empire had been built up. This deliverance was very far-reaching in its suggestions. It showed that these fundamental principles could not be departed from without endangering the existence and cohesion of the Empire to-day. When one calculates the relation of the various Dominions to the heart of Empire to-day the conclusion is forced upon us that Sir Wilfrid Laurier had a true insight and comprehension of the whole matter when he expressed the desire of Canada to remain a nation within an Empire. This is a possibility and so far as can be seen nothing else is possible if the traditional liberties, individualities of parts of and comprehensive unity of the whole Empire in its various parts is to be maintained. It may not be idle to suggest that if ever dissension and disruption threaten the Empire it will be because of the adoption of the policy which is being advocated by the two parties both in Canada and England; the policy which would determine and restrict the commercial agreements and trade relations of Overseas Dominions from the Mother Country and the impalement of the Dominions upon every Imperial snare that the broader affairs of Empire might necessitate. The compelling of the colonies to endure again such an unjust system of taxation as led to the Boston Tea Party. The building around the various integral parts of the Empire a wall high and strong; with doors of trade opening only toward each other, and the restriction of all the commercial dealings of these Dominions to one another. The segregation of the Empire from contact with all other countries by compelling the worship of a fetish worse than religious idolatry because it would advantage the few at the expense of the many. Just as in the human body there are many members, each with its several functions, yet an inviolate part of the whole, so there must be in the Empire a recognition of the individual function of every state. Without heart this is impossible but round the heart of Empire deriving the living and vital serum from and throbbing with every pulsation of that heart the whole body may consummate the purpose of its existence.

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SPECIAL FIVE DAYS' SALE of Furniture, Carpets, House Furnishings

In order to enlarge our Vancouver store it was necessary for us to purchase the enormous surplus stock of the Standard Furniture Company. This is our way of disposing of some of the high-grade furniture held by that Company.

Choice Bedroom Furniture at Special Five Day Sale Prices

- DRESSER in birch mahogany, has three large drawers fitted with neat handles and locks, has panel ends. Top measures 18x38 inches, has neatly shaped back and carries beveled mirror 18x20 inches in plain frame. A bargain at \$9.75. CHIFFONIERE in solid quarter cut oak, top measures 18x22 inches, has shaped front, neat cabriole legs, 5 long drawers with straight fronts and two short drawers with shaped fronts, neat handles and a lock on every drawer. Has beautifully shaped and carved brackets, supporting oval shaped beveled mirror. Size 18x22, in plain frame. A bargain at \$26.90. TALL CHIFFONIERE, in solid quarter cut oak, Early English finish, has shaped front, 2 shaped drawers, and 4 with straight fronts, fitted with neat oxidized handles and lock on each drawer. The back is neatly shaped and carries shaped mirror with beveled edges, size 24x14. The body measures 18x34 inches over the top and 50 inches high. A very fine piece of furniture for \$26.75. SURFACE OAK CHIFFONIERE, measures over top 28 inches by 18 and 44 inches high, has shaped front, 3 large drawers and 2 small drawers, is mounted on shaped feet, and is fitted with strong castors and neat handles. The back carries oval beveled mirror 24x14 inches in neat frame. Special Sale price \$15.75. CHIFFONIERE, in golden fir, with panel ends, measures 20x18 inches over top and 48 inches high; has panel ends and five long drawers fitted with neat handles. The back carries beveled mirror, size 36x22 inches. Price, complete \$8.90. CHIFFONIERE in solid quarter cut oak, with serpentine front, measures over the top 42 inches by 27 inches, has two small drawers with serpentine fronts and two large linen drawers; beveled mirror, 24x30 inches, in neat frame surmounted with neat carving. Sale price \$23.75.

Bargains in the Carpet and House Furnishing Department

- AXMINSTER SQUARES, in most artistic designs, in greens and reds only. Size 8 ft. 3 in. x 11 ft. 6 in., closely woven, beautiful thick, velvet pile, the most durable and—except genuine Persian rugs—the most handsome and expensive of modern carpets. Regular value, \$37.50. Will be sold to-day, in order to clear a surplus stock, at each \$25.00. TAPESTRY TABLE COVERS, in a wide range of designs and colors, from \$1.50. SWISS AND IRISH POINT LACE CURTAINS, in a large range of very beautiful new designs. Regular value, per pair, \$10.50. Per pair, Monday \$4.75. WINDOW SHADES, 37 inches wide and 6 feet long, complete with fittings, each, 75c, 60c and \$40c. REVERSIBLE SMYRNA RUGS—Rugs are very closely woven, have a hard finish and will render excellent service, also are particularly useful for hall or dining room. Colors, red, fawns, greens and blues. Size 27x34 inches. Special \$2.50. LINOLEUMS AND OILCLOTHS—A shipment of about 24,000 square yards of Linoleums and Oilcloths has just arrived and will go on sale Monday. This lot includes all the latest designs and colorings including tile, block, floral and conventional designs. OILCLOTHS, 2 yards wide. Per square yard \$35c. LINOLEUMS, 2 yards wide. Per square yard, from \$45c. INLaid LINOLEUMS, 2 yards wide. Per square yard, from \$85c. HAMMOCKS, in a variety of styles and colors. Prices ranging down from \$1.50 to \$2.25. RAG RUGS, in the hit and miss pattern. Size 36x72 inches. Regular \$2.80 each. Special Sale price \$1.25.

A Great Variety of Parlor Furniture at Bargain Prices

- ARM CHAIR, upholstered in green figured velour, neatly finished. Price \$4.75. JARDINIERE STANDS, in a variety of sizes, some with plain turned stalks, others fluted in quarter cut oak and birch-mahogany, some with shaped legs. Prices start as low as \$1.25. DINING TABLES, round and square extension, Early English finish, also golden quarter cut oak. \$12.90. SQUARE DINING TABLE, 5 square 42x42 legs, open to 6 ft. Has 5 squares. Early English surface oak, also in golden oak. \$12.90. ROUND OAK DINING TABLE, round-top, square pedestal. Early English finish of golden oak. \$19.75. CHINA CABINETS, VERY HANDSOME CHINA CABINETS, shaped glass ends, fronts. Has 3 shelves. Golden finish. \$29.75.

A Large and Varied Assortment of Artistic Brass and Iron Bedsteads, Specially Low Priced

- ALL BRASS BEDSTEADS, values up to \$78. For \$39.75. BRASS BEDSTEAD, semi-continuous 2 in. pillars, with straight bar, strong castors, satin finish. Special \$16.90. BRASS BEDSTEAD, 2 inch pillars, finished with neat flat knobs, straight top rail, 5 straight bar filers in bright or satin finish. Special \$11.90. WHITE ENAMEL BEDSTEADS, in a great variety of artistic designs. Special values at \$7.75, \$6.50, \$5.90, \$4.90 and \$3.90. BRASS BEDSTEAD, with 2 inch continuous pillar, satin finish, nine strong castors, bright finish. Special sale price \$26.75. BRASS BEDSTEAD, semi-continuous pillars, 5 straight bar filers, strong castors, bright finish. Special \$19.75. SUPERIOR SOLID BRASS BEDSTEAD, 2 inch continuous pillars, 9 heavy bar filers, strong castors, bright or satin finish; neat ornaments. Special \$39.75.

Bargains in Blankets, Comforters, Sheetings, Etc.

- 100 PAIR WHITE FINE TWILL BLANKETS, pink and blue borders. Size 64x82. Per pair \$5.00. 150 PAIR SUPERIOR FINE WOOL BLANKETS, with pink and blue borders. Size 68x86. Per pair \$6.50. 125 PAIR WHITE SAXONY BLANKETS, extra fine quality, with pink and blue borders. Per pair \$7.50. 50 PAIR EXTRA FINE LLAMA BLANKETS, extra large size. Per pair \$8.50. 12 PAIR EMBROIDERY COMFORTS, covered with rich brocaded satin. Special, each \$20.00. 10 WOOL FILLED COMFORTERS, covered with floral mercerized satin. Special \$3.75. 500 PAIR COTTON BLANKETS, white and gray, full double bed size. Special, per pair \$1.50. LINEN EMBROIDERED AND DRAWNWORK, consisting of Table Cloths, Squares, Five o'Clock Tea Cloths and Bureau Covers—at very special prices; 50 dozen to choose from—36x36, \$1.50 to 45x45 Tea Cloth, \$2.50 to 18x45 Runners, \$2 to 12 DOZEN HEAVY SWISS EMBROIDERED PILLOW SHAMS AND BUREAU COVERS. Special, each \$7.50. 24 DOZEN PURE LINEN DOYLIES AND MATS, trimmed heavy Cluny lace. Sizes from 6 in. to 24 in. Price, each \$2.50. 15c FINE EMBROIDERED END HUCK BACK GUEST TOWELS. Price, each, \$2.50 to 2x2 TABLE DAMASK CLOTH, floral and scroll design. Each \$2.00. 2x12-2 TABLE DAMASK CLOTH, floral and scroll design. Each \$2.50. 2x12-2 TABLE DAMASK CLOTH, floral and scroll design. Each \$4.50. 25 DOZEN TABLE CLOTHS AND NAPKINS, in sets, floral and scroll designs, in assorted designs. Per set \$3.90. 50 DOZEN ASSORTED BLEACHED DAMASK NAPKINS, assorted patterns. Per dozen \$1.25.

News of Interest From the Crockery Department

- On the second floor you will find a large assortment of crockery in a wide and varied range of most useful articles, all marked at prices that will reflect credit on this five-day sale. There are hundreds of plain and fancy Tea Pots, Toilet Sets, Dinner Sets, Tea Sets and an endless variety of Cups and Saucers, all made of the best English semi-porcelain by well known manufacturers. This is an ideal opportunity for you to save money. Visit the store and judge for yourself. TEAPOTS, a big shipment of the best grade of brown teapots, English make, in five sizes. Prices, each, 35c, 25c, 20c, 15c and 12 1/2c. TEAPOTS, in the newest shapes and decorated in a variety of neat designs in dainty colorings. Price, each, from \$1 down to 35c. MIRRORS, in strong, solid oak frames, golden finish; also in white enamel frames. Prices ranging down from \$1.50 to, each \$1.50. SIX-PIECE TOILET SET, in good English semi-porcelain, in a variety of designs. Per set \$1.90. TEN-PIECE TOILET SET, neatly decorated in colors, some have gold edges, made of English semi-porcelain. Per set \$2.50. DINNER SETS of 87 pieces, English made, good semi-porcelain, decorated in delicate shades of green. A very useful quality at a most economical price. Per set \$6.90. DINNER SETS of 99 pieces. Splendid quality Austrian China in neat shapes, decorated in small designs, colors, pink and green. Very good value at, per set \$19.75. 250 DOZEN CUPS AND SAUCERS, in useful shapes and qualities, nothing better for family or camp use. Per dozen \$1.20. EGG CUPS of fine China, neatly decorated in colors. Each \$5c. JARDINIERS for small flowers. Each \$15c.

DAVID SPENCER LTD.

THE CITY MARKET. Onions, Pratt's Coal Oil, Bacon, Hams, Butter, Eggs, etc. List of various goods and their prices.

WHOLESALE MARKET. Beets, Cabbage, Cranberries, Cauliflower, Grapefruit, Lemons, Lettuce, Oranges, Potatoes, etc. List of various goods and their prices.

PRISON DEFEND TO BE PROVINCIAL CANTAKES BELAT

Has Decided to A commutation Chief Da

(From Monday) After years of patte repeated criticisms by citizens of the city of a time-worn recommend Chief Davis, the death which at present prev provincial jail in regard are to be tardily r government. This an this belated intention-praworthly defences notwithstanding—was grand jury on Saturday, deputy minister o who attended the se quest of the jurymen.

The recommendation Davis has been adop vincial government in will be carried into eff promptitude. The fir be so improved as to case of an emergency merely a questionable (ric light will be inste at least a liv that object in view w the system adopted in by all the prison cells, oned by the operation, warden's room will be This should be gra tion for those who, his stular grand juries a recommendations, had thought inspired by t ions upon their mind time the various cells dividualy by bar and the event of fire noth could save the lives of mates. A few would be ched, but that fact vo magnify the defects of tem. With the installa omatic entrance of the a chance for their lives now been denied them. The improvement of the will also mean a gra tion for those who, his stular grand juries a recommendations, had thought inspired by t ions upon their mind time the various cells dividualy by bar and the event of fire noth could save the lives of mates. 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