

# THE ACADIAN.

WOLFVILLE, N. S. APR. 14, 1913.

## Editorial Notes.

Seeding throughout Saskatchewan will commence April 15th, according to a report issued by the provincial department of agriculture.

Hon. W. J. Hanna has introduced a bill in the Ontario legislature that children be not allowed on the streets after nine o'clock at night. The legislation was asked for by the Ontario Council of Women, the W. C. T. U. and other like organizations.

An exchange says that the Provincial examinations will be over before July 1st this year. This will be welcome news to those who take the examinations and who were formerly obliged to write them at the most trying time of the year, the first week in July, usually one of the hottest weeks in the summer.

The wave of progress has reached the town of Shelburne. A meeting of the rate-payers was held last week to vote on a proposal to borrow not more than eight thousand dollars for the improvement of the electric light plant, to provide power for industrial purposes, and an equal amount to be expended as a bonus for a cold storage company. Every vote cast was in favor of both propositions.

The year 1912 has developed some most remarkable features in the dairy business of Canada. For the first time in forty years, the exports of butter fell away to the small quantity of seventy packages, and during the year Canadians have imported a very large quantity, the total imports being in excess of 100,000 packages. Most of this imported butter came from New Zealand.

Hon. George Whitman, for more than thirty years a member of the legislative council of this province, is no longer a member, his seat having been declared vacant by the government, on account of absence for two years due to ill health. Mr. Whitman is in his 90th year. While no official announcement has been made, there is authority for believing that S. W. P. Pickett, late Liberal member at Ottawa for Annapolis, will be appointed to the vacancy. This leaves but one Conservative in that chamber.

A Closure bill was introduced into the Dominion Parliament on Wednesday by Premier Borden in the most clear, convincing, tactful and masterly address ever heard in the Canadian Parliament. Amendments are made impossible. Stocked reserves are to be a thing of the past. The bill is many times milder than that introduced into the British Parliament by Gladstone, but is expected to be sufficient to control Pegguley and company, and therefore provide for the transaction of the legitimate business of the country.

In Oregon a system is being adopted in the schools whereby the children are credited with marks on producing signed statements from their parents stating that they have been diligent in such homework as reading, sewing, shopping, "helping mother", care of young brothers, sisters, etc. A certain number of these marks entitle the scholar to a holiday and a reward. Results so far are unflatteringly good for school and home. Such a system might be adopted in Nova Scotia, with good results. It too frequently happens that children are not as thoughtful as they should be regarding help about the home, and many a poor tired mother would be glad of the help of any system which would bring about so desirable a change.

## Misunderstanding.

Certain interested politicians in Kings and other counties of this valley are going up and down the country proclaiming the Fenian Veterans bounty as a gross Tory graft. Liberal members from Nova Scotia during the present parliamentary session have protested against these bounties as political intrigue.

In March, 1866, the Hon. Lieutenant Governor, Sir Benjamin Williams, through his provincial secretary, Charles Tupper, issued a proclamation to all the loyal citizens, requiring them to assemble for drill in preparation of an alleged Fenian raid then hourly expected.

Many thousands responded to this call. No actual fighting occurred in Nova Scotia, as the battles were fought and Canadian blood was shed in Ontario. Nova Scotians loyally assembled in March 1866, and drilled in preparation for the Fenian invasion, but the money for the drill before the Fenian invasion was never paid.

The length with which certain Liberals are propped up has never been mentioned.

# Government's Illegal Traffic in Our Crown Lands.

MR. DOUGLAS SHOWS THE HOUSE HOW AMERICAN FRIENDS OF PREMIER MURRAY RECEIVED 600,000 ACRES OF THE BEST NOVA SCOTIA CROWN LANDS AND HOW THE CONDITIONS WERE WAIVED. THE AREA WORTH \$4,000,000 IN WOOD ALONE.

House of Assembly, April 8th.—Another scandal looms before the disorganized Murray government. Following close on the heels of the charges made in the House of Assembly that the government, through the provincial farm at Truro, sold tubercular cattle knowing it to be diseased, thus working what might have been irreparable harm to the live stock of this province, comes another charge that the government illegally trafficked in crown lands for the personal gain of friends of the administration. Premier Murray had to bear the brunt of this charge for it was friends of his who were the beneficiaries of these transactions. These grave charges were laid at the door of the government by J. C. Douglas, one of the members for Cape Breton.

AMERICANS GOT THE LANDS. Mr. Douglas showed that the government gave a lease for 99 years of 600,000 acres of crown lands in Inverness and Victoria counties to a set of Americans who thought so highly of the Premier, that they made the name of the post office at their camp 'Murray,' but that was only a little matter. This grant was made ostensibly on condition that the people who got the lands should erect two pulp mills of 50 tons daily capacity each, within four years after the making of the grant, which was away back in 1899, and that they manufacture their wood products in Nova Scotia. There are no pulp mills there yet.

The huge grant of 600,000 acres of crown lands, in the two counties, was the best of the land of this kind and it was practically all of the entire area of crown lands in both counties. THE CONDITIONS CANCELLED. The American friends of the government having got the lands, the next thing was to have the conditions wiped out which attached to the grant. Accordingly by successive orders in Council one condition after another was cancelled by the government and soon the Americans had the 600,000 acres unconditionally. They could do with them as they liked, one thing being the shipment of wood manufactured. The pulp mill would be in the United States.

THE VITAL CLAUSE OVER RIDDEN. The only clause under which the lease of the crown lands could be legally made was section 34, subsection 2, of the crown lands act, which reads as follows: 'Lands upon which hard wood is the principal growth, may also be leased under terms and conditions to be prescribed, provided the person proposing to lease the same under takes to expend money in the erection of mills and machinery for the manufacture of wood products or pulp.'

The government made the grant to its friends, Mr. Douglas pointed out, and then, as already stated, deliberately turned round and eliminated the conditions regarding the erection of mills or manufacture. FROM INFORMATION WE HAVE RECEIVED we are reliably informed that the property involved in the option and which the injunction is to bind, has been variously estimated at from \$24,000,000 to \$30,000,000.

THEY THOUGHT MUCH OF MURRAY. 'Who are these gentlemen who have got such a rich gift of our crown lands?' Mr. Douglas asked. 'Why are they such friends of the government? They must be warm friends. They even called their little post office in Victoria county 'Murray.' Apparently it is 'Murray' all round. 'Murray' in Victoria county, 'Murray' in the government in Halifax, and in Boston. Last November Mr. Murray made a trip to Boston and with him went several gentlemen, who in days gone by have been very closely identified with this government. There was Alexander Johnson, E. M. McDonald and others in the party. I tell you, said the member for Cape Breton with emphasis, these Americans apparently had warm friends on the treasury benches of the government of Nova Scotia.

THE GREAT STRETCH OF CROWN LAND. The great stretch of crown land, covering 600,000 acres, is what is called the Cape Breton Tract and is easily the best in Nova Scotia. Professor Fenwick, one of the greatest forestry authorities in the country, says the vast area given to those Americans includes twelve million cords of wood, worth an average of \$3 per cord. The grant, therefore, in this respect alone, has a potential value of \$24,000,000.

A most suspicious thing about this deal, for it can be known by no other name, is that the lease was not registered in 1899 when it was made, but was kept unrecorded and secret for ten years. GOVERNMENT'S FAIR RETURN. Mr. Douglas also brought home to the government the charge that returns asked from the government in this matter were false and justified. This was in connection with a return asked for regarding the ungranted and unleased crown lands in Inverness and Victoria counties. The returned upon the table have evident marks of change and mutilation. Mr. Douglas did not mince words but plainly called it 'false.'

THE CHARGES CAUSED ANGER. The charges that the government has been engaged in wholesale trafficking in our crown lands, to help out some friends of their own, made a sensation in the House. They were brought out by the following remarks which were made by Mr. Douglas: 'I regret, that in the opinion of this house, the administration of the crown lands department has not been in the best interests of the Province, and that this government has carelessly, negligently and improperly dealt and trafficked in crown lands to the everlasting injury of the province and the people.'

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