

THE WEST

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1908

Canada's Trade.

Liberals tell us that trade has been wonderfully developed since the Laurier administration came into power. Where does the money go that the people make? Is it kept in the country? The following figures show that every year we are sending more money out of Canada for goods than we are receiving for goods:

In 1904 our imports exceeded our exports by \$33,000,000. In 1905 by \$50,000,000. In 1906 by \$36,000,000, and in 1907 by \$104,000,000.

Surely this is not the way to build up a country. Why should the wealth which is created in the country be sent out of Canada to make others rich?

Our Debt Grows.

The wastefulness of the Laurier administration is building up a big national debt for Canada. The official Gazette of Canada covering the month of September 1908, shows a total expenditure of over forty-six million dollars; and a revenue of only forty million dollars, or a deficit for the month of nearly six millions of dollars. If Laurier is allowed to do more of such work Canada will soon be bankrupt. As it is our credit on the English investing market is on the wane. The British public has taken only one-quarter of the new \$25,000,000 3 1/2 per cent. Canadian loan of the hands of the underwriters. A similar fate overtook the \$5,000,000 3 1/2 per cent. loan in June last.

So far this year the government has issued three loans in London for a total of \$13,000,000 or \$65,000,000 besides this the government has borrowed temporarily the sum of \$15,600,000 just to keep the country going. The nation faces further great expenditures. It is time to practice economy at Ottawa. Therefore it is time for a change of government.

End It Now.

The "rake-off" revelation from St. John is surely the last straw.

A government which adds to the contract price for work done for the country, in order that the president of a Liberal association may collect from the treasury \$35,933 that he has not earned, will surely not be tolerated by the people of Canada.

Were this the entire story it would certainly be sufficient to bring about the most disastrous defeat of a ministry guilty of such conduct in any other part of the world.

But it is merely a sample case. In all the transactions at Ottawa there is wrong doing.

The free land of the people of the west is blanketed by politicians, who sell to the incoming settler what has cost them nothing.

By the Winnipeg Free Press this roguesy is described as a "cold-blooded swindle."

Other public land is passed to politicians for \$1 an acre, and these men sell again for eight times what they have paid.

This crookedness drew forth from Mr. J. W. Bengough, Liberal though he is, a condemnation in the name of humanity. Mr. Bengough has pronounced the thing "legalized robbery." The timber lands of the people instead of being sold at public auction, are passed out to politicians of the Burrows, and Fraser type, who sell them again for from \$100,000 to half a million.

The merchant who does business with the Ottawa government, and the contractor who carries out public works, pay tribute at the toll-gate.

Charles Patton had to agree to give \$3,000 for an order for fire extinguishers.

Gershon S. Mayes was compelled to sign a contract to pay 5 cents for every sq. yard of dredging done by him, or \$36,933 in all, to George McAvity, the president of the St. John Liberal association, and the confidential agent of the government.

Ottawa reeks with this sort of thing. This is why it is that our public expenditures have been lifted from \$14,000,000 to over \$112,000,000. This is why our taxes have jumped from \$27,000,000 to \$72,000,000 per annum.

The crookedness also explains the corruption and the ballot box frauds. It is out of the over-payments from the treasury that the campaign money comes.

Canada is faced with a gigantic conspiracy of graft and election wickedness. The thing is getting bolder. Another term and the robberies will be conducted on a scale that will be appalling.

End the Graft.

The disclosures made by Premier Hazen at St. John, although entirely in line with what is understood to be the Laurier system, are shocking to all honest men. Here we have a case in which a dredging contractor has offered to do a certain piece of work for the country at a figure that is profitable to himself. He is ready to go on at that price. But he swears that the president of the Liberal association intervenes, and, in co-operation with the then minister of public works, has the figure raised. The contractor is compelled to agree to the increased charge to the government, and is required to hand over the added sum to the politician who has interested himself in the affair. Under the arrangement thus forced upon the contractor Mr. McAvity, the president of the Liberal association in New Brunswick, draws \$35,933 from the public treasury by way of Mr. Mayes, the contractor, although he has done nothing to earn the money. Along with this exploitation of the public chest comes the payment of \$2,000 which Mr. Mayes says he had to make to Mr. Pugsley.

This is an unpleasant story, but it is in harmony with the practice prevailing at Ottawa. There is reason to believe that transactions at the capital, large or small, pay tribute to some one. We see the system at work in cases such as that of Chas. Patton who supplied fire extinguishers to the government. That gentleman had to pay a toll of \$4 each upon the 680 he furnished, and he could not get the order until he formally agreed to this rake-off. We see the thing again in the land purchases of the government. The Ottawa ministers would not think of buying land for the use of the public direct from the owner. They go to a local politician of high degree, a president of the party association, or a member of the local government, or the proprietor of a newspaper that can be made useful in times of stress, and purchase through him. This man deals with the real owner, and then sells to the government at twice the sum allowed to the original proprietor. The system applies to the purchase of machinery, as in the Merwin case, and to the buying of supplies, as in the case of the Arctic. It was this roguesy that produced the breach between the government and Mr. J. Lorne Macdougall, the former auditor-general. When Mr. Macdougall saw what was going on he began to stop payments, and asked parliament for powers to make his supervision of the expenditure more thorough. The auditor general thought he should have additional help, and that he should be authorized to determine whether or not the charges made by politicians are honest. The reply received by the auditor general was an insult from Finance Minister Fielding.

That gentleman declined to give the new powers, and introduced a bill to parliament to reduce the authority of the auditor general had so far exercised. Previously the auditor general could refuse to pay any account which was dishonest. Mr. Fielding now proposed by an act of parliament to give a committee of the government, called a treasury board, the power to order the payment of any bills which the Auditor refused to pass. This was opposed by Mr. Borden and the finance minister had to abandon the attempted legislation. But the attack upon the auditor general was kept up, and Mr. Macdougall resigned in disgust. Leaving office the auditor general addressed a letter to the public, in which he said of the ministers: "They give too much of the sweat-stained money of the people to men who have not earned it." And the revelations against which the government so bitterly fought, prove that this allegation by the officer who ought to know is only too true.

What we are learning at this moment is not the entire story. It is merely a sample of the work that has brought about the augmentation of our public expenditures from \$14,000,000 to \$112,000,000. We are entitled to know the worst. We are entitled to demand complete and thorough reform. That everything may be laid bare and that the iniquity may be ended it is the duty of each one of us to strengthen Mr. Borden in his struggle for better conditions. This situation will certainly grow worse and worse unless we deal with it now. The men who have brought it about are asking for another five years that they may dodge enquiry and continue their depredations. Let us show them that there is such a thing as public honor in Canada. Let us bring the disgrace and its accompanying loss to an end at once, that our people may be relieved of the taxation which robbery imposes upon them; and that our country may enjoy a reputation among nations of which we need not be ashamed.—Mail and Empire.

The Land for the Settler.

The Hon. Frank Oliver stated when he was in Regina speaking on the policy of the Laurier government that they had carried out their policy of land for the settler. W. M. Martin, in speaking in the city hall on Thursday evening, qualified the remarks of the Minister of the Interior, and allowed that the Saskatchewan Valley Land deal was one exception.

We can go further than either of these gentlemen and show that the land instead of being given to the settler was preserved for the speculator. The homestead lands in the best districts were not given to the bona fide settlers, but they were blanketed for those speculators who had a pull.

Here is what the Winnipeg Free Press had to say on this subject on the 3rd of March, 1906:

"The Free Press has reason to believe that this fraud is being practiced on a large scale. In some districts the homesteads are all tied up in this way. No doubt the official records in the land office show that each of these quarter sections has been duly entered for in the name of some individual and the conditions fixed by the act complied with. Superficially the record is probably correct, but behind the forms of law, a DARING, COLD BLOODED HOLD UP AND SWINDEE IS BEING PERPETRATED."

The same paper published a statement from Mr. Richard Waugh that: "There are districts in which every homestead of any real value is blanketed with names; many of them fictitious; a practice which necessarily drives the bona fide settlers a long distance from railroads, or makes him turn away with disgust."

Here also is a report from the Dominion lands agent at Battleford. It was in July 1905:

"There is no doubt that a considerable proportion of the homestead entries made two or three years ago were made by speculators, and a number of those entries are still being held by persons who are yet to make an appearance. Neighbors are complaining bitterly of this, as an obstacle in the formation of the

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school districts and impeding settlement as a whole. The majority of land seekers do not care to go through the process of cancelling an entry with the necessary delay attending the same. In the interest of settlement I would suggest that steps be taken to throw open, as soon as possible, all lands so held, making same available for actual settlers."

Do these statements show that actual settlers were getting a square deal in regard to the lands at the hands of the Laurier administration? Oh, no, but the speculator was being protected.

Editorial Notes

Have the Liberals in Sir Wilfrid Laurier's cabinet considered public office as a public trust?

"Counterfeit Bill," reminds us of those used in the east end of this city at the recent provincial election.

It is for the people of Canada to say whether the grafters shall continue to have access to the public treasury of Canada.

Several Liberal candidates have withdrawn from the contest, fearing to face the music. Among the latest is the Liberal party nominee in London, Ont.

The Liberal campaigners are busy in this constituency circulating lies about the Conservative candidate. They have stated in some districts that Mr. Wilkinson has retired from the contest. What will they do next?

It's time for a change. Stop the extravagance and graft which is running the country. Remember the deficit for the last month alone was nearly six millions of dollars. Electors should do their duty to the country and vote to put an end to the wholesale waste of the people's money.

W. M. Martin, the Liberal machine candidate in this constituency is a counterfeit for a certainty. Any man that claims to stand for honest administration and endorses the crooked grafting deals of the Laurier administration is certainly a counterfeit apostle of purity, if ever there was one.

Prior to the election of 1906 the Conservative party pledged themselves to the building of the Hudson Bay Railroad. They pledge themselves now to the immediate construction of that road so that the products of western Canada farmers may be brought nearer to the markets of the world. Vote for Wilkinson and secure this road.

Will Premier Scott say that civil servants are not taking part in politics? With his knowledge they are and he is doing nothing to prevent them. Here is an item from the Carleton Place Herald to prove it. "Sheriff Stauffer, accompanied by A. D. McLeod, editor of the Moose Mountain

Star, were in town on Monday, the sheriff having brought Premier Scott from Arrola to Carleton in his auto."

There must be something wrong with the men who are the heads of the Liberal party in Canada, when ministers of the gospel in great numbers are taking up their fight for clean public men in every province where such Liberals appear. Sir Frederick Borden, whose immorality is known all over the Dominion, will no doubt be snowed under. Ministers of all denominations are on the platform denouncing him and working to secure his defeat.

Joseph Martin, who has been termed "Fighting Joe" by Sir Wilfrid Laurier is telling the people of British Columbia a few things about the Liberal administration. Here is an extract from one of his speeches: "It was bad enough to sell postmaster-ships, but it was infinitely worse when they laid their hands on the judiciary and trafficked in judgeships. Some time ago two lawyers in this city had been anxious for the position on the bench now occupied by Mr. Justice Clement, but neither of them got it, because they were told before they did get it they must put up \$5,000 towards the Liberal campaign funds. Both these men are now unfortunately supporting the Liberal candidate. "For my part," said Mr. Martin, "I would rather vote for the Tory candidate a hundred thousand times before I would allow a man to go down to Ottawa with my franchise to support a government that carries on that kind of traffic."

Press Comment

(Ottawa Citizen.)

It will be remembered that just before the Ross government got the jiu jitsu from the electors of Ontario a great party convention was called in Toronto, regarding which it was estimated that 96 per cent. were grafters, machine men or some sort of beneficiaries of the government. The same thing is noticeable in the present campaign as regards the speakers who are making appeals on the platform for the Laurier government. It is not an exaggeration to say that there is not one in ten of them who is not an "easy money" man who has shared in some way in the \$300,000,000 that the Laurier government has spent. Just look over the list of speakers at the local Liberal rallies and see if this is not true. No wonder they want Laurier returned to power. Each one of them could say with little Joe, "E was good to me 'e was."

(Halifax News.)

During election campaigns there are always new things bubbling up and being agitated by the different parties in order to make a favorable impression on the voter. About the best thing offered up yet is the action of the post office department in sending out word to the postmasters in different sections asking for names of rural patrons of their respective offices. Here is a sample of one of the letters which was sent to a nearby postmaster and will explain itself.



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