

**THE WEST**

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22, 1908

**Seed Grain**

In connection with the supply and distribution of seed grain for the farmers of this province it cannot be forgotten that the first mover in this direction was R. S. Lake, M.P., who first brought the subject to the attention of parliament. The principal has been endorsed by the House and it is now a matter of procedure as to the best means of assisting the farmers. The following speech by Mr. Lake, on this phase of the question will be read with interest:

Mr. R. S. Lake, (Qu'Appelle). I have already called the attention of the House to the fact that the crop has been badly damaged by frost in certain portions of the Northwest. In some respects the damage was such as to render the grain which was threshed totally unfit for seed. Now it is well known that frozen wheat which has been badly frosted will grow, and will give good results provided that all the conditions are favorable for the first two or three weeks after seeding. But the risks are very great, and the sowing of frozen grain should be discouraged in every way, not merely frozen wheat which has been specially referred to by the hon. gentleman, but frozen oats as well—I think they are less liable to germinate than wheat. But frozen grain is not to be encouraged, because of the fact that some of it will grow and induce many settlers who have not had much experience to sow grain which is of no use at all. All are now agreed on the advantage of using only the best seed that can be obtained. As the hon. member for Brandon (Mr. Sifton) has just said, if the financial conditions had been normal I do not think that any intervention by this government would have been called for. The local merchants and banks would, as they have done in the past, in all probability have been able to see to it that no land went uncropped for want of seed and that the seed available was of good quality. But the financial conditions have created conditions which demand some assistance in order to insure that good seed is sown, and that the crop has a fair chance from the outset, and that all the land which is prepared for seed should be sown the coming season. It will be in the memory of the house that the minister of the interior in reply to a question I put to him on the 16th of December last regarding seed grain, stated that the government had the matter under consideration with the government of Saskatchewan, and that applications which he had already received for seed were being investigated by the commissioner of immigration. I trust that he will give the results of that investigation to the House, and I have little doubt that he will find sufficient to justify him in asking this House to put him in a position to see that sufficient seed grain of good quality is placed in the hands of settlers in the Northwest. It was my intention

if the government had not moved in this matter as early as possible to have proposed a resolution that the government make advances of money for this purpose, the amount to be based upon the acreage ready for cropping, suitable precautions to be taken by the government that the money would be used for the purpose for which it was being advanced.

Such advances being certified as necessary, not only by the officers of the government, but by the councils of municipalities, or of local improvement districts which have jurisdiction in the districts concerned, or possibly the executives of the agricultural societies might be utilized, because they are men who have the agricultural interests of their communities especially at heart.

Advances might be made payable in equal annual instalments to be collected by the local authorities. In my opinion the money required for this purpose should certainly come from the exchequer of the Dominion, no matter how it should be decided later on to expend it for the purpose for which it was intended. The course I have suggested, of advancing the money itself instead of distributing the grain has many advantages. The distribution of the grain itself sounds badly, because in other parts of the world it conveys something of a charity. It would not be understood in other countries as we understand it here, that the distribution of the grain is merely an advance given against the security of the land which land in itself has already been a free gift to the settler. As the value of the grain becomes a charge against the land, so the advance of money would amount to exactly the same thing, because in either case the lien would stand against the land. If the money be advanced it can be spoken simply of as a business proposition for the purpose of enabling the owner to carry on his operations, the advance being justified by the improvements he has placed upon the land. The advance of money would also have the great advantage that each individual farmer could satisfy himself as to the price and quality of the seed, which cannot be done if the government undertakes the distribution of the seed, he can make his own purchase of seed grain and deal through persons in whom he has confidence. The endorsement in each case of the municipal councils or agricultural societies would ensure that these cases were dealt with on their merits, and that the party in power did not make political capital out of the distribution. This endorsement would also insure in any case where money was advanced that the money would only be used for the purpose of securing seed grain.

**The Strikebreakers**

The debates in parliament last week resulted in an interesting revelation in connection with the notor-

ious Lazarus the employed immigration crook of the Dominion government who was also the employee of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association and the agent of the Crow's Nest Coal Company to send out strike breakers two years ago. The whole career of this government official centres around W. T. R. Preston and the Interior Department at whose London office he made his headquarters. With the assistance of the government and through the use of money from the Canadian treasury he exploited his schemes.

Who Lazarus is; how he became associated with the government, and what money he received, was all forest out of the Canadian Immigration commissioner in London, W. T. R. Preston, under oath before the public accounts committee in 1906. A few days ago the government's immigration policy was under discussion in parliament, when one of the opposition members, Mr. Cockshutt, moved:

"That in consideration of the great congestion that at present prevails in the labor market in many of the industrial centres throughout the country, it is highly expedient that assisted immigration, with the exception of agricultural and industrial classes should immediately cease, and that no further bounties shall be paid to individual agencies or companies for sending or bringing in such immigrants. Further, that the time has now come for a strict enforcement of the law that requires that only financially, morally and physically fit persons shall be allowed to enter the Dominion as settlers."

The government papers have made a great howl about the way in which the Conservatives discourage immigration, but they have only misrepresented the position taken by the Opposition. We are publishing elsewhere the whole story of Lazarus' connection with the government, and are glad to expose the scandalous way in which \$180,000 profit was made out of the Canadian people in three years by crooked immigration officials, who grafted in every conceivable manner. The government must have got back some of this money through their friends for sure, by they would not have stood for such a haul going to strangers. When any government paper charges the Conservatives with barring immigration schemes let them tell the people what those schemes are. We want every member of a labor or labor organization in Regina to read the exposure of Lazarus, the immigration official; manufacturers' agent and strike breaker.

**Editorial Notes**

Readers of the local government paper would naturally think from the published report of the recent nominating convention that perfect peace and harmony reigned at that gathering and that without any fixing or wire pulling Mr. Martin was the choice of the delegates. Such, however, was not the case. The Soo line delegates came over with J. R. Bunn as their nominee and when it was found that it was cut and dried that W. M. Martin was to be the choice there was muttering of disapproval, and many of the south delegates went home feeling anything but enthusiastic over the nomination. As a man, Mr. Martin is a good fellow, and many people who would like to see someone else sacrificed, will be compelled to vote against him because of his political associations, for Laurierism is certainly repulsive to the better element in this province.

**Press Comments**

(Winnipeg Tribune.)

Today there are four McLeans in the House. Two of them are Liberals, the member for Lunenburg and the member for Centre York, and two of them are Conservatives, the member for Queens' P.E.I., and the one from South York, who undoubtedly belongs to the same clan even if he does spell his name with an extra "a" and a small "l". With four representatives in the commons at present, the McLeans are easily in the majority there. Next to them comes the Smiths, with three representatives, two Liberal and one Conservative. True there are three Martins, but one of these is French and calls his name "Mar-tan" and so cannot fairly be counted. There are two Borden, two Chisholms, two Hughes two Jacksons, two McCarthys, two

Reids, two Robes, two Washes, two Wilsons and two Wrights; and in each case one is a Liberal and the other is a Tory. There are also two Lauriers, two Laverignes, two McIntyres, and two Schells, all of whom are Liberals.

(Moose Jaw News.)

To find fault with the expense accounts of cabinet ministers on their trips to other countries savors somewhat of fault-finding, which is distasteful; and still it is necessary. In their way the watch-dogs of the treasury do as important work as the master mind of the administration. All fares indeed the land in which there are no critics to scrutinize the public expenditure, for the revenues, ample though they be, will soon be inadequate to satisfy the numerous demands of those who would fatten on the public trib. Again the most honest, who would not misappropriate a penny of the country's funds, are not carried away by projects of a dazzling nature, which exhaust the public resources.

So it is with the expense bills of the Hon. Mr. Brodeur, who spent some months in Europe last year at a cost of over \$8,000. Of course a grateful country pays for it, because the minister of marine went on public business. But as everyone knows \$8,000 is a heavy expense bill for a four months jaunt. If Sir John A. McDonald, Sir Charles Tupper, Hon. Geo. E. Foster, or any other of the old guard had presented such a bill, what a protest there would have been? Possibly they belonged to the unprogressive days when persons were economical because they are unprogressive; for today such is the Liberal comment on the days preceding 1896.

This opinion is all very fine in periods when money comes in easily, and on that account may be spent as lavishly; but it was not the opinion of the Liberal party while in opposition, nor will it be popular in the country during the coming election campaign. For the next few years a dollar saved will represent a dollar earned, not by speculators, but by hard handed toilers of the land. By all means then let us commend those critics who, though they seem to be parsimonious, are nevertheless rendering the taxpayer the greatest possible service in these days when dollars are so difficult to procure.

**HELP PROBLEM**

May be Solved if Race Suicide Question is Settled

Serious alarm has been expressed in many quarters because of the notable shrinking which has occurred in the size of the average Ontario family.

Ideas which are beginning to find lodgment in some minds of the western part of the province, may, if they prove contagious, result in removing the cause of alarm now felt. One correspondent of the Ontario bureau of industries writes from the township of Guelph, in Wellington county to say that the only farmers who are securing satisfactory returns from their operations are those who have large families and who do not require to hire help. The same view is expressed almost in the same language by another correspondent whose home is in Caistor, Lincoln county. Still another, who lives in East Williams, in the county of East Middlesex, is apparently being carried to the same conclusion as his two fellow farmers who have just been quoted. He declares that the domestic service problem will never be solved until the women of today nurse babies, and in reasonable numbers as their grandmothers did.

Are we about to be witnesses of the settlement of a great moral question, on purely material grounds?—Toronto Weekly Sun.

Minard's Linctum cures Garget in Cows.

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