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MR. BORDEN DEFENDS THE "GRAFTERS"

The future standing of the discredited Conservative members in the party to which they belong has been by no means the least interesting question raised by the disclosures of the Insurance inquiry. That the moral sense of the better elements in the party would revolt against the doings of the fallen prophets was to be expected but it was another question whether this moral aversion would be found strong enough or general enough to express itself in public disavowal or abandonment of the gentlemen who had brought it upon themselves.

Whatever doubts may have existed in the public mind regarding the matter are settled, however, so far at least as the leader of the party is concerned and settled by the deliberate attitude and language of Mr. Borden himself. Speaking a few days since in the interests of the Conservative candidate in the riding of North Battleford, Mr. Borden is accredited by the newspapers supporting him not only with defending Mr. Pope and his associates but with doing so both at the expense of the truth and by the misrepresentation of his opponents.

According to a telegraphic despatch published in the Winnipeg Telegram Mr. Borden referred to the Saskatchewan Valley Land Company as long length, emphasizing the fact that the company had bought 250,000 acres of land at \$1 per acre and said that "this deal" has been supported and approved by "nearly every Liberal journal in Canada."

The same journals are shouting "themselves hoarse" in denunciation of the purchase by four Conservative members of parliament of 200,000 acres of land from the C.P.R. at \$3.50 per acre in the very same year. Mr. Adamson and his associates purchased from the C.P.R. under special arrangements and "privileges not accorded to any other citizens of Canada. Pope and his associates bought from the C.P.R. land which was open for purchase by any citizen of this country."

The stand of Mr. Borden is here taken in a manner which can be neither misunderstood nor qualified, and whatever may be the attitude of the rank and file of his party or of the organs which express the collective opinions of the party, the Conservative leader stands pledged to defend the land gambles of Messrs. Pope, Fowler, et al. to do so with full knowledge of the relations concerning these gambles, and to do so when occasion demands it both by the perversion of the truth and the misrepresentation of his political opponents.

It will be observed that Mr. Borden mis-states the position of the Liberal journals as shouting themselves hoarse in denunciation of the purchase by four Conservative members of parliament of 200,000 acres of land from the C.P.R. at \$3.50 per acre. With all deference due Mr. Borden, but with the equal deference due the truth, the Liberal journals have done nothing of the kind. Their denunciation has been not the fact of the purchase, but the manner of the purchase. If Conservative members of parliament choose to buy land from the C.P.R. or anyone else it is the exclusive business of the parties concerned, so long as the price of the land comes from the pockets of the purchasers, and so long as the conditions of the purchase do not prejudice the independence of the public mind or of the public in parliament. If Liberal journals have censured the Conservative members in question for the purchase referred to, it has not been because they purchased the land, but because they purchased it with money which belonged to widows and orphans. And when Liberal journals have commented on the price at which the land was purchased it has not been because the land may or may not have been worth \$3.50 per acre, but because the price paid for it was so far below the price the seller could have obtained elsewhere as to justify the suspicion that the cash paid for the land was neither the total consideration promised by the purchasers nor the portion of the consideration of most consequence to the public.

The price paid for the land has been by no means the phase most emphasized by the journals to which Mr. Borden paid his respects, but since the gentleman has seen fit to emphasize this phase of the question himself and to select this as the particular ground on which to defend his lieutenants, he should be neither surprised nor displeased if the journals devote more attention to it than they have heretofore. In selecting the price paid as the ground on which he should defend his associates, Mr. Borden probably did so on the assumption that this was the point on which they most needed defence. While not agreeing with him in full, it cannot be denied that the price of the land appeared second in public importance

only to the manner in which the price was paid, and a pretty close second at that.

When the syndicate obtained the option for the 200,000 acres of land at \$3.50 per acre, similar C.P.R. land was held in the market at \$5.00 per acre, and the selling at this price was by no means in theory only, but was going on daily. The rebate of \$1.50 per acre was obtained by a personal visit to the president of the C.P.R. and in granting the rebate the president of the company must have known that the C.P.R. was virtually handing Mr. Pope and his associates \$300,000. In this open-handed generosity a characteristic of the C.P.R. in dealing with men from whom it expects no favors? Not to the knowledge of any witness yet heard from. Yet Mr. Borden in his anxiety to shield his discredited friends asks the public to believe it. To defend them, all were culpable; to defend them on this ground is both culpable and absurd.

"ADVISING" OR "KNOCKING"

The Calgary Herald takes upon itself the duty of sounding "a warning note in regard to the abnormally inflated and totally unjustified figures to which real estate in Edmonton have been forced, as revealed by the recently finished assessment," founding its advice on "a despatch to the Herald," which "states that Edmonton's total assessment exceeds the astonishing amount of over fifteen and a half millions, an increase of considerably more than a hundred per cent. over last year."

The Herald prefaces its remarks with the assurance that it has no intention of "knocking" Edmonton, and repeats the truism that "Edmonton's prosperity and success can never hurt Calgary, and the best sentiment of this city will feel nothing but gratification over the continued growth of the northern city, for there is plenty of room in Alberta for two big towns with 200 miles between them, and the prosperity of one will help the other."

There is an understatement of truth in the Herald's article, though it both exaggerates in the statements intended to illustrate the truth and has selected a poor text for its sermon generally.

There is no fault to be found with the statement that "if the Edmonton papers and the leading citizens of Edmonton are wise they will discount the insane tendency of speculators to boost values," nor to the acknowledged fact that "it is not in the interests of the country generally that there should be repetition of the Brandon and Portage booms," which "busted" twenty years ago and gave Manitoba such a disastrous setback. The sane policy is always the best."

But there is very great fault to be found with the suggestion in the article that three or four miles out in the country are selling for \$500 or \$1,000, and we fancy there is nearly as great exaggeration in the hypothetical quotation of supposed visitors that "Edmonton is going ahead all right, but the people there are crazy over real estate. Look out for a big smash." That "Calgary's population is nearly twice as large as Edmonton's" does not need denial. There is also an unquestionable exaggeration in representing that the price of Calgary property has been entirely fixed by the immediate demand, and that of Edmonton entirely by the prospective demand.

Supposing, however, that in some cases the people of Edmonton have displayed an excessive optimism, and, as is by no means sure, the real purpose of the Herald is the avowed purpose of correcting such tendency, it appears to us that the subject for its remedy is very ill chosen. The lament of the Herald is that the Edmonton assessment is too high—a peculiar argument surely to use for the avowed purpose of counteracting a supposed "boom." Admitting that Edmonton's assessment is "high," how should the announcement of how "high" it really is encourage the further inflation of the prices of which it is composed?

Or, if the prices of property in a community have risen rapidly, why or how should the knowledge of what rapid that rise has been encourage their further elevation?

The effect, we should judge, would be rather in the opposite direction, for supposing the rise in prices to have been abnormal, how can the fact that it has been abnormal be better brought home to the public mind than by officially announcing how great has been the general advance?

A "boom" is created by "discounting the future," and the greater the discount already made the less remaining to be made in the future. The more nearly property is known to now approximate its anticipated value the less surely the impetus to continue speculating on that value.

On the other hand, to under-estimate the property of a community is to deceive the owners of the property as to its value and as to how much they have overpaid for it. The value in the year past. This surely is to lead them to believe that they still have a wider margin left for speculation than really exists. The proof of this is the fact that the class who profit most by the change of property and by a continuous advance in prices are the class who most resolutely oppose a "high" assessment. Generally speaking, the tendency of a "high" assessment is to depreciate the prices of property, and the most certain corrective of a "boom" is a high assessment, accompanied by a high rate of taxation.

Usually, however, the rate of taxation falls as the assessment rises. It has been understood that the high assessment of Edmonton this year would be accompanied by a rate of assessment lower than has ever been known in the city before, and probably lower also than obtains in any other city in the Dominion of Canada. The publication of this fact would be an advertisement of great value to Edmonton and of corresponding disadvantage to communities which may choose to consider themselves rivals of Edmonton. It is by no means improbable that the Herald's criticism was an effort to forestall the advertising value of our low rate of taxation by giving an unequalled publicity to our high assessment. This phase of the question will be solved when our rate of taxation is published. Then, if the Herald's purpose be as disinterested as supposed, it will give as much prominence to our rate of taxation as it has given to our gross assessment.

CURRENT COMMENT

Mr. Fowler considers the distinction conferred on him by the insurance inquiry "cheap." It could scarcely be cheaper than the land he bought with other people's money—the \$300,000 rebate from the C.P.R. or the \$55,000 drawback from Peter Ryan.

Mr. Brown, the Liberal leader in Manitoba, has secured a record of the Roblin government, and the Telegram describes this as "quer tactics," probably because it "querred" Mr. Roblin.

Toronto Globe.—An Ontario packer of apples has been found out in Manitoba, with consequences very bad for himself and far worse for the country. The apple is by long odds our most valuable fruit, and the province produces very much an apple-producing province. There is no part of it south of Lake Nipissing where, with intelligent cultivation, good apples cannot be profitably grown. The market for the better varieties is absolutely inexhaustible. Methods of transportation are good and rapidly becoming better. All that is needed to establish a high and enduring record of the Ontario apple is careful picking, sorting, and labelling, and these are all under the control of the packers. The law governing apple-packing and package-marking is easily intelligible and just as easily observed. If it is violated at all it is violated with deliberate intent and dishonesty; and when ever an offender is caught he should be prosecuted without compunction and punished without mercy. It was the methods condemned by the Globe which cost the Ontario apple grower his rightful heritage in the western market, and the incident referred to does not indicate that the lesson has yet been taken to heart by the packer.

Mr. Charles Clark, the editor and proprietor of the High River Times was married on October 22 to Miss Mayne E. Macdonell of Bay City, Michigan and has just returned to his editorial duties in the southern Alberta town. Mr. Clark publishes one of the brightest weeklies in the province and we can very properly expect it to be a doubly interesting publication from now on. Charlie is one of the boys from Bruce who is making good in the West.

WILL BUILD NEW TOWN.

St. Paul, Minn., October 8.—James from the mouth of the Columbia river will build the town of St. James on Gray's Bay sixteen miles from the mouth of the Columbia River. Hill's proposed north lake road from Pasco to Vancouver will be extended westward to Gray's Bay and an ocean port built up at that point. Mr. Hill believes this will ultimately become one of the most important ports on the Pacific coast. A town site is to be laid out and controlled jointly by the Northern Pacific and the Great Northern roads. St. James will be made the connecting point of several lines. It will handle the trading business of the Hill roads. Hill's ocean business will be conducted at St. James at the expense of Portland and Astoria. Hill will add his influence to that of the State of Oregon, which is trying to get Congress to cut a channel forty feet deep through the Columbia river bar.

—Calgary Albertan: Hon. W. H. Cushing, Minister of Public Works, returned to the city yesterday after a few weeks at the coast. While absent he was in attendance at the Forestry convention held in Vancouver, representing the Province of Alberta. He then went to Victoria. On his way after arriving there, Miss Cushing who accompanied him, became ill, and Mr. Cushing's plans to a certain extent, were interfered with. Mr. Cushing spent some time in looking over the parliament buildings in British Columbia, having the Alberta public buildings in mind.

ADVENTURE RETURNS.

(Bulletin Special)
Halifax, N.S., Oct. 12.—The steamer Adventure which conveyed Major Moodie and the Mounted Police reinforcements to Hudson's Bay arrived at St. John's, Nfld., yesterday. She was a month overdue, delay being due to stormy weather which hampered the work of landing supplies at Forts Fullerton and Churchill. They brought back 200 tons of coal, which they were unable to land.

CITY BOARD OF TRADE.

The regular monthly meeting of the board of trade was held yesterday afternoon in the council chamber. President Cushing, who has returned to the city was in the chair. Fifteen members were present.

A discussion arose out of the minutes with reference to a motion passed at last meeting deputed certain powers to the delegation who presented the case on behalf of the board of trade before the railway commission at its sitting in Edmonton. Dr. Clendenan made a motion to the effect that the delegation, which consisted of Messrs. Short and Mackenzie did not present the question in the form it was intended to be presented. In this he was supported by Alderman Griesbach, who wanted to know upon what authority these gentlemen had presented the case in the way they did. Dr. Clendenan's motion wanted it published that the delegation had exceeded their instructions and misrepresented the board of trade before the commission.

The motion that was passed at the last meeting was read and above that the delegation were instructed to prepare a case that would secure sufficient protection from any of taxation that might arise by the entrance of the railway into the city, and to co-operate with the council as far as the council was free to assist.

Mr. Mackenzie thought that the motion had to do merely with the matter of protection and had no business to deal with the question of east and west end entrance.

Mr. Short said the motion was out of order. The board of trade had authorized a certain course which was followed, and the present motion was a misstatement. It was beneath the dignity of the board of trade to act without "little sense of what is right and proper." He held that the delegation's protection included the question of entrance as well as abating the noise and smoke nuisance or securing overhead crossings.

Ald. Griesbach said the delegation had not acted in concert with the council in the matter to which Mr. Mackenzie replied that Ald. Griesbach told him on the street the council could not act with the board of trade as the city was a partner to the agreement they were protesting against. Ald. Griesbach said that applied to the G. T. P. agreement only.

After considerable more caustic debate the motion was put and was lost. The mover and seconder being the only members who voted to censure the delegation.

New Members.
Messrs. R. B. Chadwick, R. C. Jardine, W. A. Leann and F. A. Anglin were elected members of the board of trade. They were brought in by Mr. Mackenzie fixing the membership fee at \$2.25 per quarter or fraction thereof.

That oft-disputed matter was up again—this time the committee on civic interests had been enquiring into this matter and had approved of the standing city council has taken and will be the matter of the business assessors' report recommended that the rate on manufacturing be proportionately less than that on other business houses.

The committee on insurance and beautifying the city, submitted reports which were read.

THE CORRESPONDENT'S VISIT
Mr. Herbert Vanderhoof, secretary of the Western Canadian Immigration Association was present by request of Mr. Fisher, vice-president of the association and gave an interesting talk on the results of the visit of the Washington correspondents here last summer. Up to the present time 178 columns of reading matter has appeared in the American papers. He cited the case of an article by William S. Couch, of the Cleveland Plaindealer who published five different articles, averaging 2000 lines. The rate per line in the Cleveland Plaindealer is \$150. If these articles, which are the very highest kind of advertising, were paid for, it would exceed many times the grant of \$2,500 the Alberta Government gave to the Western Canadian Immigration Association.

Mr. Vanderhoof also informed the meeting that 284 columns of newspaper articles have up to the present appeared in the eastern papers as a result of the excursion of the lady editors' club last June.

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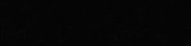
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