

THE EDMONTON BULLETIN

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DUNCAN MARSHALL,
Manager.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1907.

THE LAND FOR THE NON-SETTLER.

The Toronto News paraphrases with quite apparent approval a communication from a Saskatchewan correspondent urging changes in the homestead regulations to permit those who are not farmers and have no intention of becoming farmers to secure homesteads without the inconvenience and loss of time necessary to reside on the land.

The correspondent considers it a hardship on the poor man that he should be required to "live away his time" and "live like a hermit" on a land when, if the government would let him, he could be working at his trade and hiring his cultivation done. He would leave the present regulations for those whose time is not of much value and who therefore might as well spend it on a homestead as elsewhere but "he would not allow aliens or those who had lived away eighteen years in the country the right to purchase a homestead at \$3 per acre upon condition of breaking up 20 acres per year for three years."

To this scheme the author, and apparently the News as well, attributes great value. "It would enable married men, skilled mechanics, to buy a farm while they were at profitable work in towns or in Eastern Canada," and then to go on to their farms "with sixty or more acres ready to crop." Again, "It would enable the young city man to get a foothold on the land before giving up his trade or occupation for one he knows little about. If the desire is to get city men back to the land this scheme would help accomplish that desire."

The concluding sentence sums up all that can be said for the scheme with some extra credit thrown in. The city man would rejoice and be exceedingly glad at the chance to buy a homestead for \$3 per acre with no obligation to become a farmer. Not being bound to live on the farm he would not live on it, either before or after securing patent, would hire the minimum cultivation necessary to secure the place at the low price, continue to reside and work in town, leaving the land idle until he was ready to prepare to pay a fancy price for it. But just because the scheme would so appeal to the man who is not a farmer, and has no intention of becoming a farmer, and because it would give him control of a quarter section which ought to be owned and occupied by a farmer for just these reasons would the scheme be injurious to the agricultural interests of the country, and hence to every other interest.

The scheme is really only the reappearance of an old idea—that of giving away western land to anybody and everybody except to the man who would live on it and cultivate it, contributing his labor to useful production and the presence of himself and family to the development and maintenance of the institutions of civilized society. For a generation we consistently lavished our lands on men and corporations who could not and would not put them to the use for which nature intended them. The idea of giving the farms to farmers and of getting the farmers to take them was discovered late, and the idea of giving them to everybody but farmers had long before been working overtime. As a result, when the farmers began to arrive on the scene they had to take what was left. That what was left has been found so valuable only indicates what the choice lands were worth.

What it has cost Canada to endow speculators and corporations with land to the disadvantage and cost of the western farmer, will probably never be known. While this policy held away 39,000,000 acres from first to last were turned over to railway companies and away from the farmer. Goodness knows how many millions acres were grabbed by colonization companies, settlement societies and kindred hangers. Then there were the political pirates. Their name was legion and their appetites insatiable. For their stalwart service on behalf of the old regime they were made landed gentry. The proposal of the News correspondent is merely to revive this age of plunder and to turn over what remains of our land to those who would neither reside on it nor cultivate it.

This is by no means the only recent reappearance of this long-abandoned idea. Two years ago it cropped out in the demand of the Federal Opposition that the new provinces be left to extract revenue from the public land within their borders. As the only way to get money for the land would be to sell the land, this was simply a polite form of telling us to go to the

speculator for our funds and in return for his cash to turn him over the land, to be tied up from settlement until he was pleased to sell it. Last season the same idea reappeared in a proposal that the odd-numbered sections should be placed on the market to all purchasers, regardless of their purpose and without conditions of occupation and use. The scheme attributed by the News to a Saskatchewan gentleman is merely a new mask for the all too familiar features of the land-shark. The frequency with which this gentleman reappears and the variety of his disguises only indicates how heavy is the tribute he would demand if the homestead policy were abandoned or restricted and he were permitted to stand between the farmer and the farm.

Strange as it may appear the people of Western Canada want farmers on the farms—and each farmer on his own farm. They are not particularly charmed by the prospect of one farmer half-working or quarter-working several farms for their city owners. This country is worthy better things than to be made a collection of miniature Congoes for the enrichment of a myriad of Leopolds—whether the Leopolds reside in Edmonton or Toronto. If a mechanic's time is too valuable to cultivate a farm; and if the city man cannot endure the loneliness of rural residence that is the best possible reason why he should not be offered inducements to spend money for a farm. Social progress is only possible in a well settled community and the people of this country do not propose that the social development shall be paralyzed by turning over the vacant land to those who will not live on it.

PREACHING AND PRACTISING.

In the addresses he has delivered in the eastern provinces Mr. Borden has seen fit to devote considerable attention to the question of election results—always of course seeking his illustrations in the Liberal constituency. That he might have found examples near home and with which he was more conversant is amply shown in the testimony of Mr. Hugh Graham of the Montreal Star in a recent libel case. The general purport of this gentleman's evidence is that he has been the head cashier for the party, and that his business life during election campaigns has been to forward consignments of cash where most needed and where they appeared likely to secure "a chance of success." What the aggregate shipments for the last campaign amounted to Mr. Graham did not depose, but as he confessed to seeing \$250,000 in cash sent to the province of Quebec the reader may calculate for himself what the total subsidies probably amounted to. It is also for the reader to judge how far the recent dissatisfaction of the Montreal Star with the leadership of Mr. Borden is really the disapproval of Mr. Graham to continue to finance the political operations of a chronic loser.

That Mr. Borden knew of these shipments of the persuasive medium also came out in the trial. Mr. Pelletier, the organizer, testified that Mr. Borden promised him that money would be sent to Quebec "to keep things going" there. Mr. Graham depose that Mr. Borden's sole stipulation was that the cash should not be sent to men in public life who might be brought to account for it, but must be dispensed through the more secret and perhaps more effective channels of "trusted" private individuals in each locality. Why Mr. Borden does not see fit to point his arguments with excerpts from the evidence of Mr. Graham, is perhaps understandable, but the reason is certainly not that the illustrations would not fit the case.

That dishonest methods are resorted to in election campaigns cannot be doubted, and members of the Liberal party may go as far as their opponents in the iniquitous practices. Further they could not go if they wanted to.

If Mr. Borden wishes to minimize or lessen these practices he has ample opportunity to do so by his influence among those with whom he is associated and who have resorted to the practices in an attempt to place him in power. The stipulation he imposed on Mr. Graham certainly does not conduce to that end. Its purpose was not to prevent dishonesty, but to conceal it. He did not propose to abandon the use of money but to have it handled in such a way as would not be found out—and in such manner that its illegitimate use would be made later and therefore more prevalent. He was well content that Mr. Graham should roll barrels of money into the "doubtful constituencies but he feared the consequences if the public came to know how it was spent. His fear was not that offences should be committed but that the offenders should be caught. The remedy he proposed was to reserve the cause and to document to corrupt practices, but to free himself and his parliamentary associates from the consequences. Mr. Borden's practice gives the

his prospect. On the other hand he cries for electoral purity and importunities to the party cashier he advises that the money be handled in such a way that it can be more safely be used for buying votes.

A "LEAN YEAR" FOR ONTARIO.

On the heels of the announcement that the West will have 82 million bushels of wheat and 87 million bushels of oats to sell this fall comes the unwelcome news that Ontario crops are in anything but satisfactory condition. The Toronto World, which has been particularly assiduous in spreading an impression that the western crops were next thing to a failure is constrained to admit that 1907 will be a lean year for the Ontario farmer. In doing so it corroborates the suggestion that its misrepresentation of the western crop was merely preliminary to confessing the truth about conditions nearer home, with a view to preventing a western migration from its own province. The World says in part—

"That Ontario is to have a lean crop year now seems beyond dispute. The late spring and dry summer have worked against the agriculturist, and his labors this season will not be rewarded as they have been for the last few years. The abnormal weather early in the year brought forthbodings in the minds of many, which unfortunately have been fulfilled by the harvest reports. It is gratifying to know that the results throughout the province are by no means uniform."

"The crop year of 1907 will long be remembered as a freak. Adjoining farms exhibit startling differences; one showing a healthy yield while the other is remarkable for its comparative shortage. The long period of drought worked havoc with all grasses. Cereals are stunted in the stalk because of lack of moisture, although the heads in many instances have belied the impression gained of the sustaining support. The hay crop was thus affected and in a majority of cases will not show more than half a normal yield. The freedom from rain has at least admitted of good harvest weather, and the crops, such as they are, have been saved in excellent condition."

"The oats crop seems to have suffered more than anything else. Early in the season this growth was attacked by a parasite which partially destroyed the foliage and made the plants weak. The heads did not fill and oats will be light in weight in consequence. This condition is by no means confined to Ontario, as work throughout the United States."

The president of the Ontario Farmers' Association, in an address recently delivered said—

"It has been estimated by good authorities that the value of the products of Ontario farms for the year 1906, reached the enormous total of \$250,000,000. If this estimate is a correct one, the partial failure of the crops of 1907 will mean a difference of over \$90,000,000 to the Ontario farmers; they will have that much less to compensate them for their toil and they will have that much less to expend for the necessities and comforts of life for themselves and their families."

If Ontario conditions are as bad as these authorities represent they provide one-half of the best possible reason why dissatisfied Ontario farmers should come west; the other half is provided by the 82 million bushel crop now being harvested on the prairies. And by way of corollary there is the consideration that if the West produces 82 million bushels of wheat in an "off year" what would have been the returns had the season been normally favorable?

DEFENDING HIS AGENT.

Mr. Borden it appears turned from the straight and narrow path of his prescribed tour and journeyed into the Eastern Townships of Quebec there to lend prestige and influence to the political resuscitation of Mr. Rufus H. Pope, ex-M.P. What may have been the particular straits in which Rufus found himself, how his reanimation was gone about and with what measure of success, were matters no doubt very interesting to Rufus who wanted to be extricated and to Mr. Borden who undertook to extricate him. They might also be interesting to readers familiar with previous escapades of a politico-speculative character in which Rufus has figured prominently. At this distance the reader is left to guess that Rufus' associates have at last sized him up for a Jonah and were about to drop him quietly overboard and ordered them to let up. Whether they did so or not the returns will tell.

But the important thing is not whether Rufus was rescued but that Mr. Borden tried to rescue him. The country struggled along before Mr. Pope came on the scene; he has managed fairly well while his luminosity has been in eclipse and could probably pull through with his activities limited to the sphere of private citizenship. So far indeed as his activities have emerged from this sphere and essayed a

part in the broad concerns of public life the influence and import have constituted a public menace. When Mr. Borden rushes to the rescue of Mr. Pope he rushes also to the endorsement of the methods and ideals of Mr. Pope; and when he attempts to drag Rufus from the oblivion into which the weight of his offences is sinking him, he by some act attempts to exalt Rufus into a position where his performances may have more far-reaching consequences and where he is least likely to find reason to amend their baneful character.

Mr. Pope it will be remembered was the associate of Mr. Fowler in engineering the somewhat famous land deal. It was "Messrs. Rufus H. Pope and George W. Fowler" who "commanded negotiations with the Canadian Pacific Railway for the purchase of a large tract of railway lands." It was also Mr. Pope and Mr. Fowler who conducted the financial operation necessary to secure the land and carry the deal. If then the independence of the parliamentary Opposition was bartered in securing either the land or the money with which to pay for it Mr. Pope and Mr. Fowler must have been the selling agents.

That the Opposition was sold out there is the best of reason for believing and the opinion has been very candidly expressed by the Conservative party in the House of Commons. That the Opposition was unsatisfactory to Mr. David Russell, and who had to get a reference as to character before he received the money?

4. To whom was the money handed? 5. Who was the man whose appearance was unsatisfactory to Mr. David Russell, and who had to get a reference as to character before he received the money?

6. What became of the two notes signed by Mr. William MacKenzie for \$20,000 each? 7. How much did Mr. Hugh Graham contribute to the Maritime Province section of the campaign of 1907? 8. If it cost Mr. Hugh Graham \$25,000 to fail to satisfy the needs of Mr. L. P. Pelletier in the Quebec district, how much did it cost the triumvirate to attempt to buy Nova Scotia and New Brunswick?

These are all questions to which Mr. Borden should give answers before he expects the people of Canada, and especially Ontario, to believe in his profession of political purity and electoral reform.

No man can undo his past, but if he reforms he can extenuate it by a clean breast of the misdeeds of which he was guilty, but Mr. Borden is not doing this. In time they will be made public. Meanwhile Mr. Borden owes the country an explanation. Will he give it?

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WHERE DID THE MONEY COME FROM?

A recent despatch from Halifax to the Ottawa Free Press recalled some financial episodes in the career of Mr. K. L. Borden which throw a peculiar light on that gentleman's protestations of a desire for electoral purity. The despatch reads:

The date of Mr. R. L. Borden's meeting in Montreal coincided with a legal development in this city which must have been a great relief to the soul of the leader of the Opposition.

The trial of the Halifax election petitions—both those against the sitting Liberal members, Messrs. Roche and Carney and the cross-petitions of those gentlemen against Mr. R. L. Borden and his running mate, Mr. J. C. O'Malley—were tried until after the Supreme Court of Canada has given its judgment in the appeal of Messrs. Roche and Carney.

Those election petitions have been long drawn out. They were lodged immediately after the general election of 1904, and have, by one legal technicality after another, been deferred time and time again. It is probable that the courts will never have the opportunity to pass judgment upon the issues raised because Supreme Court judges have been so busy that they have not had time to try them.

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unpoisoned—just as soon, in fact, as the Conservatives found out that the Liberal were in deadly earnest in their determination to show the limelight upon Mr. Borden's campaign then ardent anxiety to press the petition against Messrs. Roche and Carney was diminished, and it was quite evident that they would offer no opposition to the motion to traverse the proceedings until after the Supreme Court had rendered its decision upon the appeals consequently the public of Canada will not, for a while at least, learn through the courts of some of the mysteries of the campaign of 1904. The facts are, however, bound to come out, either before the courts or in the House of Commons.

Meanwhile as Mr. H. L. Borden is just about to commence his campaign in Ontario there are a few questions which should be put to him at every political meeting which he addresses. Here are some of them:

1. Who was the maker of the note for \$100,000, which the manager of the Bank of Nova Scotia in Halifax declined to discount unless he had instructions from the General Manager?

2. Who was it who was roused from his bed in the middle of the night and had a long distance telephone conversation with Mr. H. C. McLeod, as a result of which the Halifax manager was instructed by the General Manager to cash the note?

3. To whom was the money handed? 4. Who was the man whose appearance was unsatisfactory to Mr. David Russell, and who had to get a reference as to character before he received the money?

5. What county did Mr. David Russell refer to when he said that the Conservatives had received \$25,000, and then came back again for as much again? 6. What became of the two notes signed by Mr. William MacKenzie for \$20,000 each? 7. How much did Mr. Hugh Graham contribute to the Maritime Province section of the campaign of 1907? 8. If it cost Mr. Hugh Graham \$25,000 to fail to satisfy the needs of Mr. L. P. Pelletier in the Quebec district, how much did it cost the triumvirate to attempt to buy Nova Scotia and New Brunswick?

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IF YOUR BUSINESS

Is not worth advertising, advertise it for sale. For more years than the writer has lived advertising has proved itself the motor power that drives to success every class of mercantile endeavor. If you have not advertised for some reason you have persistently clung to your line and elsewhere in order to learn and think of the advertisers in progress, and during the past few years have resulted from a direct communication with the advertiser. On the other hand, the advertiser has made a mistake—and precedent proves that the man who does not advertise is making a mistake. The mistake is not so bad. Mistakes can be corrected. Do it NOW.

WHO IS FRANK OLIVER?

(Calgary Alberta.) "Who is Frank Oliver?" asks the Montreal Star, a newspaper which has little sympathy with the statement which the minister of interior made upon the condition of Japanese labor in British Columbia.

In reply, it may be stated that Frank Oliver is the minister of interior and represents western Canada in the Dominion cabinet. He is a westerner and it is not surprising that he is out of sympathy with the monopolist forces controlling the Montreal papers.

He is the first cabinet minister who ever made any attempt to protect British Columbia from the inroads of the Japanese. Without serious thought, without danger he is likely to successfully accomplish this mission. That is the man Frank Oliver.

What is the Montreal Star, that it should have a say in the affairs of British Columbia, least it should dictate to the government upon a question which affects western Canada materially and eastern Canada not at all?

The Montreal Star objects because Mr. Oliver has described the Japanese as they were, a serious menace to the west. This is insulting it believes to the Mikado, with whom we are at peace. But the words used by Mr. Oliver to describe the Japanese were mild compared to those used by the Montreal Star and other newspapers to describe a very despicable class of immigration, belonging to countries whose sovereigns were not unfriendly.

Hon. Frank Oliver has been a member of the Dominion cabinet for a few years, but he is not a member of the cabinet, and as he is better known, his strength will increase.

EDMONTON MUST BE GREAT CENTRE.

J. E. Atkinson, managing editor of the Toronto Star, the most enterprising of Toronto's evening papers, is in the city registered at the King Edward Hotel. He is accompanied by Messrs. Atkinson and is on a four weeks' tour of the west, having visited Winnipeg, Regina and Calgary. Mr. Atkinson is one of the prominent newspaper men of the east. He took hold of the Toronto Star when it was struggling, and by the injection of his own energy he succeeded in developing it to its present position in the front rank of Canadian newspapers.

This is Mr. Atkinson's first visit west, and like every other easterner, he is struck with its vastness. "I think," he said, "Edmonton has quite as beautiful a site for a city as Quebec, and the beauty of it is not the least important feature in it. The fact is the physical features of this north country are magnificent. The characteristics are so diversified that the country is relieved of the monotony of the prairies."

Mr. Atkinson was not only impressed with the general appearance of the whole country, but he has an eye to its commercial prospects.

"The future of Edmonton holds within it limitless possibilities," he said. "I cannot see how it is possible to over-estimate it. With two transcontinental railways running through the city, and with an easterner's appreciation of what a railway means to a centre, I am confident that five or ten years hence this city will be one of the great centres of the Dominion. Nothing can prevent it."

G.T.P. OFFICIALS OPEN THEIR TOUR.

Winnipeg, Sept. 11.—President Hays of the Grand Trunk railway and General Manager Morse, of the G. T. P., are in the city preparatory to leaving the west. President Hays stated he was pleased to hear favorable reports in connection with the crop situation. This he claimed was another matter on which much information could be obtained on the way west. Regarding the character of the product, it is the manner of its preparation. It also speaks the limited assortment of materials that came under its maker's notice.

Advertise in The Bulletin

INTRODUCTORY OFFER OF ORCHARD & GARDEN HOMES & FRUITVALE

In the centre of the Southernmost and Warmest Valley in Southern British Columbia, West Kootenay FOR \$10 CASH and \$10 per month without interest for 10 years.

It is only by acting at once that you can secure one of our Orchard Homes on these terms.

Mild, healthful climate, land level, deep loam, clay sub-soil; yielding annual profit of \$400 to \$700 per acre, growing fruits and garden truck. Ample rain-fall. Platted in 1