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The News.

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MR. AMES AND GRAFT

Mr. Herbert Ames, M. P., who during the recent session of parliament made long and prolonged accusations against the administration of the Dominion timber lands, is at present finding a splendid example of his own definition of graft and robbery, the public Mr. Ames is on a tour of Saskatchewan with his magic lantern and has every opportunity to consider the Roblin government's sale of 50,000 acres of provincial lands to that Portage la Prairie syndicate of which so much has been said by the leading papers of the West. In exposing the transaction the Manitoba Free Press explains that it was in the first place a deal secretly made between Mr. Richardson, representing the syndicate of Roblin government and Mr. Roblin, acting as provincial lands commissioner. The syndicate was granted an option on the lands by Mr. Roblin. Another purchaser was afterwards, but he was not allowed a look-into the 50,000 acres were not sold by public sale but by private deal. That was how Mr. Roblin on that occasion, as is shown by the documentary evidence which the Free Press has obtained, discharged his duty as the trustee of the people of Manitoba, the owners of the lands.

Mr. Ames in parliament was forever trotting out a prospectus to show any discrepancy between its figures and the price at which the government had sold the lands. He was constantly insinuating that he had incontrovertible and most damning proof of grafting. The interval of time between the government's sale of the lands and the subsequent prospectus, or selling estimate made no difference to Mr. Ames. He never ceased to rail, if he could show that any purchase had been made by the government—even after there had been due public call for tenders—was a politician or related in any way to a Liberal, no matter how remote the relationship. What has Mr. Ames to say now that he finds these postulates conspicuously in evidence in this deal of the Roblin government, whereby 50,000 acres of land were taken from the ownership of the people of Manitoba for a price approximating \$5 an acre? Free Press points out that of these lands 71,000 acres are capitalized at \$1,000,000 in the prospectus issued in London. According to Mr. Ames' tests and figures, however, they mean only one thing, namely, \$700,000 of graft.

And what is more, Mr. Hugh Armstrong, a prominent politician, is a director of the company leasing the prospectus. He is a member of the Manitoba legislature, and was a member of that body when the lands were sold by the Roblin government. What does Mr. Ames think of that? Mr. Ames during the last session of parliament declared that if a man was in any way concerned in the ownership of any lands or leases afterwards became a member of parliament, it was proof that the country had been robbed. As reported at the time, Mr. Geo. H. Parley, a wealthy Ottawa lumberman, now an opposition member of the House of Commons, was the owner of certain timber lands at Cedar Lake which had been sold after a public call for tenders to the highest bidder, was worth \$500,000. It will be remembered that Hon. Frank Oliver, Minister of the Interior, produced an order-in-council passed in 1882 by the Conservative government granting to the same Mr. Parley this identical limit for nothing except the ground rent. After paying one year's rent, Mr. Parley did not consider it worth holding and wrote to the department to that effect, saying that he could not pay further rent. Just how it would not be worth half a million dollars Mr. Parley did not explain. One great difference between the selling of this land by the Liberal government at Ottawa and the Roblin government transaction is that in the former case public tenders were called; in the latter, no one but an intimate friend of the government was allowed a look in. It is to be hoped this will not escape the eye of Mr. Ames.

PROGRESS BEING MADE

While there are still cases of the most flagrant disregard of ordinary small amenities in factories and workshops, says Engineering, the general condition has been greatly improved. The extension of mechanical methods has helped, because of the importance of ventilation, to the displacement of small factories, where supervision is always difficult, and where, owing to the small turnover, there was not sufficient money available to ensure sound hygienic conditions. With a large factory, too, there is a ready recognition of the fact that such conditions conduce to efficiency. Reports of factory inspectors which are reviewed in Engineering, give a distinct impression of improvement in connection with the ventilation of factories, which in the case of textile works is most important. Gas lighting involves trying conditions, and the application of electric light has resulted in very considerable improvements. The humidity of the atmosphere is another difficulty. Operatives object to any humidification, but under certain atmospheric conditions the free admission of untreated fresh air interferes with machinery, while with imperfect ventilation the moisture from respiration prevents undue dryness. This is one of the problems which a specialist in this matter is considering as it renders difficult the ventilating appliances in factories, and is one of the many causes which induce the interchanges themselves, to stop out practically all supply of fresh air. In small work rooms, notably in home industries, there is considerable difficulty in ensuring ventilation and in obviating phthirias and other hazards. As regards temperature, which may not be quite so important from the health standpoint as ventilation, the factory authorities aim at the maintenance of 55 degrees Fahr. in the case of steel works, and 65 degrees in the case of other industries. In trying to realize this condition, the small factory owner adopts very hazardous methods. Ventilating jets, fluorescent gas-cooled lamps, and electric fans are resorted to, and it is difficult at all times for the inspector

to ensure some more effective system. These hazards affecting health, and Engineering, are, however, only operative now in small factories—notably hand-mills, but even in these cases progress is being made.

PROHIBITION GAINS

In New Zealand the temperance movement is bringing forth the hearts of the prohibitionists. From the year 1902 the prohibition party has steadily made advances. In the three years, 1902 to 1905, the vote for prohibition made a smaller relative advance, compared with the increase in the continuance vote, than in the two preceding trienniums. The no-license vote rose from 98,312 in 1902 to 108,788 in 1905, and the continuance vote from 139,180 to 152,884. Thus the poll in favor of license rose 21 per cent., and the no-license vote 101 per cent. in nine years. According to statistics the license vote stood almost stationary during the last ten years, and in the last three years of the period under review the liquor vote rose almost as fast as that of the prohibitionists. This was due to the fact that during these last three years the trade avowed sufficiently to oppose a strong and well-financed organization the onslaught of the temperance advocates.

The Dominion of New Zealand, as that part of the Empire is now officially known, is divided into 10 districts. In the 10 districts, there are 10,000,000 acres of land, and in thirty-six others a majority, but not the public sale but by private deal. That was how Mr. Roblin on that occasion, as is shown by the documentary evidence which the Free Press has obtained, discharged his duty as the trustee of the people of Manitoba, the owners of the lands.

A remarkable decrease in the number of convictions, not only for drunkenness, but for crime generally, and particularly for those forms of crime which are promoted by excessive drinking, has been experienced by the no-license districts. The district of Clutha has held no license long enough for comparison. In the first ten years of no-license convictions for drunkenness fell to 12, as compared with 262 during the last ten years of license. The offenses likely to be induced by drink fell from 251 to 81, a decrease of sixty-eight per cent. In the last seven years of license in the district of Clutha the police offenses totalled 157, falling to 41 in the first seven years of no-license. And during this improvement there was a substantial increase in population. Clutha, too, is a rural district, and it is interesting to note that the vote against license has steadily increased so much, in fact, that the town of Balclutha, whose vote for license was swamped by the country vote at the first two elections, now polls a third of the vote for no-license on its own account.

Facts which have been carefully gleaned show that the districts which have carried no license for five years or more, with a population of over 2,100 to 5,071. In the first year of no-license the convictions for drunkenness in the place place declined from 137 to 137 or no less than 71 per cent. It is clearly impossible in the face of these figures to deny that in towns ranging from 2,000 to 5,000 the population, the policy of no-license, if honestly and efficiently administered, can effect an enormous and immediate reduction in the amount of public drunkenness. The convictions for other offenses arising from drink fell off correspondingly, and that even in the seaport town of Port Chalmers, which belongs to a class in which the enforcement of the law often is difficult. What is most remarkably conclusive in its bearing is the fact that the restoration of license in this seaport was followed by a full resumption of the former number of police court offenses. In the last nine months of no-license the number of offenses had fallen to sixty-two. In the first nine months of the reopened hotels the record of police court cases rose again to 104.

In the first year of no-license offenses decreased by 114. They increased at the rate of 141 a year as soon as license was restored. The moral of the double comparison is irresistible. See capitalists declared that they found it easier to take sober crews out of Port Chalmers than of any other port they had ever visited. These statements were made the basis of a temperance campaign in Lyttelton, the seaport of Christchurch, and the argument being advanced that it would pay any of the large shipping companies to make good the loss of license revenue to the state. Their aim would be so much soberer that the gain of the employers from that source would be considerable.

That prohibition is readily enforceable in small communities at any rate, New Zealand has proved. And she has apparently found it to be worth enforcing.

HAS COME TO STAY

It looks as if the airship has come to stay. Count Zeppelin has met with a temporary setback, but he will do so again in the near future. The Wright brothers are confident; Delagrange and Bleriot are working hard, and Baldwin is already busy performing tests. The United States government. All have started the world with their wonderful discoveries. Then there is the airship, which is the most important of the recent discoveries. It is all talking pretty big, but in view of the progress they have made in the last two years there is not very much reason for concerning themselves over confidence. Misfortune came to Count Zeppelin at a critical time. It was almost cruel that the fatality should have occurred just as the test, commanded by the German government was on the point of accomplishment. The Count's death, however, has not entered as a new era in the world's history. The arrival of the airship marks the beginning of a new era in the world's history. What the next decade will bring forth, even the boldest will not venture to say.

CROPS AND POLITICS

Conservative newspapers seem to take it for granted that the date of the Dominion elections, and also the result of the elections, is dependent on the crops and their effect upon commercial and industrial conditions. If the crops are good, if the farmers' pockets are full, and if the money is plentiful, they stimulated the elections will be held, they calculate; if the farmers suffer

and trade is depressed the government will await a better season—admitting in their forecasts that Canadian prosperity will improve Liberal chances and that hard times will bring votes for the opposition.

This plausible admission is thoroughly in line with opposition policy during the past four years. Frankly and honestly Mr. Borden and his party have catered to the disgruntled, the pessimists, the soreheads. Not to the progressive, the hopeful, the man who believes in the future. The man who is a job; the man whose business, agricultural, commercial or industrial, has failed; the disappointed and discontented man—these have their bait been offered. Such tactics are in themselves an admission that the Liberal government is in tune with the spirit of progress. If it were out of harmony, if Laurier and Liberalism were a bad instead of a stimulus to Canadian advancement, if the Liberal government were the Conservative plans and hopes rather than a progressive people to themselves, if the Liberal government were the Conservative party, then support from the ranks of discontented, a gamble upon the prospect of hard times?

CARVELL AND CARLETON

In nominating Mr. F. B. Carvell, again as their candidate for the House of Commons, the Liberals of Carleton County are looking ahead as well as backward. Mr. Carvell's record not only deserves this renewal of confidence but guarantees the future of the Liberal and efficient service in the future. New Brunswick has not a more vigorous and capable representative in parliament than the one who has been chosen to represent the county. He has placed him early in the first rank as a debater and a parliamentarian. He has given his constituents cause for pride in his accomplishments and capacity. The enthusiasm of his supporters is displayed in the fact that his name is already known by his confidence in his ability to lead them to another victory. His prospects of success in the coming election are even better than in 1904, when he was elected M. P. for the county. The biggest campaign fund that was ever used to debar the county. No opposing candidate is yet visible, and the issues which divide the county are no longer in the minds of the voters. The apparent Liberal setback of March last was due to the fact that the county was divided into two camps. The one camp believed in the interests of good government and who, marking their ballots with the same motive in the general election, voted for the Liberal candidate, Mr. Carvell. The other camp, however, made up of such men as George E. Foster.

A BUSINESS PARLIAMENT

The Monetary Times, of Toronto, makes the approaching annual session of the Maritime Board of Trade, the test for a hundred activities in the province of the work of these business men's organizations which are continually playing a larger and more important part in the development of Canada, it says, we have a storehouse of wealth, a storehouse of natural resources, one part of the country has its fisheries; another its minerals; another its timber; while others have water powers, and natural gas, and so on. There must be men in a new country who will tell the tale of the future. The Board of Trade fills that role admirably.

Individual Boards of Trade have sprung up in every part of the country. They have spread news of their particular locality and, therefore, of Canada. They have been instrumental in bringing to the attention of the world the wealth of this country, which have then grown into the dignity of cities. They have brought money and population and have generally done the work of the Board of Trade. It was seen that yet greater things could be done by co-operation; so the organizations in various districts agreed to unite in a national organization. The Maritime Board of Trade was formed. The Associated Boards of Trade of the Maritime Provinces, the Maritime Board of Trade, composed of the boards of the Maritime Provinces, and such like combinations. The Maritime Board of Trade has been acting as a sort of business parliament. Grievances have been aired after all it relates to tell the Maritime Board of Trade. Many of these have been materialized in a tribute to the Associated Boards of Trade.

The Maritime Board of Trade, particularly, says the Monetary Times, "excellent room exists for such an organization. The sea coast towns and cities of the Maritime Provinces are the stories from Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick are of prosperity. Indeed the whole talk, the too much talked financial distress, which has been felt less there perhaps than elsewhere in the Dominion. But men there are down by the sea who will tell you that the money days of the Maritime Board of Trade to know that the present is but an in-between period. Maybe the necessary time of the loss of the home of timber built vessels and the advent of the home of steel ships is quickly passing away. Our Maritime country has not boasted nor boasted itself. To keep abreast of the struggle for existence nowadays it is necessary for the country, as well as the individual, to advertise its resources. The Maritime Board of Trade has done good work. There need be no limit to its future achievements."

MARITIME INFLUENCE

The Toronto Star points out that the next general election for Canada will probably be the last that will be based on the census of 1901. The census of 1901 is now a thing of the past, and the condition that has passed into history, when immigrants could not be coaxed into Canada. In 1901 the immigration was 100,000. In 1902 it was 100,000. In 1903 it was 100,000. In 1904 it was 100,000. In 1905 it was 100,000. In 1906 it was 100,000. In 1907 it was 100,000. In 1908 it was 100,000. In 1909 it was 100,000. In 1910 it was 100,000. In 1911 it was 100,000. In 1912 it was 100,000. In 1913 it was 100,000. In 1914 it was 100,000. In 1915 it was 100,000. In 1916 it was 100,000. In 1917 it was 100,000. In 1918 it was 100,000. In 1919 it was 100,000. In 1920 it was 100,000. In 1921 it was 100,000. In 1922 it was 100,000. In 1923 it was 100,000. In 1924 it was 100,000. In 1925 it was 100,000. In 1926 it was 100,000. In 1927 it was 100,000. In 1928 it was 100,000. In 1929 it was 100,000. 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