

THE HERALD

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Please send in your subscriptions. Misfortune and Mismanagement.

The wreck of the bark "Sovinto" elsewhere reported in this day's HERALD, is one of the very worst that has ever occurred on our Island coast. It is, of course, very easy to criticise after the event and to point out what might have been; but from the point of view of an onlooker misfortune and mismanagement seem to have been, to a large extent, responsible for the fatalities connected with the disaster.

The launching of the life boat from the wreck on Wednesday forenoon, with such conditions of sea and weather as prevailed at the time, seemed to be a very serious error of judgment and was the cause of all but three of the fatalities in connection with the wreck. The men were not suffering in the wreck, unless from hunger, and might have waited longer in the hope of improved conditions.

This is evident from the fact that the two men remaining on the hulk were subsequently saved in a dory. The unfortunate men on the bow portion of the wreck were in the most lamentable plight for these things could be done from the shore, under the existing conditions. The consequence was that three of them lost their lives, and one managed to reach the shore alive.

These were the unfortunate circumstances connected with the disaster; but mismanagement was much in evidence throughout the affair, and for this the Government and public officials are principally to blame. When intelligence of the wreck and the plight of the unfortunate seamen were brought to the notice of marine and railway officials, it would be but natural to expect the most prompt action, both on land and sea, to effect the rescue of those sailors.

At St. Columba's Church, East Point, on Tuesday the 6th inst. Mr. Neil McEachern, youngest son of Charles McEachern, Esq. of Bayfield, and Mary, only daughter of Captain Barabha McEachern, Glenora, were joined in the holy bonds of matrimony. The ceremony was performed by Rev. James Eneas McDonald, F. P. The bride and groom were accompanied by a large party, and the ceremony was very largely attended. Dancing was indulged in up to an early hour of the morning. The tables were bountifully spread, the best of good feeling prevailed, and the evening was a merry one. The numerous and costly wedding presents bore testimony to the popularity of the bride and groom. We extend our heartiest congratulations and wish the newly married couple many happy years of wedded life.

A week testimonial is to be presented to the two brave young men, Austin Grady and Dunoon Campbell, who risked their lives in a dory and saved the two men remaining on the "Sovinto." The amount has already reached near \$300 and descriptions are still coming in.

Georgetown all day Thursday. She was asked to come to Souris, by Mr. John McLean, who desired to make every effort to save the poor sailors. It was the intention to take the Stanley's life boat from Souris to the scene of the wreck by team. Teams were ready and the steamer was momentarily expected, when a message was received that a dory should be sent out from Souris to tow in the life boat. That was the limit; talking of sending a dory to sea when the Stanley was reported unable to proceed to the North side. Had the Stanley come to Souris, the nearest port to the wreck, a consultation could have been had with the people there and the most feasible plan decided upon. She did not come to Souris until Friday, when all was over, and half the poor sailors drowned. Meaningless late Thursday night a special train proceeded with the life boat from the Minto. But this also was too late; no lives could then be saved, the last survivor had got ashore alive by his own efforts. It appears the special train could not be secured until sixty dollars were deposited. To the efforts of Mr. F. W. Hyndman, Lloyd's agent, were due the procuring of the special train. He paid the money out of his own pocket.

Surely all will agree there was serious mismanagement in all this. When it is a case of saving human life all red tape and formality should stand aside, and everything necessary to move life-saving apparatus to the scene of trouble, with the greatest possible speed should be done. Had this been done in this case, it is possible so many lives would not have been lost. Such action would at least show that the Government and its officials were actuated by humane motives in such a terrible emergency.

In striking contrast to this official apathy is the conduct of the people in the vicinity of the wreck. From the time the disaster became known to them, they were on hand, doing everything in their power to save and nurse back to health the unfortunate sailors. To Austin Grady and Dunoon Campbell especially must the greatest praise be given. Their heroic action in successfully rescuing the two remaining men on the larger portion of the wreck is deserving of all praise. They risked their lives to save their fellow men and they are worthy of the testimonial now preparing for them.

This dreadful disaster has emphasized in the most striking manner, the need of some kind of life-saving apparatus on the North shore of this Island. It has also shown the urgent need of telephone communication between Souris and the north side of the Island. The scene of the wreck is twelve miles from Souris, the nearest telephone station. The consequence was that no news of the disaster could get to Souris or anywhere else, clear of the actual locality, until a messenger had driven over twelve miles in wretched weather, with the roads all mud from the effects of the continual rain. It is to be hoped the proper authorities will see that a telephone line is constructed here.

The Grand Forks grant was one of several grazing leases granted in 1905 and 1906. Formerly all these ranch leases, which are always given at a very low rental, were made recoverable on two years notice. That was to enable settlers to purchase and occupy the land for farms. Mr. Sifton, toward the close of his administration changed the system and made the leases good for 21 years without power of cancellation by the Government. One such irrevocable grant was given before 1905. It went to A. T. Mackie, whose father formerly was a Liberal Member of Parliament. In 1905 and 1906 leases were given in rapid succession to eight grantees, five of whom got over 200,000 acres of land within two weeks. All of the Grantees seem to have been either Liberal party managers or Members of Parliament or speculators closely connected with politicians. They got nearly 400,000 acres.

THE GATE WAS SHUT. The moment these friends of the Government got their leases Mr. Oliver, then Minister of the Interior, changed the system and made all subsequent leases again subject to cancellation. The gate had been open but a short time, but it was long enough to enable the favorite speculators, most of whom are not cattle ranchers at all, to get their grants on special terms. It was a great advantage to them after that to have the gate shut, establishing a monopoly for themselves. It should be further stated that while the gate was open a special condition of the leases permitted the holder to acquire a freehold of one tenth of his holding at \$1.00 an acre. After the favorites had been provided for the price was raised to \$3.00 an acre.

Ottawa Weekly Letter.

Another Land Deal.

Government Sells 380,000 Acres for Three Dollars Per Acre—And Returns the Purchasers Two Dollars Per Acre—Grant Goes to Political Favorites—Who Immediately Sell the Concession at a Profit of \$500,000—Same People Made \$450,000 This Year on a Grazing Lease.

THE BY ELECTIONS.

North Bruce and Shelburne No Surprise—Both Were Liberal Strongholds.

THE LONDON SCANDAL.

Pritchett's Confession Confirmed—Others Knew of the Ballot Switching System—Deputy Returning Officer Spence Also Confesses—Received \$10 for Opening His Ballot Box—Allow Sifton and Serviss to See Whether They Got the Votes Paid For.

THE KESTRAL STORY.

\$7,500 for Provisioning a Crew of 22 Men for Ten Months—A Perpetual Picnic Discovered by Mr. Foster—Marine Department Has Been Forced to Investigate.

Ottawa, Nov. 14, 1906.

Notwithstanding the exposures made last Session of the various land deals whereby friends of the Government were enabled to acquire Crown Lands at \$1.00 an acre and sell them immediately for \$3.00 to \$12.00, thus obtaining gifts of millions of dollars, and in the Session of 1905 and 1906 that there would be no more grants of land in large areas to speculators, the business is going on worse than ever. At the very moment when the present Minister of the Interior was pleading that he was not responsible for the grazing leases which had created such a scandal, he was secretly carrying out another deal with the same party friends, who were clearing a third of a million out of the Grand Forks concession. The facts regarding this last transaction have come to light through the issue of a prospectus in London setting forth in detail the splendid bargain which the political speculators have made with the Government.

GREAT GIFTS.

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ANOTHER R. O. CONFESSED.

Another witness who held a poll in London in the last Provincial election confessed in court that after the poll was closed he with Mr. Serviss and Mr. Sifton opened the ballot box and went through the contents in order to ascertain whether the man whose votes had been bought had marked their ballots as agreed. They discovered that two men who had been bribed to vote for the Liberal candidate had not done so. As these voters had not been paid at the time the ballots were examined their \$5 was refused them and the \$10 was given to Mr. Spence the deputy returning officer, as a reward for opening the box. Mr. Serviss mentioned in Mr. Spence's confession is one of the persons accused of conspiracy to steal the late election in London for Mr. Hyman the present Minister of Public Works. Mr. Sifton, a well known local character, is also accused but he has escaped from the Country.

THEY GOT RICH QUICK.

Among the happy grantees of irrevocable leases were the Grand Forks Castle Company, which held two grants amounting to 96,482 acres taken in the name of E. Hitchcock and James D. MacGregor, the latter a well known party manager in Brandon, whom Mr. Sifton appointed for a time to an office in the Yukon. This Company under its freehold privilege secured the absolute ownership of 9,452 acres at \$1.00 an acre, with the privilege of picking it out in small sections over ten times that area, thus obtaining land which could have undoubtedly been sold for \$10.00 or \$12.00 an acre the day the Company got it. \$350,000 FOR THE FAVORITES.

To finish up with the Grand Forks Company it was stated in the House on strong evidence that Mr. Sifton had acquired an interest in the corporation. Mr. Sifton himself contradicted this statement but he did not say that he had no intention of becoming an owner. Whoever the owners were, during the few months that they held the concession they have made themselves rich. They got their grant in May, 1905, and sold out in September 1906 at a profit of \$350,000.

THE LATEST DEAL.

Now for the later transaction. It appears that in June of this year, at the very time when the Grand Forks deal was under discussion, the Government made a secret sale of 380,000 acres to the same group of favorites. This land is in Southern Alberta and is to be irrigated though probably a large part of it is good without such treatment. The nominal price is \$3 an acre, but the purchasers agree to pay only \$1, and do not need to pay that for four years. The other two dollars is charged to the purchasers but will be returned as a bounty when they irrigate the land which they intend to do in order to make it saleable at a proposed price of \$20 to \$23 an acre. THEY GET \$500,000 AND PAY NOTHING.

As a matter of fact the favorites have no intention of spending any money of their own. They made their contract with the Government and then sold out the Grand Forks grazing lease and then selling it out when it became a monopoly, so that their total gains in a year and a quarter are \$350,000. MORE BALLOT SWITCHING. DISCLOSURES.

The statement made on oath in the London Election prosecutions by Pritchett have been corroborated by many witnesses. It is now fairly proved that the late Hon. Peter White was honestly elected in Brockville in 1898 and that the election was simply stolen from him by a switching of ballots. Readers will remember that this by election and the one at West Huron, which took place at the same time, were under investigation by a committee of Parliament. Mr. Borden and Mr. Powell were producing proof of frauds when Sir Sir Wilfrid interposed and used his majority to break off the inquiry in the middle. The Premier then promised a judicial investigation, but that pledge went the way of all the rest of his pledges. Now for the first time the full facts are coming to light. Not only has Pritchett explained the process by which these seats and a dozen others were stolen, but various witnesses are stating on oath that they received bogus ballots from Pritchett. One deputy returning officer has testified that he received 20 trick ballots marked for the Government candidate, which he agreed to put in the box, at the same time pocketing as many Conservative ballots handed him by the voters. This particular witness says he did not use the ballots, and therefore did not receive the \$100 retained and \$5 per switched ballot which the Government operators agreed to pay him. He was informed however, of other officers who carried out their agreement and received the money and at least one of these has made confession on oath.

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STANLEY BROS.

Ladies' Showerproof Coats

Just came to us from the makers. Light, medium and dark colors—very latest styles and perfection in Quality, Fit, Finish and Workmanship.

Prices from \$8.95 To \$12.00 Each.

Stanley Bros

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Largest Assortment, Lowest Prices. WHOLESALE and RETAIL

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OAK BRAND TEA.

In order to introduce our Oak Brand Tea we will ship and prepay freight to any station or shipping point on P. E. Island an 18 lb. caddie, and if you are not satisfied in every way return at our expense, and we will refund your money. Cut this out and enclose \$4.00 and mail to us.

McKenna's Grocery, Box 576, Ch'town, P. E. I.

Enclosed find \$4.00 for which you will send us a caddie of tea as advertised in this paper.

(Sign full name) (And Address)

PROWSE BROS., Ltd.

SILK WAISTS

\$4.00 to \$6.00 Value \$1.49.

A WONDERFUL bargain in Silk Waists. A Silk Waist opportunity that should interest every lady in the city. Think of it, Silk Waists, \$4 to \$6 values, at \$1.49. Figure it up, the cost of material, the cost of making, the thread, buttons, and all that goes to make a high class waist. But there's no need to go further than the first item, for silk enough for a waist of a quality inferior to that of which these bargain waists are made would cost much more than our price for one of these waists complete. It is evident, therefore, that SOMEBODY is making a big loss, dropping all the profit and most of the cost of the waist.

EXPLANATION.

These waists while perfect in every other detail are somewhat off style with regard to the sleeves, a detail, however, which may easily be remedied. They're really \$4 to \$6 waists, of splendid quality soft Taffetas. A few shantungs and are made in pretty styles. Colorings include pink, white, sky, rose, royal, navy, linen, many of them being exquisite shades. Sizes range from 34 to 40 inclusive. These are high class waists, the cut, workmanship and finish being most superior and will be found perfect fitting.

Out of town customers unable to shop personally may order with every confidence BY MAIL. When ordering, please state color and size desired. Ten cents extra should be enclosed for postal charges. Should the waist be found undesirable in any way it may be returned at once and the money will be immediately refunded. Orders should be sent in immediately and will be filled in rotation.

PROWSE BROS., Ltd.

BLACK Sateen Skirts

Skirts of excellent quality, black Roman Satin, prettily finished, Have deep stitched frill and flounce, dust ruffle, full simple cut. Easily worth \$1.19. Special value at 75c. Skirts of special fine Roman Satin. Have deep 6 inch flounce with three rows shirred tucking, deep dust frill and black galloon trimming. Ample proportioned, splendidly made and cheap at \$1.25. Special at 98c.

Mail orders add (8) eight cents for postage.

Flannelette Underwear Specials.

Children's Drawers of heavy grey domest flannel, in all sizes, to fit children 7 to 15 years. Special Saturday prices 35c, 48c.

Ladies' night dresses of heavy flannelette in plain colors, cream, sky and pink. Prettily made with frilled collar and cuffs. Special Saturday price 75c.

Corset Covers, Cheap.

Corset Covers of good quality English cotton, trimmed val lace at neck, insertion trimmed each side front, trimmed baby ribbon. Worth 30c 15c. Corset Covers of soft nainsook neck and arms trimmed fine torchon, yoke of torchon insertion, trimmed with baby ribbon. Worth 35c, Special 25c.

PROWSE BROS., Ltd.

Newest Waists

—AT—

Special Saturday PRICES

Black Sateen Waists in two of the newest designs, one has all over tucked front, and is trimmed with tabs and buttons, self collar, the other has stylish tucked and colored front, tucked collar, deep cuff of excellent quality, perfect fitting and worth \$1.25 for 88c.

Handsome waists of white Basket Mauve Madras—a splendid wash fabric. This waist is plaited back and front, has tucked collar, deep cut and large pearl buttons. Worth \$1.35. Special at \$1.00.

Handsome cream Lustre Waists of good quality in latest cut, tucked front and back, front trimmed fancy embroidered rings, tucked collar and deep tucked cuffs. Worth \$1.65. Special at \$1.20.

Neat Waist of fancy flannelette in three designs, French flannel patterns, all sizes, good cut. Special at 45c.

PROWSE BROS., Ltd.