

NOTHING LIKE A BOOM

Commenting upon an article in the Financial Post of Toronto, which feels called upon to warn people against an inflation of prices in the West, the Calgary Herald denies that there is a boom anywhere in this part of Canada. The Herald is right. There is an active demand for land, but it is based upon substantial causes. Real estate is worth more than it used to be, and for reasons that lie right upon the face of the facts. The farm lands of the Prairies command good prices, but not more than they are actually worth. To some Easterners the price of fruit lands in British Columbia seems excessive, but when the value of the crop that can be raised from them is taken into account, the price is seen to be only reasonable. City property is really not high anywhere in the West. We suppose the most expensive land anywhere west of Winnipeg is in parts of Vancouver. In some parts of that city prices are high, too high for speculative purposes, perhaps, but not too high for investment. Many people forget the distinction between these two kinds of purchases. The land speculator wants to buy land cheap and turn it over rapidly for a good deal more than he paid for it. He could do this at one time in the business centres of Winnipeg, Calgary, Vancouver and Victoria, but he cannot do it now, because business lots are held in those cities at their business value. To an Easterner, unfamiliar with the progress of the West, such prices may seem inflated, but they are not; they are prices which will stand investigation from the standpoint of rental values. It may be that in some cases unscrupulous men place "additions" upon the market at prices that are absurd; but the existence of a few such instances does not constitute a boom any more than a man with three shells, a pea and a little bit of constitutive "circus" are very much inclined to think that the days of "Western land booms" is gone. They were the product of conditions that no longer exist. It is no longer possible to lay out a town on a sheet of paper and persuade people to buy lots. At least it cannot be done in the wholesale way that was once possible. About twenty years ago some people laid out a huge townsite on the top of a hill on the north side of Gray's Harbor, in the State of Washington. They put up a number of substantial buildings, they built streets and a long wharf. Then they photographed these things and proceeded to sell town lots all over the United States. Lots were sold ten miles from the water, in the heart of an unbroken forest, where not even a surveyor had ever gone. It would be impossible to fool the people that way now, at least to any great extent. There are always some people who are looking out for something to be got for nothing, and they generally wind up by getting nothing for something; but most people know too much to be caught in any of these wild-cat land schemes. If anything of that kind is being attempted in the West it is on a very small scale. But it is not against such things that the Financial Post issues its warning. The inflation of which it speaks is not in the price of lots in an imaginary town, but of good farming lands and property in real towns and cities, and it is in respect to these that we say there is nothing like a boom, but only that steady appreciation of values which is the legitimate outcome of improving conditions and the influx of population.

AN ATROCIOUS SLANDER

G. Brown, who dates his or her letter from "Strathcona Institute, Vancouver," writes to the London Morning Leader a letter, in which these paragraphs occur:

There is a great deal of what is not true in this matter. In the western country there is no demand for women for housework. The work is chiefly done by the Chinese; and at the police courts out here every morning you can see what some of the women who come out from England in this way are driven to do for a living.

I pity any young girl who comes here from the old country unless she knows definitely where she is going. I hope this warning may not be without effect.

An atrocious libel is implied in these sentences as well as an exhibition of gross ignorance or deliberate deceit. The person who says there is no demand here for women for housework must either be absolutely misinformed as to the facts, or is intentionally misleading them. There is such a demand and a very active one. No capable self-respecting girl need lack for household employment. The reference to what is to be seen at the police courts is abominable. We do not say that sometimes foolish girls from the United Kingdom or elsewhere do not come to harm in Western Canada; but we do most emphatically deny that this is the case to any greater extent in Western Canada than anywhere else. The Leader's correspondent is without excuse.

GALO

Galo is a new word and the name of a new product made from something as old as humanity, but with uses that are decidedly modern. Some time ago a process was devised for the manufacture of photographic films from milk, and galo is apparently an adaptation of that. It is a preservative for which very remarkable qualities are claimed. If a piece of flesh is immersed for a few minutes in galo it is rendered apparently immune from decay. Quarters of beef, a carcass of mutton, fish and even human corpses immersed in the fluid several months ago, are said to be in a perfect state of preservation, all of them presenting the appearance of perfect freshness. It will preserve wood from decay, and if applied to stone, brick or concrete it will prevent disintegration. An Associated Press despatch says that the Santa Fe railway company is so impressed with the value of the new preservative that it proposes to treat its ties with it on a very extensive scale. Galo is made out of skimmed milk. If half what is claimed for it is true, the invention seems likely to prove exceedingly valuable. It could be used in so many ways that no one could hope to name them all. Further developments in connection with this preparation will be awaited with interest. Milk is a wonderful thing certainly. We can live on it when we are young; if we drink it in a sour state we can, so we are told, prolong our lives very materially; and when we die, we can be bathed in it and remain an ornament or otherwise to our homes for an indefinite period. At the rate we will soon find ourselves compelled to follow the example of our Hindu friends and regard the cow as sacred. Of course it is not well to take these statements about galo at their face value just yet, although the story told is very circumstantial, and if the alleged action of the Santa Fe railway is authentic, there must be a great deal of value in the invention.

AN IMPERIAL ADDRESS

Prof. F. C. de Sumichrast, of Harvard, addressed the Canadian Club of Ottawa on "Leadership of the Empire." We have only a synopsis of what he said, but gather from this that he took a very high ground in his appreciation of imperial problems. He made one point, which is too often forgotten. When Lord Northcliffe was here, he and Mr. Moberly Bell, of the London Times, were in conversation with a Victoria newspaper man, and the latter said that the others, apparently had never looked upon Imperial questions from the point of view of the Britisher, who had never seen of the United Kingdom, and whose ancestors for generations had lived in the overseas Dominions. They both admitted frankly that they had never done so, and said the views of such people were a factor in Imperial development that ought to receive great weight. "To me it is a wonderful thing," said Mr. Bell, "that persons whose ancestors, for half a dozen generations perhaps, have lived in the colonies, are as attached to the Mother Country, as proud of her institutions and as jealous of her good name as if they had been born in the very heart of England." In this fact we venture to think is the real essence of British Imperialism. Some British writers and speakers, who do not appreciate the attitude of these sons of the Empire, are fearful of the future, and would hasten to cement the great fabric by tariff legislation. We do not say that such legislation would not be of advantage, but we do most emphatically say that the Empire is held together by forces that are independent of trade. Prof. de Sumichrast presented one aspect of this sentiment when he said:

"We English should have sense enough to recognize that the great states of the Empire, with Canada in the forefront, while thoroughly loyal to the Sovereign, the flag and the Empire, view them from a standpoint which is not, and cannot be, identical with ours in every respect. The Canadian, the Australasian, the African, the West Indian, who is holding up his country, must necessarily love that country with an intensity and fervor surpassing his attachment to the Isles of Great Britain and Ireland, upon which he may never have looked. He is not the less loyal to the Empire, because he does not feel towards it all the enthusiasm of the original creators and their descendants, but let occasion arise, and Canadian, Australasian, and African unite in a strong call to the foe. 'Hands off; we also are of the Empire.'"

He also laid stress upon the fact that in Canada there are two great

forces, the English and the French. He reminded the English that they cannot expect the French to be as enthusiastic over the Union Jack as they are, but he claimed that the French had on more than one occasion shown themselves true to Canada and the Empire, and he claimed that we can count upon their assistance in perpetuating British leadership throughout the world. He closed his address with these eloquent sentences:

"Will that leadership pass away from Britain's hands? Will the United States or Germany, or, mayhap, France, assume it? Or will, within what now constitutes the Empire, the chieftainship go to some one of the present component states? Any attempt to predict would be rank folly. This much, however, may be said: The leadership will remain British if the Empire holds; the Empire will hold if the great and growing states which largely compose it do severally and jointly understand their responsibility to themselves, to the Empire, to humanity; if each and all set up an ideal, not local only, not bounded alone by the frontiers of their realm, or by their own institutions; an ideal not commercial, not material only, but being distinct with the broadest humanity, with loftiest devotion to high principle, and if they do they will find that for every well-considered sacrifice to the cause of true Imperialism, which is the welfare of humanity, they have reaped a reward, richer far than they could have dreamed of."

Other people besides motorists need looking after. A day or two ago two expressmen drove their teams at a rapid trot through a small crowd of people who were boarding an Esquimaux car. This is a sort of thing that the police should watch and put a stop to.

Joseph G. Ebersole, of Cincinnati, is a genius in his way. He filed a petition in bankruptcy the other day. His liabilities were \$1,200,000, and his assets \$400. He ranks with the fellow who, when reproached for being head over heels in debt, said that it showed he had had credit.

It is said that the federal government proposes to readjust the representation of Toronto that there will be some chance of electing some Liberal candidates there at the next general election. Nothing can be done just now, nor as a matter of fact, until after the next census, when it is expected that Ontario will show a relative increase of population so much larger than Quebec that three extra seats can be given to Toronto, making eight in all for that city. Of these, it is supposed the Liberals can reasonably hope to carry four. There is also a report in circulation here, and it comes from Liberal sources, that after the next census, Victoria and Esquimaux are to be united in one riding and that two representatives are to be given to the constituency thus created. Report even goes so far as to name the gentleman who is to be Mr. Templeman's running mate in the next contest, but it would manifestly be unkind to him to mention his name just now. Report further has it that one of the conditions upon which Mr. Templeman was permitted to retain his seat in the Cabinet after his defeat was that he would undertake to "redeem" Victoria.

Mr. Fielding was asked in Parliament if Dr. Macdonald, editor of the Toronto Globe, was representative of the Dominion government during his recent visit to Washington. Mr. Fielding said that he was not, although he added that, when Dr. Macdonald returned, he mentioned to Sir Wilfrid Laurier and him that President Taft would be willing to reopen negotiations on tariff matters with the ministry. The ministers intimated that they would accept an invitation from the President, and one was at once forthcoming. In all this we see nothing wrong. Indeed, we feel disposed to congratulate Dr. Macdonald upon his having made his position as a newspaper man of some national importance. Incidents of this kind have a tendency to place Canadian journalism on its proper level, and while the Colonist is not always able to see eye to eye with the Globe on political questions, it is glad to record its appreciation of Dr. Macdonald's view of the scope of work and influence open to newspaper men. One of the most hopeful things in Canada is the signs of the passing away of that conception of a newspaper, which regarded it only as a party hack, without opinions of its own on any subject and fearful to say anything until it had found out how some particular group of politicians would take it.

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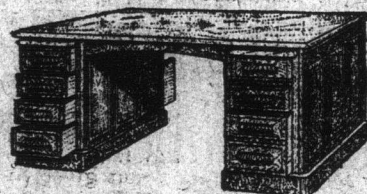
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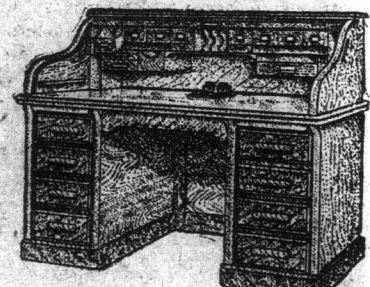
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