

A History of Our Crown Lands Office Would Make Interesting Reading

Unscrupulous Politicians and a Clique of Graball Heelers Have the Country Bled White.

(To the Editor)
Dear Sir.—There is to my mind no more correct expression which can be applied to the Crown Lands Act as it exists at present than the sublime to the ridiculous. One could hardly imagine any body of sensible men, endowed with the authority to protect public interests ever allowing such to go into print for the world to read and laugh at. Listen—Section 25, Article 1, says, that license of timber limits must within a certain period following approval of application erect a saw mill capable of a specified daily turnout.

Some section, article III says that he must prevent all unnecessary destruction of growing timber. Very good, that preserves us from the merciless speculator and we are glad. But wait. Article 8 says that license is only forfeited on account non payment of dues, and for any other infractions a penalty must be paid; but such penalty is only recovered by a suit in the name of the Minister of Agriculture and Mines. Now follow me. Some of the most valuable of our timber limits are to-day held by speculators, who never even thought of erecting a saw mill, or of operating such limits.

They have sold and are waiting to sell for enormous sums the said limits. We will suppose that they have paid their annual royalty, but that is even questionable, and if they have, what have you benefited from it? No one asks? But what does the Government care? If you knew the history of the Crown Land's Office you would be able to answer. How often has the Minister of Agriculture and Mines taken action against these speculators, who are making money out of your

property? Never! and again Never! And yet these speculators do not even meet the requirements of the law demanding that they define their limits by a line three feet wide all round. There is not another country under the canopy of heaven, more in need of having its resources developed. If you are clever enough at mathematics to figure out how a man earning \$800 a year can spend in the neighborhood of \$2000 annually and build up a bank account you might be able to figure out why nothing more is done to develop the timber resources of this country and why speculators are allowed a free hand. Now what we want is to have the laws altered. We have been content with conditions long enough.

Why should we allow our timber lands to remain undeveloped because the government chooses to protect the speculator instead of the public? Why should our forests that are under operation, not be handled systematically as well as those of other countries? Why allow unfair holdings of one portion, and the disgraceful, damnable wholesale destruction of growing timber in another portion. This country can be made a hive of systematized industry and we must have it. Away with unscrupulous politicians, and untrammelled graball understrappers. Curse your own indifference of the past in these matters, and see when the time comes for next general election that the proper steps are taken that will rid the country of its destroyers. That time must soon come. It is coming but it is yours to bring it about.

OPTIMISTICUS.
Oct. 12, 1916.

BULGARIANS REVEL IN AWFUL BUTCHERY

Roumanian Civil Population of Tutrakan Subjected to Diabolical Tortures—Women Aid Soldiers—Children Incited by their Mothers to Take Part in Massacres

The Daily Chronicle prints the following from its Bucharest correspondent:

"It is more than probable that when all the horrors perpetrated by the Bulgarians and Germans at Tutrakan are known and officially confirmed they will rival anything yet recorded in Balkan warfare. There seems to have been competition between the two allies as to which would inflict the most torture. The Germans as usual, did the thing systematically, putting the Roumanian prisoners in batches and shooting them in the market places and other convenient spaces.

"A regular massacre of the Roumanian civil population was organized by the Bulgarian soldiery, aided by Bulgarian inhabitants, going from street to street killing, maiming, and torturing as they went. Some of the Bulgarian inhabitants who took part were well dressed women and young men in light suits and straw hats, while the women incited their children to share in the revel. Knives, hatchets, anything with which torture could be inflicted, were employed, and less horrors were perpetrated. Limbs were lopped off, eyes gouged out, or as the helpless victims.

"There is in the hospital to-day in Bucharest a raving lunatic, a lady of good Roumanian family, wife of a judge who, hearing that the Roumanians were being massacred, rushed half dressed to the tribunal to save her husband. She arrived just in time to see a hatchet descend on his head and cleave his body nearly in halves. She was found and recognized by some Roumanian officers who brought her to the capital.

"During the fighting the Bulgarian women and children followed the lines, stabbing and torturing the wounded. Bodies were found with twenty and thirty cuts and worse. There are a dozen Roumanian soldiers in hospitals bearing as many wounds who still lived to suffer torture. Many of the women had rifles. More than one wounded soldier was shot in the back.

"A very strict inquiry is to be made and a full report addressed to allied and neutral countries."

then Constantine refused to budge. He dared not openly antagonize the Allies, but seems to have given his tacit consent to a policy of hampering them. Athens swarmed with German spies. The Greek general staff was avowedly pro-German. Sarraill's advance was delayed by fear that he might be attacked in the rear.

The Revolution

In the past three months the situation upon the Eastern and Western fronts has altered, and the alteration has modified the situation in the Balkans. The initiative has been taken from German hands. The Allies no longer need the co-operation of Greece. Venizelos saw the tendency and warned the Greek people that the greatest opportunity in their modern history was slipping from them. A revolution broke out, its immediate cause the "surrender" of a Greek army corps to Bulgaria and Germany. This army corps is now "benevolently interned" in Germany, although the Greek demand for its liberation is addressed to Bulgaria. The growth of the Cretan revolution at the head of which is Venizelos, brought the king to the end of his resources. He had to choose between the loss of his throne and obedience to the demand of his people, the vast majority of whom are determined upon war.

May Have Delayed Too Long

Constantine may have delayed his choice too long. He may yet be deposed. Should the Entente Allies say in effect to Greece that she has overstayed her market and that there is no longer any offer for her assistance, the Greek people would no doubt turn on Constantine and he would be lucky if he escaped with his life. Greece can, however, contribute an army of 200,000 or 300,000 to the Entente forces in the Balkans, though it could give little effective assistance until next Spring, and by that time an extra hundred thousand men might be of no more use to the Allies than an extra Dreadnought to the British Grand Fleet. For the sake of Venizelos, who has remained a staunch friend of the Allies from the beginning and in recognition of the fact that the Greek people were unwillingly constrained by their King, the Allies will be disposed to deal fairly with Greece. They know, however, that concessions that were once offered to Greece are now desired by Italy and Serbia. Neither of these staunch fighters can be thwarted for the sake of such an eleventh-hour convert as Greece.

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HOW KING CONSTANTINE OF GREECE HAS PLAYED HIS CARDS

If Greece enters the war, as she seems now on the point of doing, it cannot be said that she was dragged into it by an ambitious and unscrupulous monarch. Constantine has done his best to keep clear of the struggle. In his determination that Greece should remain neutral he has related the constitution, repudiated a treaty, created a revolution, and only the fact that his throne is tottering beneath him, and that further opposition to the will of his people would mean his deposition has led him to issue the ultimatum to Bulgaria. As one writer remarks, Constantine has not been governed by any horror of bloodshed. Thrice before he gladly supported a war. Nor was he governed by a regard for the interests of his people, which, as Venizelos has always insisted, demand intervention on the side of the Entente Allies. The truth is that Constantine has not been so much a King of Greece as a viceroy of Germany.

Treaty Repudiated

Constantine first showed his hand when Bulgaria entered the war against Serbia. A treaty signed at the conclusion of the second Balkan war provided that in such an event Greece should come to the aid of Serbia; this treaty Constantine repudiated, despite the protest of Venizelos. The great Minister, indeed, desired Greece to range herself with the Allies with respect to the Serbian treaty. He saw an opportunity for Greece to increase her territory and to bring under her dominion some millions of

Greeks who were citizens of other nations. At the time of the Dardanelles expedition Venizelos, then Premier, had made a tentative agreement with France and Britain to co-operate in this enterprise. Constantine refused to give his sanction, and Venizelos resigned. It is possible for the admirers of the king to say that as an experienced soldier he foresaw the failure of the Dardanelles campaign, and refused to participate in a venture that could not succeed as originally planned.

The King's Defence

Later on, when the Bulgarian invasion of Serbia was under way and Greece was again pressed to stand by Serbia, Constantine refused, and he might argue, as no doubt he did, that the opposition that Greece might be able to offer to the Mackensen drive would not be sufficient to stay it, and that all northern Greece, including Salonica, might have passed into enemy hands. Whether Greek intervention at this time would have saved Serbia must remain a matter for speculation; but whatever might have happened temporarily, it would have secured for Greece generous recognition by the Allies when the final victory was won. Nor did Greek abstention save her from invasion. Bulgarian soldiers overran the Kavala district. Greek soldiers were killed; Greek property destroyed. In the meantime the Entente had transported a powerful army to Salonika, under Genr. Sarraill, thus offering Greece a guarantee that she should not be invaded. But even

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