

CONTRACT HAS YEARS

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created by the people of Canada has used every means, fair and unfair, to make the people who created it its prey.

It is getting right up to the Hon. Charles A. F. Smith, Minister of Justice, who declared the other day that he had a sneaking regard for vested interests, and a death-like apathy for the public welfare as well.

MONOPOLY IN THE U.S.

Impressions Gleaned by a Toronto Citizen While Across Line.

Having been cabled in the States, the Bell Telephone Company has, apparently, transplanted in Canada the methods it found successful for so many years in the Yankee Republic. That is the impression of a Toronto citizen, J. H. Hurd, who has recently returned from an investigation of farmers' co-operative telephone lines in the central part of the States. Briefly, Mr. Hurd found that, in the past three years, the rural districts of Illinois, Indiana and Ohio have been completely covered by the co-operative lines, practically driving out the big monopoly, which, for so long, refused the farmers facilities except at ruinous prices. When the farmers began to organize, they were immediately confronted with the iron-clad argument, which the Bell made with the different railroads of that section, by which none but Bell wires were permitted to connect with the depots.

Following the line of the contest between the Bell Telephone Company and the Western Union, appealing to the courts of last resort, the Interstate Commerce Commission and other sources of authority, the independent lines gradually established the principle that, as common carriers, the railroads had no authority to refuse connecting rights with the telephone company, and grant those rights to others. Innumerable decisions were rendered, the monopoly fighting in one State under one disguise, and before other tribunals in other disguises. Under the code of procedure of most States, any taxpayer can, at any time, begin an action in the District State Courts to enforce his right to equal privileges of the character, and judgment is rendered within a few months. If an appeal is taken, which is seldom the case, it is forced forward on the docket, because it is in the interest of public policy.

The query naturally arises in this connection, "How long would the P. R. be satisfied to maintain a defence in a Canadian court of law, in its alleged contract with this same Yankee corporation, which so long dominated the farmers of the West?" Publicity in premises of this class is admitted by the farmers to be the influence they may evoke to secure justice.

"I spent several months in the rural districts of Illinois, Indiana and Ohio recently," said Mr. Hurd, "I found much the same conditions existed a few years ago there that Canada farmers are now confronted with. The Bell controlled all the sources of their communications. They might be little co-operative lines at a small expense, but, being refused admission to the depots of the railroads, they were charged for thru service by the Bell exorbitant rates that their independent service was unprofitable. Their appeals for relief were at first ignored. The Bell maintained at Washington and State capitals powerful lobbies, which are there to prevent any independent telephone companies securing favorable legislation. The monopoly was in the habit of distributing cash and free telephones to all those whose influence was thought of value.

"Gradually the farmers got their connections, first in one county and then in another. The Interstate Commerce Commission declared that public carriers could not refuse to one corporation what had been freely granted to another. This sound the death knell of the Bell, in so far as its monopolistic control of the rural districts was concerned. Then the company hastened to build lines thru sections which they had hitherto declared unprofitable territory, just as they had previously refused to accord the farmers around Pickering and Markham service on the same ground, only to turn and try to prevent them securing the same from any other source. I found eight or ten million farmhouses in the States mentioned supplied with a phone, connecting with New York and San Francisco, when necessary, from \$10 to \$20 a year, when it had been refused almost wholly before by the Bell, or at rates of \$50 to \$100 a year. Now an Illinois farmer, from his bedroom, can call on the station, and inquire about shipping stock, or the Chicago stock yards, 200 miles away, to get the latest quotation. The business men of Toronto are certainly interested in this right, since the farmers around Claremont, if they get this connection, may deliver their orders direct to the big retail houses here, and talk hourly with the stock yards. Aside from any right, it ought to be a very live issue, from a business standpoint, in Toronto."

PATENTS RUN OUT.

Recent Independent Telephone Companies Seek to Do Business.

The point the C. P. R. president makes about less than a dozen applications having been made by owners of independent telephone lines, in the past ten years, for a connection with the railroads of his company, is of peculiar interest just at present. The inference is that no particular injustice is being done the rural districts of Canada by the exclusive control of the Bell, in view of the few requests for this privilege. The explanation is simple. Not until very recent years did the more important patents of the Bell begin to expire. Prior to that, it was impossible for an independent line to do business. It could not buy instruments. In the meantime, new inventions had been placed on the market, not controlled by the monopoly, and these, with the ancient patents expiring, made independent lines possible. But recently has a company been organized in Canada, which sells supplies of this character to independent lines. Therefore, when President Shaughnessy implies that, in future, there will be no more frequent applications for connections with his lines by independent companies, than in the past, he manifests a decided ignorance of the situation. Around York and Ontario counties, alone, now, are more than a dozen farmers' co-operative companies in course of organization. Other counties all over Canada will speedily follow their lead. When the rural districts rise and stand on their own feet, they may pay for all time a modern system of communication, but it is absurd to imagine the farmers will not have recourse to this economy. It is inevitable that the contract of the C. P. R. with the Bell will be tested. It is so clearly in the restraint of trade and public interest that neither side will dare stand long in a court of law and argue for its validity. If this American monopoly had been satisfied with even a reasonable tribute, they might have continued undisturbed for some time longer, but, with the present situation developing, it is certain that some measure of relief will be afforded the people. The Grand Trunk is said to be tied up with a similar contract. This only makes it more imperative that the courts be required to pass on the

BEGINS TO LOOK AS IF CANADA WERE ANNEXING U. S.



—Minneapolis Journal.

WENT ASHORE ON THE REEFS

Passengers on Steamer Madiana Had Thrilling Experience, But Were Landed Safely.

ON CRUISE OF CARIBBEAN SEA

Steamer a Total Wreck—Struck on Coral Reef Near Hamilton Harbor.

Hamilton, Bermuda, Feb. 10.—The Quebec Steamship Company's steamer, Madiana, Capt. Fraser, which sailed from New York last Saturday with a party of excursionists for a special cruise around the Caribbean Islands, went ashore on the reefs of this island at 3 o'clock this morning. The passengers had a thrilling experience. The ship is a total loss, but all on board were rescued and brought safely to land, after a perilous trip in lifeboats from the wreck to a tug standing a mile off. The mulls and the passengers' baggage were also saved. According to statements made by those on board, the Madiana was threatened by her way in the night thru the narrow channel between the coral reefs, which lead to Hamilton harbor, when she struck a reef one and a half miles northwest of North Rock. No explicit explanation is yet forthcoming as to how the vessel went on the rocks, and the only information obtainable from the officers is that the light which indicates the channel for some reason could not be seen.

FARMERS' TELEPHONES.

Toronto Telegram: "A telephone in every farm house" would be an attractive label for one plank in the platform of a party that went looking for the answer, subject to qualification, from the historic fact that the politicians on both sides of the Atlantic have used the telephone as a means of increasing the revenues of the Bell Company.

Ontario is in many ways far ahead of the United States Commonwealths, but the Grit-Tory party in the latter is preserving Canada as a happy hunting ground for the Bell Telephone monopoly has put this province far behind the American States, which recognize the telephone in every farm house as one of the commonplaces of life.

NEW ONTARIO POLITICS.

"See" Express Hears Rumors of Another Bell.

New Ontario is furnishing political rumors of various sorts these days. The latest is given currency by The Sault Ste. Marie Express, edited by Chas. M. Smith, the defeated Liberal candidate in the last election. This paper hears that Mr. M. Smith, who desires to remain in the legislature should be unseated; and that Mr. Smythe, the successful Conservative, would not pay them to enter the field for the amount of business that was to be done. These independent lines would act as feeders for the Bell system, and bring business which would otherwise be lost to the monopoly.

The telephone was of service to the farming community. Some of the farmers are miles from the station with which they have no direct connection. If they had phonic communication with the station, it would mean a great saving of time and labor. For instance, he wants to know of arrival of goods, or the departure or arrival of trains, and does not want to make trips to the depot in vain with a wire in his home. The farmers need quick communication with the station, and the minister would see to it as cheap as possible.

LOT TO KILL JEROME.

Story Conveyed to District Attorney by Professional Gambler.

New York, Feb. 10.—District Attorney Jerome admitted to-night that he had been informed of a plot against his life. The information is said to have been conveyed to Mr. Jerome by a professional gambler, who is a personal admirer of the District Attorney. Beyond simple admission that he had been warned that some gamblers were concerned in a plot to put him out of the way, Mr. Jerome declined to discuss the matter. When pressed for particulars, he merely smiled and shrugged his shoulders. His manner indicated that he was not disposed to pay very serious attention to the warning.

PROMISES REVEALED.

Milton Postoffice Appointment Subject of Investigation.

Milton, Feb. 10.—The investigation into the manner in which Robert Stewart obtained his appointment as postmaster here, came up before Judge Gorham yesterday. This is the examination ordered by the government in response to numerous letters charging that "a monetary consideration" influenced Mr. McKinnon in recommending Mr. Stewart.

The case was adjourned until Thursday, after Mr. W. J. Dewar told the court that he would have some evidence to offer at that time. The meantime Mr. Stewart has not been permitted to take charge of the office, and he has his commission. The inference is that Mr. Stewart donated to the Liberal Association a sum of money, and indirectly or otherwise in return for his appointment, but his friends insist that the charge was laid by a modern system of communication, but it is absurd to imagine the farmers will not have recourse to this economy. It is inevitable that the contract of the C. P. R. with the Bell will be tested. It is so clearly in the restraint of trade and public interest that neither side will dare stand long in a court of law and argue for its validity. If this American monopoly had been satisfied with even a reasonable tribute, they might have continued undisturbed for some time longer, but, with the present situation developing, it is certain that some measure of relief will be afforded the people. The Grand Trunk is said to be tied up with a similar contract. This only makes it more imperative that the courts be required to pass on the

MIGHTY CANADIAN NORTHWEST SOON TO BE THE BREAD-BASKET OF THE WORLD.

The Same Abundant Prosperity that the United States Enjoyed, But on a More Substantial Basis, Permeates the New Eldorado.

Beautiful and Fertile Prairie a Huge Advertisement of Golden Opportunity.

Of all the Wheat-Producing Centers of the World, Canada is the Most Important to the Welfare of Man.

(By D. S. MOPHERSON.)

The incoming tide of the new century has swept Western Canada high on the shore of prosperity and landed her before the astonished eyes of the world. North America has always been preparing surprises. An audacious youth, the very concentration of industrial energy and the synonym for progress, she has continually been striking up new airs just when the world has begun to grow accustomed to the last tune.

The new continent itself was a good deal of a surprise when it thrust its head into the world's history four centuries ago, but the new continent for a hundred years meant the Atlantic stretch of coast along the Atlantic seaboard. A hundred years more and at least one part of the continent has proven that she was no longer a sea-board ribbon, but a vast territory, that stretched fifteen hundred miles inland. A half century more and her civilization stood on the Pacific coast, bowed around to greet the blinking eyes of the Old World, who could not quite adjust her mental spectacles to the clear realization of California and Colorado gold mines, limitless prairies, where grazed vast herds of cattle and sheep, where waved millions of acres of wheat and corn, and where cities, that represented the crowning achievements of civilization, were rising on every hand.

The United States have had a history of which her Canadian cousins have been uselessly proud. But Canada is awake at last to her own possibilities. She has prepared a surprise for the English-speaking world, a good deal larger than she herself anticipated. To tell the honest truth, Canada has been about as much a surprise to herself as to the rest of the world. Eastern Canada has always been aware that there were agricultural possibilities in her West. The soil is fertile, and the climate offers every attraction for growing recent vegetables. Territorially, industrially and commercially Western Canada is expanding. Manitoba is no longer "the West" of the Great Dominion. That province is now only the middle of "the West." Beyond her to the west and northwest lies a vast prairie farm upon which you could drop down all Russia, Europe and America, and there were millions of acres of the great wheat country in the world are awaiting the magic of English, Scotch, Irish and American spade and muscle to pour forth their wealth.

Western Canada is only beginning to be known. What has for years been regarded by the uninitiated as a hopeless wilderness, attractive only to the wild beast and the savages, has revealed itself to actual experience as a vast prairie, with a future so assured that men have ceased to question its possibilities, and only seek to measure them. The districts of Saskatchewan, Alberta and Saskatchewan, with Manitoba, are at present the centres of interest. This section extends four hundred miles east and west, and embraces an area of 350,000 square miles, and represents agricultural wealth second to no equal area in the world.

This vast region is rapidly taking on the characteristics of a new and vigorous prosperity. Buoyancy and confidence pervade the atmosphere, and indicate the break of a new industrial era. The great wheat yields of the past few years have become the indices of a near and more brilliant future, when the 68,000,000 bushels of wheat produced in 1902 will be doubled again and again. Western Canada is now the wheat field of Great Britain, and it is only a matter of time before she will be the bread-basket of the world.

Western Canada is young, but youth, in this instance, has proved no qualification. She not only has the vigor and vitality of a new country, where opportunity inspires activity, but she has the tools to work with. Her commercial expansion is keeping a marvellously equal pace with her industrial achievements. Her three great railroads, the Canadian Pacific, Canadian Northern and the Grand Trunk, are reaching out their arms to receive the great influx of immigration and the commodities and machinery necessary to great agricultural enterprises, and in turn to carry away her multiplying products. She is rapidly making the means of supplying herself with the necessities of civilization, firm and well-rounded civilization. Western Canada is not something to be. She is. She is not a future dream, but a present reality. Her future is only a question of development on a foundation already solidly laid. What is necessary to rapidly and stably that development she has at her command.

The world has looked on in wonder at the march of the West of the United States toward a position to which many an older civilization has aspired in vain, but that west of our neighbors began its journey in an immigrant wagon and ended it in a settler's shanty. It waited long for the sound of the locomotive and the buzz of the McCormick reaper, and still longer for the irrigation of eastern Canada that meant wide operations, quick achievement and the backbone of the needed city. Western Canada already has her palace cars and her freight trains. She begins the new century with a legacy from the old, representing the inventions of fifty years in agricultural machinery, and finds dollars by the million penetrating her recesses of wealth, and instead of the settler's shanty of the early American West, which often saw many winter snows and spring showers before it gave place to the comforts of an Eastern home, Western Canada is rapidly being dotted with the snug residences of the well-to-do farmer.

Rome was not built in a day, but it did not take those early settlers on the Palatine many years to spell out their destiny in Italy. Leadership was the sure heritage of the possessors of those Seven Hills, and the early Roman always knew his opportunity. Western Canada will not be behind a day, but it has already read its future, and the agricultural and commercial Romans are in the field. Wheat is king and promises to play the part of another Roman Empire among the agricultural powers of the world.

Canada's supremacy as a wheat growing country lies not only in the vast regions at her command for this purpose, but in the advantages of a prairie country in way of ease of tillage, and in the peculiar conditions of soil and climate, which assure not only a large yield of grain, but a better quality than in what have been generally considered more favorable sections. The wheat of Western Canada really said. A young man came to me to ask if I had been in Washington in the interests of a certain bill, I answered him that I did not know even the title of the bill, and then he asked me something about the labor situation. I told the young man that at present it was by no means satisfactory, since conditions were causing so to increase the cost of production as to narrow our markets in the face of competition. But I made the further and important statement that there was no cause for alarm, since this problem, like other seemingly grave ones, would eventually regulate itself.

MANAGERS RECEIVED. Chicago, Feb. 10.—The strike of the elevator men and janitors in a number of office buildings of Chicago came to an end to-night, and the men will return to work in the morning. The abrupt finish of the strike was unexpected, and was brought about by the Managers' Association, meeting from the position it had taken in refusing to submit its case to the Chicago Board of Arbitration.

Is Your Back Lame? Does it hurt to stoop or bend down? Have you a heavy dull pain at the base of the spine? If so, the best remedy is Nervine; it will invigorate the tired, sore muscles, make them supple and strong. Nervine will drive out the pain and make you well in 10 days. Nothing so good as Nervine for Lumbago, Stiff Neck, Rheumatism, Neuralgia and Sciatica. Buy a 25c bottle of Nervine. To-day, to-day, and try it.

Dr. Hamilton's Pills Cure Constipation.

Appointed Judge of the Admiralty Court in Toronto.