

HOW PLUNDERBUNDERS PROFITED THROUGH GRAND FALLS GRAFT

Loss to the People of Province Only Exceeded by the Crown Lands Mismanagement—Old Gang Who were Responsible Trying to Again Get Control of Affairs.

The Hon. Mr. Murray, in his speech in the Opera House Thursday evening, referred to the fact that the opposition had among other slanderous statements made accusation that the present government had given away the most valuable water power in the province and he dealt with the accusation without gloves.

If the old adage be true that "whom the gods would destroy they first make mad," the opposition orators had been made mad to an intense degree. A more impudent piece of mendacity never proceeded from the perverted ingenuity of the most accomplished Ananias than this accusation. If the opposition speakers had a particle of either shame or respect they would never have referred to the giving away of the greatest water power in the province. The water power referred to is the Grand Falls.

The Damning Facts. The facts are these. The old government leased the Grand Falls to a company of adventurers, who had neither means or credit. The rental reserved by the lease was \$500 per year for a number of years, which gradually increased to a maximum of \$2,500 per year.

The lease also contained a provision that if the company at any time desired to purchase the power absolutely it could do so by paying \$400,000. To make this lease valid an Act of the provincial Legislature was passed confirming the bargain. Men acquainted with the value of water power could not understand how it was that the old government had practically given away this great provincial asset.

A rival company, the chief shareholder in which was Sir William Van Horne, endeavored to get control of the property and purchased a number of rights which were essential to the full development of the power. A gentleman in New York who had considerable means brought himself to bankruptcy by his support of the endeavors of the promoters of the company of adventurers to float bonds on the money market. The expenditure however, although large, did not improve the property one dollar. Finally as a result of the bankruptcy of the adventurer, amalgamation took place between their company and Sir William Van Horne's company, and this amalgamation was sanctioned by an Act of the Legislature.

Company of Adventurers. The starting inadequacy of the rental to be paid by the company of adventurers will be shown by the fact that an immensely wealthy corporation in New York, a paper trust company, stepped in and bought out the interest of the adventurers, paying nearly a quarter of a million dollars for the rights which the government handed over to its favorites for the ridiculously small rental of \$500 a year.

The amalgamated company then took up the option contained in the lease and in the statute confirming it, and tendered the new government \$60,000 for a conveyance. The government for a considerable time refused to give the conveyance, and it was only after consultation with counsel, and receiving advice that the province would not be deeply impressed with an additional infusion into the cup.

TONNAGE DIFFICULTIES MAY SOLVE PROBLEM

London, Feb. 23, via Reuter's Agency.—Premier Lloyd George began his speech in the House of Commons today by apologizing for not being ready yesterday, the fact being that he was engaged in the discussion of an important problem with ministers from France, who came over for the purpose. The Premier then proceeded:

"The ultimate success of the Allied cause depends, in my judgment, on our solving the tonnage difficulties with which we are confronted. Before the war our shipping tonnage was only just adequate. Regarding iron ore the premier said: "We are importing millions of tons, but the importation cannot be diminished unless more iron ore is found in our country. There is plenty of low grade ore, in this country, and if the supply of labor can be augmented we can increase enormously our output. The saving of tonnage would be large, but unfortunately it would come late in the year."

Farmers Can Increase. "Farmers can increase, even now, by hundreds of thousands of tons for this year," said Premier Lloyd George. "The food supplies of the country. If all the plans are carried out a very considerable quantity of tonnage will be saved, but future tonnage is urgently needed. The French ambassador has been here begging for more ships, and the Italian ambassador has just left, after making the same request. We need an immediate and substantial saving of tonnage. Let us come down ruthlessly on imports which are not essential. It is idle to suggest that we who are comfortable at home should not be prepared to surrender the things unnecessary."

The premier also announced that the importation of books, periodicals and other printed matter would be prohibited entirely. The official gazette tonight gives a list of articles the importation of which is prohibited. It was announced that in deciding what commodities should be excluded from the United Kingdom, in order to economize in tonnage, the government had to take into account the interests of its allies. The threatened restrictions aroused immediate protests from France, as the imports from that country of mineral waters, wines, brandy, silks, needlework and of all kinds of garments and luxuries, such as bonnets, feathers and flowers, represent a considerable income to the French producers.

The power given to the Board of Trade to issue special licenses, however, may be freely exercised in behalf of the allies of Great Britain, as supplies to France and Italy have ample tonnage to bring return cargoes. There are now heavy stocks of French wines in England. American firms dealing in typewriters and photographic apparatus almost monopolize the English market, but have factories here. The importation of American boots and shoes, once heavy, has decreased greatly in the last decade. The country has large supplies of coffee, tea and cocoa.

Premier Lloyd George announced that the United Kingdom would endeavor to depend upon its own resources for timber, which heretofore largely had been imported, the chief obstacle to its production being insufficient force of skilled workmen for cutting and finishing it. Other commodities specified are: Aerated, mineral and table waters; antimony ware, apparel not waterproofed, works of art, baskets and bamboo baskets, books, other printed matter, including posters, dials and weekly and other periodicals exceeding sixteen pages in length; materials for the manufacture of leather boots and shoes, brandy, clocks and parts thereof; cloisonne wares, raw cocoa and preparations thereof; coffee, cotton hosiery cotton lace and

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Lloyd George's speech had little effect and the turnover was larger, especially in rubber stocks, on good dividends announced by the leading companies. The foreign section was firm, particularly Japanese bonds and Russian and Brazilian issues but Argentine and home rails declined. Shipping shares were steady. American securities were dull and uninteresting in the absence of Wall Street advices.

London, Feb. 23.—The stock market played a good tone today. Premier and infusional earth, embroidery and feathers and down, fire extinguishers, flowers, artificial and fresh; hats and

Is a Pacifist a Traitor Or a Patriot?

The undoubted sincerity of our leading peace advocates does not prevent some keen editorial observers from pointing out that many of their activities in the present crisis play directly into Germany's hands. This view gets strong support from a United Press correspondent with Ambassador Gerard, who cables from Paris that the "German-financed" peace-propaganda in America is regarded with suspicion by American officials on the other side as "a play for time that will enable Germany to make such disposition of her submarines as will enable her best to strike at America in case of war."

The New York Tribune adds "it is no mere accident that pro-German propaganda everywhere outside the Fatherland has made common cause with doctrinaire pacifism." And it quotes "a high Federal official" as saying that "most of the peace-propagandists are pro-German," and that large German funds in this country are at the service of the pacifists.

On the other hand, some of the best-known advocates of peace are highly patriotic in their attitude, Henry Ford, notably, offering to put his great plant and organization at the service of the United States in the event of war. Charles Edward Russell, a leader among American Socialists, declares that "I am not yet convinced that it is impossible for one to be a socialist, and at the same time be an American; but if it is, I am an American."

In THE LITERARY DIGEST for February 24th, the leading article covers the activities of the peace-propagandists in America and shows by quotations from leading American newspapers, all the facts from various angles.

- Other interesting subjects covered in this number are: The Homets' Nest in Cuba. Is the Tumult There Due to Foreign Intrigue Intended to Embarrass the United States? An Unusually Fine Collection of Cartoons and Other Illustrations. Is Russia Hungry in the Midst of Plenty? Germany's Food Problem. England Perturbed Over the U-Boat Menace. Anarchism in India. Home "Movies" for Everybody. Luck and Primitive Religion. To Open Up Russian-Asia. A City Where Libraries are Superfluous.

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