

readily, that they were beyond that area. This suggestion was adopted, and the anticipation proved to be correct. The intervening area did fill up very rapidly and the lands quickly rose in value. What I did not anticipate was that the Government would break faith with the people and would so soon as it was subjected to pressure by land speculators, seek to deprive the Doukhobors of the lands which had been given to them, or explicitly reserved for them. Had I done so nothing would have induced me to encourage any immigrants to come to this country.

The process of attack upon the Doukhobor lands began in 1906. It is necessary to explain certain peculiarities of the people which laid them open to the attack and left them defenceless before it. ~~These peculiarities were that~~ About three-fourths of them practised rigid co-operation. They bought collectively and they sold collectively. The local merchants disliked them because they did not profit by their proximity on account of the purchases of the Doukhobors being made principally in Toronto and Vancouver, where, soon after their settlement, they began to buy on a large scale. The local farmers professed to believe that the sale of Doukhobor produce reduced prices.

Together with the land speculators—many farmers being among these—and aided by the local politicians, the groups mentioned organized a raid upon Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Mr. Frank Oliver. Neither of these had ever been in the Doukhobor Settlement, nor did they know anything about the people or their character. The Doukhobors had no votes because they objected to the oath of allegiance—conceiving that to swear it, gave the Government a power over them which they could not understand. For this reason their case was regarded with cynical indifference. Instead of dealing with the question in a diplomatic manner, the Government in 1907, simply cancelled the Doukhobor grants and took away from the people nearly 400,000 acres of land. Large areas of that land had been brought into cultivation by the people. Technically the Government may have acted within their powers—morally, their action was without justification. One of the peculiarities of the Doukhobors is adherence to the maxim of Tolstoy, by whom in recent years they have been much influenced—that maxim is "Resist not evil." They accepted the situation and of course believed that like the Government of Russia—the Canadian Government was simply an instrument of oppression. They decided that even the small portion of land left to them was held on very insecure tenure and therefore they should buy land instead of trusting to Government grants. They bought large tracts of land in British Columbia from and with the knowledge of the Government of that province. They were well advised, at all events for the time, for in 1912 further encroachment upon their Saskatchewan lands was made, at the instance of Conservative politicians and others.

Some thousands of the Doukhobors were transferred to the British Columbia lands. There they engaged in the intensive agriculture to which they had been accustomed in Russia, this form of agriculture not being possible in northern Saskatchewan. They established large fruit farms, built jam factories and produced on a large scale. During the war they presented the Government with great quantities of jam as their contribution to the war funds.