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APPRECIATIONS



What the Newspapers
throughout Canada
have to say of the

**PARLIAMENTARY
RECORD**

— and —

PLATFORM WORK

of

Mr. H. B. AMES, M.P.

ON PARLIAMENT HILL.

OTTAWA, March 23.—The name of Mr. H. B. Ames, the member for St. Antoine division of Montreal, has figured largely in reports of parliamentary doings this session, especially in connection with the affairs of the department of the interior, of which Mr. Ames is one of the chief critics for the Opposition. It is generally felt that Mr. Ames will never become a popular leader, because he lacks personal magnetism, but his work in Parliament has been of such a character that there he is looked upon as one of the big forces in Canadian politics of to-day.

Mr. Ames is in politics to-day from pure love of the work. Rich by inheritance, his life seemed more likely to centre around some of the fashionable clubs of Montreal than to enter into stormy politics. The smooth path, however, this reserved and energetic man discarded in order that he might be of service.

As a young man he inherited a fortune from his father, who was the head of the firm of Ames, Holden & Co., of Montreal. To these business interests close attention has been given, but politics has been supreme in the end.

Mr. Ames began with municipal politics. To be an alderman of the City of Montreal it was necessary to speak French, and his he did thoroughly by spending a considerable time in France. In 1898 he was elected to the council, and played a leading part in reforming the municipal government of that big proverbially mis-governed city. Three years in the council opened the way to a large field, and he turned to federal politics. To accomplish this, the most complete organization ever affected in Canada was perfected, and it may be said here that that organization in St. Antoine has never been allowed to fall off in any way.

That was in 1904, and upon coming to Ottawa Mr. Ames threw himself into the thick of the federal fight, bringing to it all the good business sense and keen determination which had carried him so well in Montreal city council. Hard work has no terrors for him, and no trouble is too great where he sees a definite result ahead. It may be safely said that no single member at Ottawa is a harder worker. Not satisfied with getting his information from blue books and Government reports, Mr. Ames has undertaken long journeys in Western Canada during the summers since 1904 in order to have first hand information regarding that which he is called upon to criticise. The result is that his onslaughts are slashing. When he makes a statement it is safe to say that it cannot be controverted.—*The Free Press*, London (Ont.), Mar. 25, 1908.

WHAT THE "GLOBE" THINKS OF MR. AMES.

Rich men, as a rule, do not voluntarily come out from the easeful quiet of their clubs to enter the storm and stress of public life with the definite objective of becoming a recognized force, either in municipal or national politics. The rich men who are in public life to-day have nearly all entered it reluctantly at the behest of party politics, Mr. Herbert B. Ames, M.P. for the St. Antoine division of Montreal, is a conspicuous exception to the rule. He has, of his own free will, forsaken the ruby light of the quiet parlors of the rich for the glaring limelight of the politician. First, because he has the virtue of being ambitious, and, second, because he believes he can be of service to the public. As a young man he inherited an ample fortune from his father, who was head of the Ames, Holden Company of Montreal. His business interests have been all along sufficient to keep him decidedly busy. But he has for the last ten or eleven years given a major portion of his time and energy to public life.

He began with that most thankless of tasks, the reforming of municipal politics. In order to become an alderman of Montreal, he learned the French language thoroughly, going to France for that purpose. In 1898 he was elected to the council, and with Mayor Laporte, conducted a vigorous campaign for the cleaning up of the municipal government of Montreal. His work brought him many enemies, but it was undoubtedly effective. After serving three years in the council he turned his attention to federal politics. The manner in which he organized his forces in the electoral riding which he now represents, the thorough canvass of voters and the elaborate detail with which every part of the campaign was worked out now serve as a model to political organizations. It was the campaign of a business man working on clean business principles, and it resulted in a conspicuous victory.

Coming to the federal house in 1904, Mr. Ames has, as might be expected, been one of the most painstaking and diligent members among the ranks of the Opposition. He believes in hard work and a definite objective. His special objective so far has been to make himself chief opposition critic of the Interior department. The alleged scandals connected with western lands, etc., which have been ventilated in the Commons during the past two sessions, have emanated from Mr. Ames' microscopic scrutiny of every departmental action. In like manner he has undertaken lengthy journeys in Canada during recent summers for the purpose of personally inspecting public works under construction. His present prominence in the Commons, as the mover of the long-debated resolution calling on the government to acknowledge the absolute right of any member of the House to personally examine any public records in the department files is the result of his unique activity in looking after the department of the Opposition's work to which he has been assigned.—*The Toronto Globe*, Feb. 1, 1908.

THE VALUE OF ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS.

The use of stereopticon views is a novel feature in political meetings, so far at least as this province is concerned. The notable success of the Ames meeting in the Lyceum Monday night demonstrates how effectively the lantern slides can be made to speak to the people. In one respect at least the stereopticon side of the lecture proved a most palpable hit. The strenuous and persistent fight which the Conservative Opposition conducted in the House of Commons to obtain the right to have "original documents" laid on the table of the House for inspection, is no doubt still fresh in the minds of newspaper readers. It will be remembered that the Liberal papers at the time accused the Opposition of senselessly and stubbornly "obstructing" the business of the House, because the Conservatives very properly refused to allow supply bills to pass till their right of access to original documents was recognized and respected. On Monday night, Mr. Ames threw limelight pictures of the original documents on the canvas. The twelve or fourteen hundred people who were thus enabled to scrutinize these originals for themselves will now understand, without a word of comment, why the Opposition fought so stubbornly to carry their point, and also why the government fought for the policy of concealment and the Liberal press waxed so vituperative of the Opposition during the progress of the fight.

Whether the Opposition were wantonly and maliciously obstructing the business of the House of Commons, or were performing a patriotic service for the taxpayers of Canada, Monday night's immense audience who attended the Ames lecture will now be able to judge for themselves.—*The Daily Post*. Sydney, C. B., July 29, 1908.

Mr. AMES at MOOSE JAW, Sask.

Before a crowded audience in the City Hall last night, Herbert B. Ames, M.P. of Montreal, with the assistance of a stereopticon, delivered the most telling arraignment of the Laurier Government which has ever been presented in this Province. This is a strong statement; but his address was strong in the extreme. Not only had he a statement of facts but he backed it up by facsimile reproductions of original documents, which left no opportunity for questioning.

It was Mr. Ames' initial bow before a Western audience on the present tour, and there was some anxiety on his part as to the way in which he would be received. The weather has been warm, the speaker's treatment of the subject is novel, and as the community is new to him, there was room for speculation on the reception that would be accorded him. But by 8.15 o'clock these thoughts had been effectually dispelled.

Fortunate is Mr. Borden in having a lieutenant of the Ames stamp. He is one of the capable business men in the east, thoroughly trained in system and master of detail, who has ample means and leisure to devote to the thorough mastery of any matter he may take in hand. When he sets upon the track of any person or anything one may rest assured that he will follow it to the end.

In selecting the subject of the alienation of the western lands, he selected one which, while affording a wide scope for research, presented many difficulties. Though upon the surface there was much evidence to arouse suspicion of irregularities, still, as the suspects are among the cleverest minds of Canada and retain in their possession the proofs of their misdeeds conviction is extremely difficult. But with a tenacity of purpose which must evoke admiration, Mr. Ames has brought forth an array of facts, which, marshalled in his quiet, but convincing manner, carries conviction to the minds of the most skeptical. He is not an orator in the general sense of the term, but he is a pleasing and fluent speaker, whose fluency comes from thorough knowledge of his subject matter.—*The Morning News*, Moose Jaw, Sask., Aug. 4, 1908.

Mr. AMES at SASKATOON, Sask.

When the illustrated lecture by Herbert B. Ames, M.P., of Montreal, was concluded at eleven o'clock at the Fourth Avenue rink last night, there was the most heartfelt and enthusiastic vote of thanks tendered him by people of all political persuasions ever given a speaker in Saskatoon. That Mr. Ames had rendered a distinguished and important public service was the unanimous and heartfelt sentiment of everyone present.

When a man comes all the way from Montreal to tell the people of Saskatchewan how the resources of these new provinces are being recklessly squandered and given away in thousands of square miles to political friends of the Laurier government, and can impress people with the enormity of the injustice which is being done the people, and all this without the least suggestion of envy or bitterness or partiality, but of entire fairness and honesty and the sincere desire to have honesty displace the reign of graft, and this man succeeds in placing politics above partizanship and in getting the sincere applause of all the people present, he has risen above politics and placed his discussion on the plane of genuine patriotism.

For over two hours, by photograph and word, Mr. Ames put before his audience the facts—plain and unbiased—and convincing beyond all doubt of any of the tricks of oratory, and the case he made out against the grafters who are shielded behind the Laurier government was so complete and damning that not one person present but would, on leaving the auditorium, have turned out of office the entire bunch of traitors to the public, if his vote could do so.—*The Evening Capital*, Saskatoon, Sask., Aug. 6, 1908.

AMES' MEETING WAS A BIG EVENT

The tour through the west has been a wonderful success. The meeting at Regina on Saturday night was by far the finest thing ever held here and the great auditorium of the city hall was packed to overflowing. The gallery was well filled with ladies and every available space about the building was occupied. The window ledges held twos and threes, and in fact the meeting throughout can be said to be the most successful ever held in Regina. The unique way of disclosing the timber and land scandals adopted by Mr. Ames called forth much applause and at the conclusion of the meeting the great crowd cheered loud and long.

Unique Views.

The method of campaigning adopted by Mr. Ames is a most unique one. His lantern slides throw on the canvas pictures without which it is impossible to get a proper idea of the vast wealth of timber stolen from the people of western Canada and used by the exploiters and speculators for their private ends. The slides showing the original documents for which the Opposition at Ottawa fought so long, were particularly interesting and the copies of the tenders for some of the most famous timber berths showed up the nefarious methods employed in the making of double tenders and the handing of timber berths over to friends by improper means.

The idea adopted by Mr. Ames originated in England, where it is very largely employed by the Chamberlainites and this method of campaign has been found to be most effective. It has taken like wild fire throughout Canada and Regina was no exception to the rule.—*The Daily Standard*, Regina, Sask., Aug. 10, 1908.

REVELATION OF GRAFT.

**Undeniable Evidences of Dishonesty
in Land Grants.**

**Mr. AMES Speaks and Proves
Statements.**

Mr. Ames, the man who has made himself famous through his exposures in the House of land grafts, has left Medicine Hat and behind him rests the conviction among Liberals as well as Conservatives that the cases of dishonest tendering treated by him are undisputable. When a man quietly makes a statement and shows the documents that prove it, the doubter merely brands himself as unintelligent. It is scarcely probable that a single doubter can be found in the crowd that attended the lecture. So hard did it hit home to those Liberals who refuse to be convinced, that a number of them quietly tip-toed out when the proofs were thrown on the screen.

The views were very distinct and were thrown on in such a manner as to make no interruption of the speaker.

Unfortunately Mr. Ames was forced to catch No. 97 and had to cut his address down to little more than an hour. However, in the limited time at his disposal he accomplished his purpose—that of convincing his hearers that the Opposition had proofs for their allegations of graft, and that their refusal to grant supplies during the sitting of the House was demanded by the conditions. — *The Medicine Hat Times*, Aug. 18, 1908.

POLISHED ORATOR.

Mr. Ames, the chief speaker of the evening, is a polished orator, who, in a quiet, forceful manner, holds the attention of his audience at all times. His speech throughout displayed a careful mastery of detail, and a disposition to say nothing that could not be backed up with substantial proof.

The telling speech which he delivered at Medicine Hat, and which was fully reported in *The Herald*, was repeated. He exposed the methods which prevailed in the interior department in the disposal of lands, timber and coal. Westerners are well acquainted with many or all of the deals which he mentioned, but never before had they the opportunity of having proof presented to them. Copies of the famous tenders put in in connection with the leasing of timber limits were shown in facsimile, and the writing of A. W. Fraser, in which he tendered against himself, but particularly against other competitors, was shown in black and white.

Maps showing the areas which had been sold for a song were placed before the audience. Figures in damning comparison were placed side by side—no wonder he carried his audience to bursts of condemnation.

Mr. Ames is practically a young man in politics, but in a few years has come to be recognized by the government as a power to be reckoned with. He has devoted a great amount of both his time and money to the investigation of the workings of the department of interior, and he has made many trips at his own expense to various points in Canada in an endeavor to obtain personally an idea as to what is actually being done throughout the dominion by the department.

The campaign as instituted by Mr. Ames, is one of the most energetic in the history of Canada, and the introduction of the views is a feature that adds emphasis to the words of the speaker. Calgary citizens will, one and all welcome the return of Mr. Ames, and a general desire is expressed on all sides that he may at no late date be enabled to again come before a Calgary audience.—*The Calgary Daily Herald*, Aug. 18, 1908.

RESTITUTION AND PUNISHMENT.

The first step taken by the government was to decline to produce original documents. The opposition resorted to obstruction to obtain them. When produced they turned out to be ex-which are unparalleled in the history of Canada, and towards the concealment of which the resources of the government were exhausted.

The Conservative party at Ottawa and H. B. Ames of Montreal in particular, deserve great credit for having unearthed a series of transactions tremely irregular and suspicious.

In the Public Accounts committee the investigation was balked at every turn. A skilful lawyer was there to raise all manner of technical quibbles, and the chairman acted as though he designed to favor him. At that, through lawyers and bankers being allowed to plead professional privilege, the investigation was diverted from some matters which would have had a convincing effect.—*Winnipeg Tribune*, May 20, 1908.

THE SEARCHLIGHT.

Mr. Ames Last Night, Before an enthusiastic Audience Unmasked The Dark Deeds of the Interior Department.

Mr. Ames has come, and now Strathcona knows why a howl has gone up from the subsidized government press from one end of Canada to the other at what they sneeringly refer to as the peepshow. We have had a peep into the dark places of the administration of the Department of the Interior and no person who had the privilege of hearing Mr. Ames last night with his absolute uncontrovertible evidence of documents, photographs and figures can doubt that the public domain of Canada has been unblushingly plundered.

There was a large audience, and it is satisfactory to record that a very considerable number of known supporters of the government were present. It is to be hoped that Mr. Ames may throw light into many dark corners. The meeting was intensely enthusiastic, and as Mr. Ames drove home point after point the applause was loud and prolonged.—*The Evening Chronicle*, Strathcona, Aug. 26, 1908.

Mr. AMES at STRATHCONA.

We realize now absolutely the reason why as Mr. Ames came Westward the Grit press with one accord endeavored to anticipate his triumphs by attempting to ridicule his "peep show" in advance." It is all very obvious now, for we have seen and heard Mr. Ames, and a more damaging indictment of any Administration was never presented than that which in calm, deliberate, well-chosen words, he brought home to the Department of the Interior. No man who listened to his carefully-selected phrases and his moderate statements of cold, bold facts, could doubt that he was telling the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. His words were accompanied by the production of actual copies of documents in existence which would not be allowed to pass unchallenged were they not accurate and unchallengeable. Could anyone doubt that heard Mr. Ames forge link by link his convincing chain of evidence and envelope the Department of the Interior in its unbreakable folds that so far as the administration of the Department of the Interior is concerned Canada has been betrayed.—*The Chronicle, Strathcona, Alta.*

"The contribution of Mr. H. B. Ames to the Conservative campaign throughout the West is not to be despised. He has struck upon a scheme for demonstrating points in his argument that is indeed convincing and elucidates the topic as the ordinary style of political speech cannot. A demonstration of that sort cannot be wiped out with ridicule or even with flat denial. It is fixed in the mind indelibly, the eye and the ear co-operating in the impression which will stick until a convincing explanation is given that proves deliberate misrepresentation of fact. We cannot away from the opinion after seeing Mr. Ames' supposed fac-simile reproductions of letters on file in the Department of the Interior, that there was crooked work in connection with the tenders for timber berths during the term of office of Mr. Turriff in the land department." — *The Plaindealer (Liberal), Strathcona, Alta.*

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Chronicle, Strathcona, Alta. Aug. 20, 1908

OUR WESTERN LANDS

A Big Crowd Hears an Excellent Address.

The meeting at the Lyric Theatre Monday evening, when H. B. Ames delivered his now famous address, was one of the most noted gatherings ever held in Red Deer. Although the night was wet and a heavy storm threatened, the hall was crowded to the doors with a large and orderly audience, composed of the most representative citizens of Red Deer, and leading farmers of the surrounding district. There was a goodly number of ladies present who seemed to enjoy the proceedings very much.—*The News*, Red Deer (Alt.), Aug. 26, 1908.

LECTURES IN LETHBRIDGE.

And gives History of the Grabbing of Public Domain in all its Revolting Details.

Herbert Ames, the man who has made himself famous through his exposures in the House of Commons of the now notorious stealing of the timber limits and public domain, has come to Lethbridge and gone, and has left behind him, among Liberal and Conservative alike, the firm conviction that the charges made by him, of theft by men in high places in the public service of Canada, are indisputable.

He produced the PROOFS. And anyone who heard him and saw the tracings he had with him of the original documents, those same documents which the government for many weeks refused to place before parliament and did not do so until compelled to by Mr. Borden and his associates, anyone who saw those tracings, and still professes himself a doubter only brands himself as unintelligent and unfit to be entrusted with the franchise.

A quiet and moderate speaker is Mr. Ames. He needs no oratorical flights or witty stories to influence his hearers and to draw them away from a close analysis of his logic. He talks like a man with a mission and there is NO DOUBT BUT THAT WHAT HE SAYS IS THE TRUTH. His words carry conviction.—*The Lethbridge News*, Aug. 21, 1908.

Mr. AMES at EDMONTON, Alta.

To an audience of over eight hundred electors of Edmonton, who packed the Opera House to its doors, Mr. Herbert B. Ames, M.P., Conservative member for the St. Antoine division, Montreal, told, in an address of over two hours' length, illustrated by lime light views, how our western heritage had been squandered to benefit friends of the party of the Laurier Government. It was a most interesting and convincing political address and the enthusiasm it evoked was significant of the change that is coming over the minds of the people in Edmonton and Alberta regarding their political convictions. There was cheer upon cheer as the speaker revealed the manner in which the natural assets of the prairie provinces had been lost to the people by fraudulent methods, and to the very last syllable the audience eagerly followed the words of the speaker, expressing their approval of the sentiments expressed in no uncertain terms. No Conservative meeting in Edmonton has been more successful, none has demonstrated more fully how strong is the Conservative sentiment of the electors of the capital city of Alberta. At the close there was a rousing demonstration for Mr. Ames, Mr. Borden and Mr. Hyndman, the Conservative candidate, while only a faint hurrah was evoked on the call of one ardent Liberal in the audience of a cheer for Hon. Frank Oliver.—*Edmonton Morning Journal*, Aug. 27, 1908.

**H. B. AMES, M.P.,
AND DR. W. J. ROCHE, M.P.
A DAUPHIN, Man.**

What is the best political meeting ever held in the Town of Dauphin was held last Monday evening under the auspices of the Conservative Association of Dauphin. The occasion was the result of an invitation extended by the Association to Mr. H. B. Ames, M.P., and Dr. W. J. Roche, M.P., to address a meeting of the electors upon the "Timber limit scandals" especially with reference to the record of the present representation for this constituency in the Dominion House, in regard thereto. Mr. Ames has made a special task of an investigation into this matter. The town hall was packed to its utmost capacity and yet many were unable to obtain accommodation to hear the speakers. The addresses were listened to with the greatest attention by the large audience that was present.—*The Dauphin Herald*, Sept. 3, 1908.

**H. B. Ames Addresses a Large
Gathering in Town of Dauphin.**

**Given Rousing Reception.
Many Deals are Shown Up by a
Montreal M.P.**

DAUPHIN, Man., Aug. 31.—(Special).—H. B. Ames, M.P., appeared tonight in the leading town of Theodore Burrows' own constituency and exposed the manner in which the local member has secured his vast timber possessions. The hall where the meeting was held was all too small to contain the audience and many were turned away. He was listened to with keen interest and at the close of his lucid and able address was given a rousing reception. That Mr. Ames knows whereof he speaks was evidenced by the fact that he appeared in the very place where the member of the lumber scandals is best known. He carried conviction by his speech and his striking illustrations. The success of the gathering is one of the principal triumphs of Mr. Ames in his tour which has aroused so much interest. Dr. Roche, M.P., of Marquette, was also present and gave a short address.—*Winnipeg Telegram*, Sept. 1, 1908.

H. B. AMES, M.P.
AND DR. W. J. ROCHE, M.P.

THE AMES MEETING AT WINNIPEG.

It would be pretty difficult to conceive a more interesting and convincing address than that which was delivered by Mr. H. B. Ames, M.P., in Selkirk Hall, last night. The hall, itself, was packed to the limit by an intelligent, well-behaved audience, which listened with the closest attention to the story which Mr. Ames told. Mr. Ames is not like the average political stump speaker. He does not indulge in any flights of oratory. He does not appeal to the prejudices or political predilections of his hearers. In a quiet, reasonable, logical manner, he lays his case before the people, never seeking to strain a point in order to score. He simply presents the evidence in the most moderate and reasoned fashion, and leaves the audience to form its own opinion. Naturally, his address, as presented last night, with the accompaniment of proof, created a profound sensation. It is safe to say that hundreds who attended out of curiosity, and with their minds filled with skepticism, left the hall absolutely convinced that Canada has been made the victim of as bold a system of robbery in connection with public resources, as has ever been exposed in any country. It was impossible to look at the evidence which Mr. Ames threw upon the canvass, and not be absolutely convinced of the infamous nature of the system of graft and loot, which for years was carried on by the "Family Compact" and its associates.—*The Tribune, Winnipeg, Sept. 2, 1908.*

**WESTERN DOMAINS
SQUANDERED by the LIBERAL
ADMINISTRATION.**

**Exposure of Methods by which
Laurier Government has Dissipated
the Resources of the Prairie
Provinces.**

**Climax to a Successful Series of
Meetings.**

Is given Great Reception.

The climax of the most unique series of political meetings ever held in the west was reached last night when H. B. Ames, M.P., of Montreal, addressed a crowded gathering in Selkirk hall and gave his lecture on the mal-administration of the public domains by the Laurier government which has aroused such interest from end to end of Canada. It was a splendid close to a splendid round of triumphs in the leading centres of the three prairie provinces. Selkirk hall was all too small to hold the representative audience assembled. The lecture, illustrated as it was by striking stereopticon views, was followed with the keenest attention for three hours and at the close the brilliant young member was given a tremendous reception.

Told a Plain Story.

Mr. Ames makes no pretense as an orator; he has none of the arts of the rhetorician. In a plain, unvarnished, businesslike and impassionate manner he told the story of the way in which the western resources of the Dominion have been dissipated by the present government and explained the methods by which T. A. Burrows, J. T. Turriff, M.P., and A. J. Adamson, M.P., and other Liberal members and politicians have acquired enormous timber leases and have alienated the agricultural, grazing, coal and fishing privileges.

Pictures of original documents were thrown on the screen, elucidating, at a

glance what it would otherwise take hours to describe, the methods by which tenders had been manipulated by political favorites. It was a remarkable story of the reign of graft which has prevailed at Ottawa—a story which by the calm, impartial and simple way in which it was told, carried conviction.

The Proof of Guilt.

H. B. Ames, M.P., scored a splendid triumph in Selkirk hall last night. His complete mastery of the subject he had in hand, his impartial statement of facts, and his all too lenient deductions combined to carry to every person in the audience the positive conviction that the operations of the timber gang were even worse than they have been pictured.

There is no escape from the logic of Mr. Ames' speech, supported as it is by documentary evidence of fraudulent tenders. The proofs were placed before the audience and for a person to refuse to believe them was to refuse to believe his own eyes.

In dealing with figures, handwriting, imperfect tenders, extracts from Hansard, as well as with maps and illustrations of the timber areas alienated, the stereopticon proved of inestimable assistance both to the audience and to the speaker. The beginning of the speech was unimpressive but from the moment Mr. Ames laid the panorama of our Western resources before his audience, as even many Western men had not before realized them the audience was held in rapt attention.—*The Winnipeg Telegram*, Sept. 2, 1908.

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THE CLOSING MEETING OF MR. AMES WESTERN TOUR.

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THE CLOSING MEETING OF
MR. AMES' WESTERN TOUR

SIFTON TO FIGHT TO SAVE BURROWS' BIG POSSESSIONS.

Former Minister will Command Grit Forces in the West.

A citizen who is a close student of political affairs yesterday conveyed to The Telegram the positive information that Hon. Clifford Sifton would direct the western end of the forthcoming general elections, if not as Minister of the Crown, as Master of Ceremonies.

Where It Pinches.

"Of course, that explains it. Neither Mr. Sifton nor his newspaper would care two straws if H. B. Ames went through the country shouting himself hoarse about the scandals in the marine and fisheries department, or the subsidy hand outs or any of the other hundred and one election issues but Mr. Ames has seen fit to deal exclusively with the Burrows timber scandals. He has specialized on this subject. He has mastered the facts and everywhere he goes he is convincing the people that the country has been robbed of millions of dollars to enrich Mr. Sifton's brother-in-law and his associates. What is still more to be feared in Mr. Ames' attack is his demand that these timber limits shall be restored to the people. He is the father of the Policy of Restitution and that is the policy that bites.—*Winnipeg Telegram*, Aug. 26, 1908.

H. B. AMES AND HIS WORK SKETCHED IN BRIEF OUTLINE

The first thing to attract the notice of any auditor of Mr. Ames' lurid and powerful exposure of the members of the robber gang who have looted Western Canada of so much of its timber resources, could not but be the prodigious labor it must have cost him to acquire, marshal and array his facts and secure the evidence that wrongdoing had accompanied the acquisition of this princely heritage. Most people were aware that tremendous areas of timber had been alienated by the Crown through the Department of the Interior to a group of allied interests, and that men belonging to that group had suddenly become rich by trucking and trading in the people's property. Nor was it uncommon to hear denunciations leveled against individuals for being concerned in this graft. But these were of so loose and vague a character that while they might please a partizan, they were not calculated to either shock an opponent or convince an independent.

Such was not by any means the method of procedure adopted by Mr. Ames. He went to work with dogged pertinacity to draw the badger. First he had to find out what interests were really allied, and by whom they were represented. This, in a maze of agents who were not timber men, mysterious companies who could be reached only through the medium of a post office box, and other secretive devices of the kind adopted by such manipulators, was not a very easy task. However, Mr. Ames once on the trail was not to be shaken off and inch by inch, he drew closer to his quarry. Through the labyrinth of agents, transfers, deals and companies the real beneficiaries were finally traced.

The second part of Mr. Ames' task was to find out how much plunder these gentlemen had got away with, how much timber they owned, and how much profit, present and prospective, they had made in their little transactions with the Department of the Interior. The result was the discovery that 1,586 square miles of timber was

granted to, and is now either owned by, or has passed at a huge profit through the hands of the members of the gang. Very few men have an adequate idea of the extent of 1,586 square miles. But a trip on foot round a quadrangle a mile wide, stretching from Montreal to Winnipeg would painfully impress upon them that it was a very vast area indeed, enough on which to found a few families of territorial grandees, such as the constitution of Canada never contemplated and such as the people of Canada will never tolerate.

Still the hardest part of Mr. Ames' task remained behind. It was fairly obvious that these great areas could not have been secured by one group of speculators without a departure from the ordinary methods of full advertisement and free competition by sealed tender. Some modification of the system in vogue, and applied to other timber men, there must have been, but to unearth what it actually was remained for Mr. Ames to accomplish.

The difficulties thrown in the way of Mr. Ames by the Department, by the Minister of the Interior, by the government and its majority in the House, form a unique chapter in Parliamentary history. Some time in December last he wrote the Department of the Interior to be allowed to inspect the original documents in certain timber applications. Mr. Oliver replied on the 6th of December that he had better move for a return in the House, which would relieve the department of responsibility. Mr. Ames naturally thought this a formality, and on the 13th of January he moved for a return of the original documents in those applications. To his surprise the whole government side of the House attacked his motion with horse, foot and artillery. An amendment was moved deliberately substituting "copies" for "original documents." The prime minister argued that a member must show sufficient reason for having original documents brought down. Some argued that applications for timber were state secrets, as in this case they certainly were. Mr. Oliver remarked that "the production of original documents would absolutely prevent the proper

transaction of the public business." Mr. Ames' motion was defeated on a party vote. That was the first phase of the fight.

The Opposition was now thoroughly aroused. It had been made plain that there was something requiring concealment in those original documents. On the 21st of January Mr. R. L. Borden moved that:

"Subject to such conditions of public policy as can be validly urged in any case, it is the undoubted right of the people's representatives in parliament assembled, to be informed of everything necessary to explain the policy and proceedings of the government and for that purpose to have an opportunity of seeing and examining all documents connected with the transaction of public business; and the denial of such right by the government justifies the refusal by this House of further supplies to the Crown."

Sir Wilfrid fully agreed with this motion and declared it a "truism." Not so Mr. Oliver. His contention was that "the fact that a certain gentleman has been honored with a seat in parliament does not give him any more right to inspect the private business of other people which is in charge of the Department of the Interior than it does any other citizen." He also truculently declared that he did "not accept the resolution as instructive" and would still refuse to produce original documents. The motion of Mr. Borden was carried and that ended the second phase of the fight.

On the 23rd of January Sir Wilfrid Laurier was asked why the papers were not brought down. He replied that Mr. Ames had not advanced sufficient reasons why they should. He was blandly informed that he had assented to a resolution that their production was a member's right unless reasons of public policy could be shown against it, and that, as no such reasons had been given the Opposition would, upon his own authority, be entitled to obstruct supply. After sulking for a week he gave in and of his own volition had the papers produced in the House.

The victory was won. What these documents disclosed could not be put more clearly and succinctly than in the addresses of Mr. Ames, who is carrying the logic of his completed case before the jury of the people. He is not an orator in the accepted sense of the term, that is, he does not depend on rhetoric for effect. His present unique position in the public life of Canada is due entirely to the courage, acumen, pertinacity and singleness of purpose with which he fought a long, arduous and uphill fight against the entrenched forces of graft and corruption, who deemed their fortress impregnable. He has done a great service for Canada in the department of the war he has made peculiarly his own, a fact which his opponents recognize with dismay and good citizens with whole-hearted admiration. — *The Winnipeg Telegram*, Sept. 2, 1908.

THE TIMBER DEALS.

What Mr. Ames' Work has Brought Home to the People.

It is pretty generally recognized by this time, we assume, that one of the men with whom the Government has to reckon is Mr. H. B. Ames, M.P. for St. Antoine division, Montreal. There was a tendency in the House of Commons, and there is still a tendency on the part of a section of the Government press, to attempt to belittle Mr. Ames, to sneer at the magic lantern slides which he employs to bring conviction to the minds of his audiences, and generally to seek to laugh him out of court, as a Sunday school teacher with energies misplaced. But Mr. Ames, having finished his work in Parliament—or, rather, gone as far in that way as the ministerialist majority in the packed committee of enquiry would let him—has taken to the wider field of the country at large. And the grin is on the other side of the Government's face.

It is safe to say that outside the ranks of the men who are prepared to defend this Government whatever it may have done or may do, there is no one who does not look with an honest contempt on the mean cunning which suggested the spoliation of the public domain in the West for the benefit of a handful of relatives, personal friends and political associates of the gentleman who was Minister of Interior when the raid was made. It is doubtful if there has been any depredation in Canada larger in respect of mere money. There has been certainly no transaction in the history of Canadian development meaner, more sordid, nastier, more squalid. And Mr. Fraser, the Liberal candidate in Ottawa, played a part in this game. Mr. Ames can take no pleasure in his exposure of this ugly graft, but in directing public attention to it and to the unchastened attitude of the men who were guilty of it and the cynical indifference of the men who defend them, he is performing a splendid public service.—*The Journal*, Ottawa.