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Has Germany won the pole in Poland?

ROTTEN STATE OF AFFAIRS ON THE PACIFIC COAST

McBride and His Associates Have Trimmed the Province
of British Columbia to a Finish--Ministerial Union
Calling For an Investigation--House
Cleaning Must Come

Ottawa, Aug. 7.—Hastily discarding the full iron-gray mane typical of good times, Sir Richard McBride now appears with a close hair cut which is more in keeping with British Columbia's altered fortunes. Sir Richard and his associates in the government, have trimmed the province so fine that the Ministerial Union of the Lower Mainland is calling for a judicial investigation into British Columbia finances, and has put an English expert, M. B. Cotsworth, to work on the horrid details of loot, looting and general exploitation of British Columbia resources. Mr. Cotsworth previously worked for the government but getting a full view of what was going on, threw up his task and joined the progressives.

The opinion here is that Cotsworth's preliminary report is enough to precipitate a general election in British Columbia to head off the scandal revelations. In Manitoba the scandal came first and the election afterwards but hopes are expressed that it will be the other way about in British Columbia. At all events, the Conservative party in that province, though almost cleft in two by the McBride and Bowser factions, will strive toward that end because no government could survive the disclosures threatened by the Ministerial Union. In short, British Columbia is like New Brunswick and Manitoba. It has enjoyed the blessing of Conservative rule for a term of years and is obliged to clean house or be condemned as unsanitary.

A GENERAL DISEASE.

A glance at the main facts in the British Columbia case goes far to prove that the sham shoes, Birkett binoculars, founded horses, Garlands and Fosters, which afflicted Ottawa, were merely symptoms of a general disease which has ravaged Conservative party politics from ocean to ocean. The disease consisted largely in having too much easy money to distribute among friends, a policy of which Mr. Nicholson of P. E. Island, in a moment of candor, summed up as "dashing along." As a result of this "dashing along" policy the McBride government has handed over almost the entire resources of British Columbia to the speculators and the railways and has nothing in return but their promissory notes and a lack-breaking interest account.

British Columbia has, or rather had seventeen million acres of available agricultural land. Of this, ninety per cent, has been gobbled up by greedy syndicates who, after making a first payment of fifty cents an acre, propose to pay nothing more, not even taxes, until the land is resold at higher prices to the unsuspecting settler. With the land boom in ruins and the British Columbia finances a battered wreck, this great public asset bids fair to be tied up for years, unless in the meantime the British Columbia people repudiate these bogus transfers and reclaim their heritage. As the Supreme Court of Canada and the Supreme Court of British Columbia have both declared that the system of staking land "by agent," fortified as it is with "dummy" signatures and spurious "power of attorney," is fraudulent and illegal, this is not as hard a job as it looks, particularly if the government which befriended the system is kicked out. What makes this land grabbing just a little worse is that most of it has been done by outside syndicates controlled from cities in the United States or Europe. The presence of many German capitalists on the list of "stakers" indicates that the sweet scented Count Alvo Von Alvensleben and his crowd stood in pretty well with the powers at Victoria.

A GIGANTIC STEAL.

According to the forestry commissioner's latest report British Columbia had a stand of two hundred and fifty billion feet of merchantable timber, valued at \$350,000,000, while the annual crop of timber was worth more than \$10,000,000 a year. When the McBride government came into power in 1905 it proceeded to lay hands on the timber laws which were not as kind as they might be to stakers and exploiters. As a result of its efforts the area for which licenses were granted increased one thousand per cent, and in 1907, 10,000,000 acres of timber lands were grabbed by syndicates. As the facts stand now, nearly sixty per cent, of the timber assets of British Columbia are in the hands of exploiters. As usual, the McBride government's German and pro-German friends got their bit. For instance, one German firm, Fleischacker Brothers of San Francisco,

along with Count Alvo Von Alvensleben, now a fugitive, control perhaps 146,000 acres or almost one-tenth of the timber assets of the province. Count Alvo Von Alvensleben, by the way, is credited with wrecking the Dominion Trust Company and driving its manager to suicide by his depredations.

The pulp leases were another fruitful field for the speculators. In 1907 the law was eased up so as to grant pulp companies who pleaded inability to comply with the conditions an extension of time in which to fulfill their contracts to build mills and employ a certain number of hands. According to Premier McBride's campaign speeches of 1912 there were in operation then the Powell River Mills, employing 1,200 men, the Ocean Falls Mills, employing one thousand men, the Swanson Bay Works erected at a cost of a million dollars, a \$600,000 mill at Howe Sound, and the British Columbia Wood Pulp and Paper Company, which had spent \$600,000 on development. Of these concerns two are long since bankrupt, and the Ocean Falls Company instead of employing one thousand, now employs three caretakers and lets it go at that. The capital of these companies has been largely wasted, the creditors and the shareholders robbed and the workmen thrown on the cold world. Meanwhile the promoters keep the plunder. The pulp lands have not reverted to the crown. The Ocean Falls Company, which had a capital of \$6,000,000 of which \$1,500,000 was put into development and \$4,500,000 divided in stock between the promoters and their friends, has since fallen into the hands of Fleischacker Bros. and a German syndicate. This Ger-

man syndicate, under pretext of securing the creditors of the bankrupt Ocean Falls Company, takes over eighty thousand acres of timber, and two billion feet of timber additional, in return for which they hand the creditors \$310,000 in shares in a company which they proceed to capitalize at \$10,000,000. The shareholders of the defunct Ocean Falls Company, most of whom are residents in England, are left to look after themselves.

COAL LANDS GIVEN AWAY.

The stakers and exploiters have not overlooked the immensely rich coal measures of British Columbia with the result that in the "Ground Hog" district alone, that is to say the district drained by the Skeena and Naas rivers, three hundred and twenty thousand acres of coal lands have already been alienated to six syndicates. How rich this coal land is may be judged from the fact that one syndicate possessing some ninety-three thousand acres, estimates the tonnage at 4,350 millions, or thirty million tons per 145 years. This coal which costs F.O.B. at the mine \$3.00 per ton, is sold in Prince Rupert, Vancouver and Victoria at \$7.00 a ton and much higher for anthracite. For this block of ninety-three thousand acres the coal company has promised to pay the government \$928,000 as soon as it is able. This one case, in which the British Columbia government parted with coal valued at \$3,580,000,000 on a promissory note for \$928,000, is fairly typical of their coal policy.

Along with this reckless squandering of natural resources has gone a policy of encouragement toward frenzied finance which has resulted in the flotation of 4,760 limited liability companies, with a capitalization, mostly water, of \$1,177,599,445, which is \$3,000 per head for every man, woman and child in British Columbia. The sequel is seen in the ruinous failures of such concerns as the Dominion Trust, the Albion Trust, Alpha Mortgage Company, National Finance Company and others too numerous to mention. During the last four years the whole surplus accumulated by the government during the previous seven years had been dissipated and there is now a gross deficit of five and a half million dollars. If the arrears owed by the stakers of crown lands appeared on the public accounts in their true shape as a bad debt instead of an asset, this amount would be swelled by \$12,000,000. From which it will be seen what the McBride government costs. A seventeen million dollar deficit in two years is (Continued on page three.)

AN
APPRECIATION
FROM

A SATISFIED USER

Parker's Ridge, York Co.
June 30-1915.

TO: PALMER-McLELLAN CO.
Fredericton, N. B.

Gentlemen:-

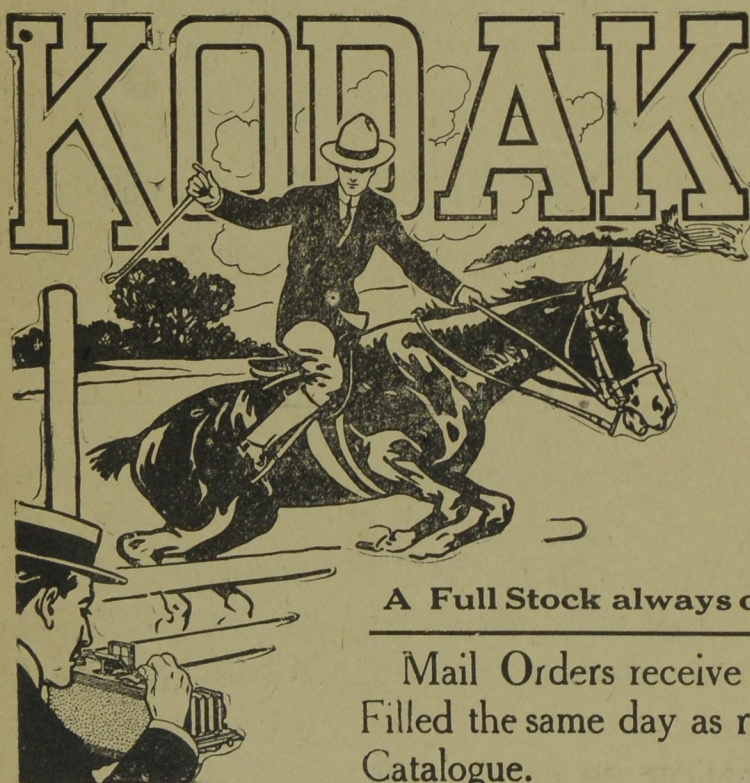
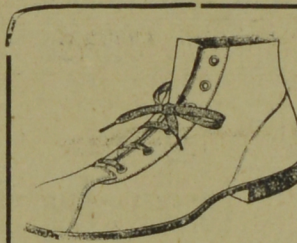
I bought a pair of your Driving Boots from W. R. McCloskey Limited of Boiestown before the driving season of 1915, and about the middle of April last. I wore them all through river driving, and afterwards I removed the caulks and have worn them every day since with every satisfaction. I find the boots comfortable and waterproof, and they are still in good enough condition for me to wear them this Fall and do my next Springs driving in.

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