

DECEIVING THE WEST.

Borden Holds out False Inducements in Order to Secure Votes.

LAND PLANKS IN HIS PLATFORM CANNOT BE RE-DEEMED.

Largest Revenue in the History of Canada.

BORDEN ENCOURAGES FALSE HOPES.

As Mr. Borden approaches the new provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan it may confidently be anticipated that he will regale the inhabitants thereof with a dissertation upon the advantages of that plank in his platform, which reads as follows: "The restoration of the public lands to the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan upon fair terms."

The man who holds out certain inducements in the hope of securing votes is acting a dishonest part, if it be beyond his power to redeem the promises made. It may safely be stated that Mr. Borden is perfectly familiar with the legal aspects of the land question as it affects the new provinces. The status of the lands now included in the new provinces is determined by law based upon history. With both the history and the law Mr. Borden is familiar and when he holds out a hope to the people of Alberta and Saskatchewan that they can acquire the lands now included in the two provinces upon the plea that they have been wrongfully deprived of them, he knows no man better, that such a contention cannot be supported by history nor based upon law.

PLANK INTENDED TO MISLEAD.

An examination of the phraseology of the plank in the Conservative platform touching this matter discloses the acumen of the lawyer and the craftiness of the politician. The plank says the restoration of public lands. The introduction of the word "restoration" suggests that the lands have been improperly taken from the people, and Mr. Borden would return them. The word implies that the lands have been unjustly detained by the Dominion, and that restitution or satisfaction must be made.

This is one feature of the case. It is not usual at least to restore that which has not been taken away, and one can scarcely be said to restore property, the title to which remains unquestioned and undisputed.

CANADA OWNS THE LAND.

The territories out of which the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan were carved, were purchased by the Dominion government from the Hudson Bay Company, for the sum of \$1,500,000. They thus became the property of Canada, and as the payment for same came from the public treasury, each province contributed towards the purchase. The area known at that time as the Northwest Territories had practically no population, and practically no revenue.

Canada then owned the lands, and proceeded to administer them with the view of inducing a population by an energetic immigration policy. The only revenue was from the sale of public lands, a matter of trifling moment in the days of heavy expenditure for the purposes enumerated.

PROVINCE UNBORN.

At this time, be it remembered, the idea of the new provinces had not presented itself within the range of practical politics. It required many years of energetic effort, the expenditure of millions of dollars for immigration purposes, and the exercise of sagacious statesmanship to make of the desolate uninhabited prairie a desirable place for the homeseeker, a fruitful field for the industrious settler.

CANADA DEVELOPED THE WEST.

During this period of upbuilding and civilization, the lands were the property of the Dominion, paid for by Dominion money, exploited by Dominion energy, and settled by Dominion effort. As the people gradually spread themselves over the territorial area, they enjoyed the advantages of Dominion protection and the unearned increment of property value as a direct result of Dominion policy. In due course, self government was bestowed upon the territories, which entailed another expense upon the general revenue of Canada. The lands which the Dominion had bought years before, began to assume a more definite value, as population increased and the beneficial effects of intelligent administration by the Federal authorities were demonstrated.

WHAT TIME BROUGHT ABOUT.

Time passed and the "smile on mile of desolation" originally known as Rupert's Land, then as the property of the Hudson Bay Company, and afterwards designated as the Northwest Territories, had become a settled community, entitled to, and desirous of securing, autonomous government. The people, through their duly elected representatives, advanced their claim for provincial distinction. The Northwest Territories had become the home of tens of thousands of Canadian citizens. Some of whom had already exercised the franchise in other parts of the Dominion, and many have lived under

some form of representative government in other countries.

NEW PROVINCES CREATED.

In due course the Liberal government followed a well-defined policy with respect to the growing west, decided to respond to the legitimate aspirations of the people, and proceeded to create out of the territories two provinces, to be known as Alberta and Saskatchewan. In 1905 the hope of the people was realized and the new provinces became a reality, and today are in the full enjoyment of all the rights and privileges foreshadowed by the constitution years ago.

CANADA'S PERFECT TITLE.

It must be clear to any reasonable mind that the land now included in the new provinces is the property of the Dominion, and has been so since the date of its purchase from the Hudson Bay Company. Upon what ground then can Mr. Borden ask that it be "restored?" The provinces created in 1905 had no land. The area out of which they were carved was sold to the Dominion government years ago, and nothing short of a divesting act could pass the title from the Dominion Government to the provinces. Mr. Borden seeks to work upon the cupidity of the people of the west when he says he stands for a restoration of lands to the provinces which the provinces never owned. The moral aspect of the question may appeal to some, who are more inclined to admit undeniable facts, than to influence the people by the presentation of a case which is vicious in the extreme.

IGNORANCE OF TORONTO NEWS.

Mr. Borden is not alone to blame, the Toronto News, which has the faculty of failing to grasp the obvious or truthful side of a question where there is an opportunity of posing as a critic of the administration, falls into the same error, whether ignorantly or by intent, in either event equally reprehensible. The News in its issue of September 30 says: "The provinces, as they grow larger, would and the arrangement whereby the government has practically bought out their right to their lands increasingly disadvantageous." The absurdity of the view taken does not appeal the writer of the above. It does not appear to have occurred to him that the provinces never had any land, therefore there right to same had never formed any part of a bargain with the government, neither does Mr. Borden concern himself with the fact that land which was never taken from the provinces cannot be restored to them, although the promise upon his part to do so should be returned to power is freely given in the hope of influencing votes.

BORDEN THE LAWYER—POLITICIAN.

Another feature of this plank in Mr. Borden's platform is the crafty manner in which the plank has been worded—after providing that the lands must be restored, he says, "upon fair terms." What does this mean? If it means anything at all it certainly means that they shall be purchased from the Dominion Government. If the lands already belong of right to the provinces, and they have been wrongfully taken by the government, and must be restored, then reparation should be complete, the provinces should not be asked to pay for their own. Herein is the inherent weakness of Mr. Borden's position. He is willing to suggest to the people that they have been defrauded of their land because he pledges himself to restore it. He is also willing that the new provinces should pay for the land upon its restoration because he knows well that the land was never owned by the provinces.

The clause is well drafted, it discloses the combined effort of the eminent lawyer and the skillful politician. With one part of the sentence he appeals to the cupidity of the people, and with the other he provides against adverse criticism of his legal ability.

OLDER PROVINCES INTERESTED.

This subject is one of interest to every province in the Dominion. For years past the several provinces have seen vast sums of money spent for the purpose of settling the west. There has been some adverse criticism that huge sums should be expended for the benefit of one section of the country, but the answer has been that the sales of land benefit the Dominion as a whole, and the influx of settlers to the west makes business for the east. It is a question whether the representatives of eastern provinces would have consented to such immense expenditure primarily in the interests of the west had the lands of the Northwest Territories not been a Dominion asset. Had such expenditure not been made, and in the absence of a policy of rapid settlement, the new province

of rapid settlement, the new province would not have been created and the matter of land ownership would not have arisen. **GENEROUS SUBSIDY WAS GIVEN.**

One significant fact should be mentioned which is that the western representatives in the House of Commons realized the position and accepted the very generous subsidy allowed by the government, a subsidy that the Dominion Government retained the lands, realizing that as the new provinces had no lands they should be generously supplied with money for the purposes of carrying on their affairs.

Another point not to be overlooked is that the very first opportunity the people of the new provinces had of recording their votes they sustained the men who were in sympathy with the Liberal Government at Ottawa.

It is much to be regretted that the leader of the Opposition has held out hopes to the people of the West which cannot be realized, and that the new provinces which have commenced their career under such favorable conditions—should have the seed of discontent sowed in their midst by one who aspires to be Premier of the Dominion.

SCANDALS TO BE RE-FASHED.

Scandals, of course, will be freely exploited. A few instances of partisanship which have done duty through out Canada already as glaring examples of political corruption will be re-fashed for the benefit of the electors of the West, and the people will be told that they have no representatives, that the men who purport to represent them at Ottawa were elected by the most flagrant acts of corruption.

The western people will be told that the Liberal party has within its ranks grafters, and even men of bad repute; they will, however, receive no explanation of the absence on this occasion of Messrs. Fowler, Lafleur, and Pope, the wide awake speculator politicians who accompanied Mr. Borden on the occasion of his last tour.

Instances will be given of men who received improper commissions and rake-offs, but the connection of Geo. E. Foster with the I. O. O. F. will not be mentioned; neither will the fact that he was condemned by a Royal Commission for wrongfully dealing with trust funds be even alluded to.

It is quite probable that the claim will be made that speculators are trumphet of the settler, but nothing allowed to acquire lands to the detriment of the settler in which the public domain was distributed among the settlers in the good old days before the Pacific scandal, and nests of traitors exhibited to the people of Canada—the Tories in their true colors.

Mr. Borden will in all likelihood refer to the Robins Irrigation Company, and allege that speculators were given thousands of acres of land for \$1. per acre; but he will not mention that the Government has made a condition that the company spend \$1,000,000 before one acre can be secured.

As a matter of course, the South Saskatchewan Valley Land Company will be held up as an example of venality, without any reference to the fact that the lands purchased by this company were passed over for years by the settlers as being worthless, or that many thousands of dollars were spent by the company in colonizing the land.

The people of the West owe much to the Liberal Government. They are being provided with transportation facilities as rapidly as possible, surveys of land are being made to provide for the new arrivals, coal lands cannot be held by speculators and the settler is protected to the extent that the price he pays for his fuel is regulated by the Government.

BORDEN SPREADING DISCONTENT.

Thinking men will do well to ponder on the matters referred to above, because when only one side of a subject is presented, and that by a man in the position of Mr. Borden, who has much to gain should he win, and little to lose if he doesn't, one is liable to be misled. When seeking the position of prime minister of Canada Mr. Borden may find himself in the dilemma of Mr. Gladstone, who once made promises he could not perform, and his excuse was "that he was then in a position of less responsibility and greater freedom."

HOW CANADA'S REVENUE HAS GROWN.

The revenue of the Dominion for the past six months, ending with September, is the largest on record. The amount is \$50,441,208, or about thirteen millions more than the total revenue in 1897.

The customs revenue alone for six months, ending August, shows an increase of \$6,418,290 over the same period last year. Total collections were \$31,412,735. The August receipts of customs were \$5,203,638, an increase of \$546,225 over the same month last year.

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NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Commissioners of the Transcontinental Railway have this day filed in the office of the Registry of Deeds for the county of Queens, in the province of New Brunswick, a Plan, Profile, and Book of Reference, showing the lands required for the purposes of the Eastern Division of the National Transcontinental Railway covering the right of way from Mileage fifty-six and three quarters westerly from a point near the city of Moncton, N. B., thence westerly to Mileage fifty-eight through the said county of Queens. Owners or occupiers of any of the lands affected are hereby cautioned against the removal or defacing of any stakes, hubs, bench marks, etc., placed on such lands by the Engineers of the said Commissioners.

By Order,
P. E. RYAN, Secretary
The Commissioners of the Transcontinental Railway.
Dated at Ottawa, this 21st day of September, 1907.
Sept. 25 dci.

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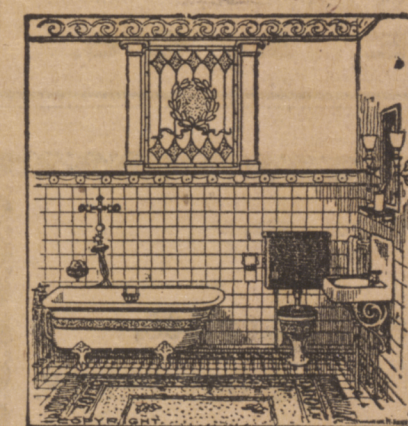
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