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EDITORIALS

"The Dominion Trust," one of the largest realty-dealing concerns on the Coast, and the National Finance, another of the same kind, have closed their doors and the examiners are looking into the sack which the public is left holding.

"These two concerns, in a sense, are typical of British Columbia and what has happened to it. There are approximately four hundred and fifty thousand people in British Columbia. Of these not less than three hundred thousand live in the towns and cities, where production is very limited and the main occupation of the populace has been exploiting the future. Timber limits, mines, real estate and farm lands in the raw state have been given an anticipatory valuation and the province has declared itself rich out of the development of the country's natural resources. But so busy were the people of British Columbia promoting that they forgot to develop. Particularly was this true of the farming business. Farmers were very scarce, and, notwithstanding that British Columbia has millions of acres of beautiful agricultural area, those who had an ambition to farm discovered that the land had been taken up long ahead of the railway and that the prices asked for wild land were such as to practically close the country against settlement and development. Now the war comes, and, with the changed condition which call upon Canada for production, British Columbia suddenly discovers that it has no production worthy of the name and has no training or business machinery for any-

thing except promotion and exploitation.

"The thing that will happen in British Columbia is that quite a lot of the promoters will have to go to work."

The above clipping from the Edmonton Capital is worth re-producing, not because it is all true, although a great deal of it is. As far as the Dominion Trust Company is concerned, that company owns branches all over Canada, as well as in London, England. Why British Columbia should be blamed for the difficulties of the company is not evident. Indeed, it is well known that the first good start the company got was from money made in this province. In the face of a great crisis like the present, it is difficult to see how any big company that dealt in real estate values or mortgages could stand the shock. It certainly is unfair and unjust to blame British Columbia for all the troubles of the Dominion Trust.

What the Capital has to say about real estate is just as true of the Prairies and the rest of Canada and the States as it is of British Columbia. Anybody that knows anything about finance knows that in time of panics nothing has a fixed value apart from the regular currency. If a sale of real estate were forced today it is difficult to say how cheap it would go but the same is true of all other securities. With regard to values before the war, while there certainly was a lot of worthless subdivisions sold in the southern part of this province, like there was on the



Prairies, it is a question whether close-in business property was placed too high. At any rate, it becomes Edmonton, or any of the Prairie towns, to throw stones at British Columbia.

With reference to the question of wild lands, the Capital is right. Impartial minds can see today that a terrible mistake was made in disposing of the land of the Province to speculators who never intended to use it. If instead of that policy an effort had been made to get the right class of people on the soil, this Province would be much stronger than it is today. The Capital is right again, too, when it says that the promoters must go to work. Besides being productive it will have a wholesome moral effect. In that sense, at least, perhaps the black clouds of war will have a silver lining. If the government would even now step in and compel the speculators to either cultivate their land or hand it back to the Crown something could be done even at this late date for the good of the country.

GOVERNMENT RELATES ATTITUDE REGARDING SHIPS IN SUEZ CANAL

London, Oct. 29.—Through the official press bureau the government sets forth its attitude towards the ships of the enemy in the Suez Canal. Some vessels, it states were detained by the Egyptian government because of hostile acts committed in the canal and some because it was believed that they contemplated hostile acts. In a third class are placed the ships which refused to leave though free passage was offered, "thus disclosing an intention to use the ports of the canal as a refuge—a measure not contemplated by the Suez canal convention."

As such action might block the use of the canal by other ships, it is contended, the "Egyptian government is fully justified in removing all the enemy's ships which have been long enough at canal ports to show clearly that they have no intention of departing in the ordinary way."

SOUTH AFRICAN REBELS WERE PROMINENT IN FORMER WAR

AFTER WAR WAS OVER BOTH SIGNED TREATY OF PEACE AND APPEARED TO BE GOOD BRITISHERS.

London, England, October 31.—General De Wet is the cavalry leader who gave the British so much trouble in the South African war, when he was commander-in-chief of the Orange Free State forces. He was commander at Ladysmith and was sent to relieve General Conje as second in command. After General Conje's surrender he received full command. He was one of the signatories of the Vereeniging peace conference and was appointed Minister of Agriculture in 1907.

Brigadier General Beyers was also a noted figure in the South African war, and was chairman of the Vereeniging peace commis-

sion. Last September he resigned as commandant general of the Union Defence Force because of his disapproval of the action of Great Britain in sending commandoes to conquer German Southwest Africa.

The Manchester Guardian thinks that the South African rising is purely local. Many Boers, says The Guardian, rightly or wrongly regard the European war as a foreign war, with which they have nothing to do except to defend themselves if attacked, and the Union government comes along and compels them to serve against German Southwest Africa. The Guardian remarks that if enlistment had been voluntary, as in Canada and Great Britain, there would have been no rising.

AMERICANS RESENT GERMAN SUGGESTION OF INVADING CANADA

New York, Oct. 31.—Commenting on the suggestion of Count von Bernsdorff, the German ambassador to the United States, that the Kaisers forces may attack Canada, the New York Herald, in an editorial says:

"Just what Count von Bernsdorff can hope to gain by spreading in this country the suggestion that Germany may attack and occupy Canada it is difficult to understand. Can he imagine that Americans are so enamored by German 'culture,' as exemplified in Belgium, that they would welcome its appearance on this continent?"

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ADAMS & BROOKS
 ATTORNEYS IN PATENT CAUSES
 Trade Marks and Copyrights
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 Seattle
 October 7th, 1914.
 MR. HARRY HANSON,
 Box 395, Prince Rupert, B. C.
 Dear Sir:

We have to advise that your application for Letters Patent of Canada on improvements in Water Heaters is now pending under Serial No. 190,649, filed October 1, 1914.

Yours very truly,
 (Signed) ADAMS & BROOKS,
 by E. A. Adams.
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WHO WON? BOSTON OR PHILEE-DELPHÉE?

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