

THE DAILY NEWS

THE LEADING NEWSPAPER IN NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA
Published Daily and Weekly
Guaranteed Largest Circulation

HEAD OFFICE

Daily News Building, 3rd Ave, Prince Rupert, B.C. Telephone 98.
TRANSIENT DISPLAY ADVERTISING—50 cents per inch. Contract rates on application.

DAILY EDITION

Monday, June 14, 1915.

TRADE REVIEW.

That trade in Canada has passed the period of greatest depression and already exhibits signs of a sound revival in many lines, appears to be the opinion of the majority of representative business men throughout the Dominion who have contributed their views to a comprehensive survey of conditions which has just been completed by the Canadian Northern Railway. Less than 10 per cent of those responding confess to a gloomy outlook; more than 90 per cent, numbering more than two thousand, report themselves as optimistic as far as the immediate future is concerned. Practically all are agreed that trade conditions will rapidly return to normal after the restoration of peace. A large number are convinced that if the harvest of 1915 is up to expectation, domestic business will be satisfactory in all the provinces.

In the survey, all classes of enterprise as defined by the last Dominion Census are reported upon. The provinces have furnished the latest information regarding the 1915 production of the agricultural, mining, fishing and lumbering industries. Country towns and villages as well as the large commercial and industrial centres have been covered, and officials of the Canadian Northern Railway are inclined to accept the views reported as frank statements of present trade and its future prospects.

The reports indicate that business in the Dominion, as a whole, is from 15 to 20 per cent below the normal of one year ago. Exactly two-thirds of the informants report of volume of trade as good, or better, than it was last autumn, while 12.03 per cent state they cannot compare present business and last autumn business because trade is always brisker with them at one season than during the other. Apparently trade in the Maritime prov-

inces is affected least. In the Prairie provinces it is not nearly as brisk as it was last year, but optimism is reviving under the influence of excellent crop prospects. Business in Quebec is slow, but apparently improving and in Ontario it is gradually returning to normal condition. Broadly considered, the reports show that business in the towns and villages located in well-settled, fertile agricultural districts is practically normal. Dealers in all lines report that collections in such centres are generally normal, and that activities have not been curtailed to any extent. The chief falling off has been in the large industrial centres. When reductions in staff were made by manufacturers and by business houses last autumn, retailers were forced to curtail credits to customers thrown out of work and in turn wholesalers were obliged to scrutinize carefully all credits extended to retailers. The people generally continued to purchase necessary lines of food-stuffs and essentials in other branches of trade as well, but dealers discovered that goods not falling within that classification were in danger of becoming dead-stock upon their shelves; however, as Canadians arrived at a better understanding of actual conditions, a certain amount of confidence returned, and retail sales were gradually extended to take in the usual lines of goods. The distribution of orders for war materials also exerted a favorable influence where it brought about a renewal of employment in several of the industries in the large cities, and trade credits relaxed to a proportionate extent. Collections, despite the altered conditions, appear to have continued fairly good in the large centres, and seem to be steadily improving.

The reports go on to show the strong position in which farmers have been placed, and indicate a keener perception of

HON. BOB ROGERS AND HIS POLITICAL FATHER, ROBLIN

SIR RODMOND SPILLED THE BEANS AT A BAD TIME — HON. BOB ROGERS ROSE WITH REAL ESTATE BOOM AND LEFT ROBLIN TO EXPERIENCE THE FALL.

Ottawa.—The wise boys are guessing that there must have been warm language between Sir Rodmond Roblin and Hon. Robert Rogers when they met on neutral ground in Toronto a few days ago.

Sir Rodmond has been the Honorable Bob's benefactor from the beginning of his political life and naturally the Honorable Bob doesn't see why he couldn't have gone on being a benefactor by hanging on a little longer in Manitoba. Once a benefactor, always a benefactor—that is Bob's motto, and he believes that benefactors should live up to it even at some slight disadvantage to themselves. At all events, it was a particularly bad time for Sir Rodmond to spill the beans.

Sir Rodmond had been under good advice from the Honorable Bob and others for months past, but none of his advisers expected him to do what he did. Their advice to Sir Rodmond was that he should resign and let his colleagues form a new cabinet with a new premier, and thus avoid handing the government over to the Liberals. Sir Rodmond's colleagues thought very well of that plan, and the Honorable Bob, hot foot from Ottawa, pressed it on him from time to time, but Sir Rodmond figured that it would make him the goat and raised objections.

Finally, he became real peeved, and said, "Just for that you'll all get off." He resigned, as it were, in a body, taking his colleagues with him. It was the neatest thing in the way of a double cross since Samson sacrificed himself to destroy the Philistines. Ever since this signal act of revenge, Sir Rodmond has been able to

the importance of the position which agriculture occupies in the business life of Canada. Prospects of a good yield on a largely increased acreage are bright throughout the Dominion.

The greatest reduction in volume has been in the building trade, but it is expected that a good crop will partially revive it, and the looked-for movement of immigrants to Canada, after the war is over, should restore the building trade to its wonted state of activity.

take a philosophical view of Manitoba politics. His interviews with Liberal newspaper reporters are full of human kindness toward Premier Norris, whom he wishes long life and prosperous statesmanship. In fact, it almost appears as if he would rather have Premier Norris on the job than his own friends, who might malign him if they remained in office and he didn't. Absence, as the poet aptly puts it, makes the hammers stronger.

Everything Sir Rodmond has said since he resigned sounds like a benediction to public life, but it would not surprise anybody if he swung into the bigger game at Ottawa, instead of enjoying the comfortable sunset to which he is entitled. His being a Manitoba discard would be no real argument against him, because the present administration at Ottawa has a lenient feeling toward discards. It wasn't so long ago, for example, that Sir Richard McBride was being broached for a cabinet position at Ottawa, and doubtless Sir Richard would have landed it if it hadn't been for his adventures with Attorney General Bowser and the two submarines. Sir Richard's work with the two submarines was careless, if it wasn't coarse, and spoiled his chances. Finesse is what the situation demands—finesse that will defy the best efforts of the Public Accounts Committee. Anybody, as short on finesse as Sir Richard McBride, could never get along at Ottawa.

Sir Rodmond Roblin, on the contrary, has shown great deftness in getting out of his troubles. He has not only got himself out but he has left his friends holding the bag and has displayed qualities which prove that he has nothing to learn even from the Honorable Robert Rogers. Indeed, there are those who say that the Honorable Bob learned his trade from Sir Rodmond, and that the master can still teach the pupil a trick or two. Be that as it may, the Honorable Bob hasn't the same reputation as a Frankenstein with Sir Rodmond, as he has with other people who don't know him so well. If he is a

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