

THE DAILY NEWS

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DAILY EDITION



Tuesday, June 15, 1915.

THE CRISIS.

The Victoria Colonist expresses regret that "The Globe has lent its columns to the ignoble army of slanderers of British Columbia." The organ of the McBride government charges that in reprinting and commenting upon the statements contained in a pamphlet issued by the Ministerial Union of the lower mainland of British Columbia arraigning the land and colonization policy of the government, The Globe "prints statements concerning the province of British Columbia and its actual position, which, if believed by the public generally, would destroy the credit of the province and every business enterprise within its borders, would cause investors and settlers to shun it, and in other ways to damage that might be irreparable."

The Globe has no desire to destroy the credit of British Columbia or of any other province of the Dominion. The enemies of British Columbia are not to be found in The Globe office or in the ranks of the clergymen who have dared to come out in the open and attack the looting of the public domain, but among the exploiters who—aided by legislation that could not have suited their purpose better had they themselves drafted it—have locked up from settlement millions of acres of the best land of British Columbia. The animus of The Colonist against Moses Cotsworth and the clergymen whom it characterizes as "a certain Ministerial Association" may be explained by the fact that the pamphlet gives facts coupling up many of the most influential men in British Columbia with wholesale exploitation, which has prevented rather than stimulated development. That may be a legitimate reason for an attack on the authors of the pamphlet, but it is scarcely a sufficient excuse for the charge that The Globe is attempting to

destroy the credit of British Columbia.

In every editorial article regarding the economic and political crises in British Columbia published in these columns, condemnation of the almost criminal folly of its rulers has been preceded by the statement that the Pacific province is a region of wonderful natural wealth, which ought to sustain a population of millions by the operation of its mines, its fisheries and by farming and lumbering. No half-million people in the world's history ever had a greater heritage from which to produce wealth than the residents of British Columbia. The opportunity of production has been largely denied and a great part of the accessible land closed to the actual settler by the villainous system that has enabled a few men to secure individual holdings which would be regarded in Europe as principalities.

The Colonist's reply to the assertion of the clergymen that "about 90 per cent of the available agricultural land of British Columbia has been alienated" is that it is not true or anything like true, but the statement would be an absurd one in any event, "for it presupposes that 'speculators' will buy land and continue to pay indefinitely a tax of 4 per cent upon its value. A speculator in land buys it only to sell at an advance, and how could he possibly sell it at an advance and at the same time hold it? The Globe, swallowing the allegations of Mr. Moses Cotsworth, proves too much for its own case."

That raises the very kernel of the question. The clergymen who have set their seal of approval on Mr. Cotsworth's charges point out that, as reported in The Colonist on January 26, 1915, Sir Richard McBride said there was between \$14,000,000 and \$15,000,000 due to the British Columbia government by land purchasers in

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arrears. A few days later, Mr. Ross, another member of the government, put these arrears at \$9,000,000. As a matter of fact, in January, 1914, the arrears totalled \$13,000,000, as shown by official records, and they have materially increased in the interval. The government which permits the accumulation of such huge arrears of purchase installments is assuredly not likely to be very keen about collecting taxes from its friends the speculators. The result is that the exploiters can hold land indefinitely for an advance by paying in many cases no more than the initial fifty cents an acre.

The McBride government has now taken power to postpone the payment of any money due or accruing to the Crown, so that the speculators may have their chance. The issue is plain. If the speculators get their chance British Columbia will continue to linger in its present condition of suspended animation. If the speculator is given short shrift and the people who desire to use the land are given their chance there is no future to which British Columbia may not aspire. The speculator has driven off both capital and labor and left the land unused. What does British Columbia owe to him?—Toronto Globe.

PROHIBITION INCREASES TEA-DRINKING IN RUSSIA.

Well-informed members of the tea trade say that the figures for the year show an astonishingly large increase of tea drinking throughout the world. Prohibition is largely to account for this, and, when a great country like Russia prohibits the sale of strong drink and the people turn to tea, it means an immense drain on the resources of the gardens whence comes the world's supply. In the last few months the cost of tea has risen 10 or 12 cents a pound.



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CANADA TO SHIP TO ENGLAND LIVE SHELLS

Ottawa, June 14.—Canada is going to begin at once to ship loaded shells to England. Heretofore, nothing but empty shrapnel has been sent but all the contracts for empty 18-pounder shells having been filled, loaded and fixed ammunition 18-pounder high explosive shells are to be sent to feed the Allies' guns in France and Belgium.

The larger sized shells, the 45- and 60-pounders, are still to be shipped empty. These facts were announced Saturday by H. A. Bertram, secretary to General Bertram.

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA, NEW RAILROAD TOWN

Seward, June 15.—That more than a thousand tents and other sorts of dwellings have been erected at Anchorage, the new railroad city, and that the population of the place now is about 2,200, is the statement of Capt. J. W. Porter, who has just returned after some time spent over there making observations of the weather, ice and other conditions for the Engineering Commission. The gangs are working now all the way to Eagle River, some sixteen or eighteen miles.

PROSPECTING NEW AREA NORTH OF SEWARD

Seward, June 15.—Several men are now prospecting the country for Placer around Juneau Creek and expect that something good will be found there, according to T. R. Meredith, who has just come in. Lodge has located placer on a creek called Pass Creek, which runs into Juneau Creek. Bell and Gombard have located good looking ground in the Resurrection water shed just over the divide.

AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT COMMANDEERS GRAIN CROP

Geneva, June 14.—The Austrian government has commandeered the entire grain crop of the country, according to Vienna dispatches received here.

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Somebody Came Pretty Near Getting Licked

Drawn for The Daily News. —By "Hop."



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