

THE DAILY NEWS

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DAILY EDITION

Saturday, June 25, 1915

LAND GRABBING

The infamy of the McBride-Bowser government is spreading. A recent issue of the "Christian Science Monitor," of Boston, Mass., devotes the chief part of its editorial columns to an article on "British Columbia Land Grabbing," in which it reproduces some of the figures quoted in "The Crisis." The article says: "Revelations concerning the manner in which speculators have seized, and have been permitted to seize, public lands in British Columbia are astounding the people of that province and of the whole Dominion. With the recent coming of industrial and trade depression, and the consequent throwing out of employment of great numbers of workers in the larger towns and cities, a movement towards the soil was urged upon the idle and quickly responded to. It was the common presumption that British Columbia had public land enough for as many distributions as might be necessary to meet present necessity. Only recently it had been reported officially that "the total amount of land surveyed and ready for the pre-emptor, and the pre-emptor alone, amounted to 91,128,567 acres, one third of the total area of the province." The report added, as if to give emphasis to the province's wonderful resource in this particular, "in the whole of Canada there are only 36,000,000 acres under cultivation, while in British Columbia alone we have 91,128,567 acres surveyed and ready for the settler." It was further stated that 4,500,000 acres of land, free to the settler, could be had within three miles of railways.

Investigation carried on by the Ministerial Union of the Lower Mainland of British Columbia, a non-partizan body

politically, has resulted in the development of some very surprising, and correspondingly disappointing statistics. It appears from the report of the provincial surveyor general that there are only 28,920,000 acres of surveyed land in the province, of which 5,189,522 acres are not under provincial jurisdiction. The Provincial Year Book states that only a twenty-fifth of the area, or 11,000,000 acres, is agricultural land. The Dominion census puts the area of possible farm lands in the province at 22,618,000 acres. In answer to enquiries as to the extent of agricultural land still available for pre-emption and settlement near railways or wagon roads, twenty out of twenty-nine assessors replied that the supply of such land is exhausted.

What has become of the tremendous acreage of agricultural land that was really available for settlers and pre-emptors a few years ago? Millions of acres are in the hands of a few men, although there is a law positively forbidding the sale of more than 640 acres of crown land to any one person until the first purchase has been cultivated and improved to the extent of \$3 per acre. But it seems that in 1907 an amendment was passed permitting land to be staked by agents, whereupon the "grabbers" flooded the province with representatives who took up the best land in sight. The method they are said to have employed is as scandalous as the wrong they have done. Through some of the lowest forms of corruption the people of British Columbia have, temporarily at least, been deprived of their inheritance. There is at present a popular demand for restitution, and one that is not likely to be quieted or silenced until it is fully made."



PRELIMINARY ESTIMATE OF SEASON'S GRAIN CROP

Ottawa, June 25.—A press bulletin recently issued by the Census and Statistics office is of special interest as giving the preliminary estimate of the area sown to grain crops in Canada for the present season and the condition of these crops on May 31 as reported by correspondents. The reports received show that in the Maritime provinces cold and rainy weather during May delayed farm work, and at the end of the month a good deal of seeding had still to be completed. In Quebec and Ontario cold winds and frost, coming after the exceptionally warm weather of April, retarded growth. In these provinces the frost injured pastures, but did little damage to grain crops. In the Northwest provinces growth was checked somewhat by cold and frosty nights, but, on the whole, conditions continue to be favorable. In some parts of Manitoba and Saskatchewan the need of rain was being felt. In Alberta and British Columbia the condition of the grain crops was generally favorable.

HIGH TEA PRICES

Messrs. Henderson & Company's latest monthly circular issued from Ceylon and just to hand states: "A feature of the market was the record prices paid for flavory teas. The oldest members of the tea trade in Ceylon could not remember such high prices being realized before."

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GEO. Y. CHOWN, Registrar

HEROISM OF DOCTORS AND STRETCHER BEARERS

The following is from an Ottawa official report:

In the recent severe fighting some of the finest examples of heroism were given by the doctors and stretcher bearers, who constantly exposed themselves to this devastating bombardment. Dressing stations had to be abandoned hurriedly in many instances, and battalion surgeons like Lieutenant Goddard, of the King's Own, went back repeatedly into the hail of shells, bringing out a wounded man each time. Two of the men carrying out Lieutenant Goddard were killed by shrapnel before the journey was finished.

It was impossible to collect the wounded from the field during the daylight. As soon as night fell the stretcher bearers and as many additional workers as could be collected went out under the direction of the surgeons and groped over the marsh land, picking up men who laid there all day long with shells exploding on every side. It was impossible to show lights—even the flare of an electric pocket lamp. The stretcher bearers had to crawl laboriously through the darkness and when they found a man who was still alive it was necessary to make a slow and painful journey across the plain stepping over bodies and avoiding craters, until they reached the motor ambulances waiting on the nearest road.

LAND NOTICES

Skeena Land District.
Queen Charlotte Islands Land District—Graham Island.

TAKE NOTICE that I, Grant Thorburn, of Prince Rupert, hotel man, intend to apply to the Chief Commissioner of lands for the Province of British Columbia for a license to prospect for coal and petroleum: Starting at a post planted two miles west of the northwest corner of Section 6, Township 9; thence east 80 chains; thence south 80 chains; thence west 80 chains; thence north 80 chains to point of commencement; containing 640 acres, more or less.

Dated the 16th day of March, 1915, at the northwest corner.
GRANT THORBURN.
Samuel Horner, Agent.

Skeena Land District.
Queen Charlotte Islands Land District—Graham Island.

TAKE NOTICE that I, Samuel Horner, of Vancouver, prospector, intend to apply to the Chief Commissioner of Lands for the Province of British Columbia for a license to prospect for coal and petroleum: Starting at a post planted two miles west of the southwest corner of Section 7, Township 9; thence east 80 chains; thence north 80 chains; thence west 80 chains; thence south 80 chains to point of commencement; containing 640 acres, more or less.

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112-140 SAMUEL HORNER.

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YOUNG FELLER! CAN YOU TELL ME WHERE I CAN BUY A MARRIED LICENSE-MYRT AN I IS A GONNA GET SPLICED!

TEE HEE!

YOU'RE A BIT YOUNG-YET AINTCHUH?

I SHOULD WORRY ABOUT THIS JUNE!

PS-ST-IM JUST NINETY SIX TUHDAY-BEEN PLAYIN ROUND LONG ENOUGH-GONNA SETTLE DOWN AN BEHAVE.

Drawn for The Daily News.
—By "Hop."