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MR. PATTULLO EXPLAINS HIS LAND POLICY

Answers Editorial in Veterans' Weekly and Clears Up Many Points Not Generally Understood.

In a recent editorial The British Columbia Veterans' Weekly criticized the policy of the Provincial Government in its plans directed towards bringing alienated and unpaid for Crown Lands back within the right of the Crown. The Hon. T. D. Pattullo, Minister of Lands, replies to the comment in the current issue of The Weekly in the following terms in full:

Mr. Pattullo's Statement.

I note that your paper speaks editorially of the land question. It is very evident that there exists a very great deal of misapprehension in respect to this important subject.

A number of questions are asked in your editorial, but they are asked in such a way as to leave the implication that a condition of affairs exists which does not exist; that a course of action has been taken which, as a matter of fact, has not been taken; and that a course of action has not been taken which, as a matter of fact, has been taken.

You state, "So far as one can judge from the outside, the speculator remains where he was, and holds with a firmer clutch than ever the patrimony of the people of this province. We ask, Minister Pattullo, if this is not so?" The answer is "No." The so-called speculator accuses this government of having passed confiscatory legislation which will take his property clean away from him. Your editorial implies that the speculator has a firmer hold than ever. The facts are that holders of property who develop them need have no fear of our legislation, while those who will not develop their property will have to make way for those who will.

Soldiers' Land Bill.

You ask, "Is it not the case that because of an extended time limit for payment given the speculator by the Government, some two million fewer acres came back to the Crown than was expected to come as a result of the late Government's 'soldiers' land bill?" The answer to this is "No."

The total acreage involved under the "Soldiers' Homestead Act," to which you refer as the "Soldiers' Land Bill," was approximately 2,700,000 acres. This bill provided for a form of proportionate allotment for those who had not paid up the full purchase price.

The extension of time to which you refer involved at no time more than approximately 600,000 acres and, as a matter of fact, the land which was taken up under the extension was approximately 21,000 acres. This extension was granted in order that no injustice might be done in any instance where the parties involved had not received proper notice.

The situation is, therefore, that of the 2,700,000 acres which were sold, approximately 2,200,000 acres are back in the Crown; that is to say, that approximately 500,000 acres were either paid for in full or granted under proportionate allotment. All of this 500,000 acres was alienated before the present Government came into power. Of the 2,200,000 acres it will no doubt be found that a considerable portion is good land but it is situate, with little exception, some distance from transportation. The land situate close to transportation was bought and paid for in full or obtained through South African Scrip.

Compelling Legislation.

Now, what is the Government doing towards rendering the lands close to transportation available for settlement? As is already well known, the Government has passed legislation which provides means for compelling owners of land to use it or to let go of it and let somebody else use it. And, further, the Government is putting this legislation to actual practice.

To say that the Government (Continued on Page 5.)



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SOSA IS ILL

New York, Nov. 14.—Philip Sousa, the famous bandmaster and composer of the United States, is seriously ill.

The Princess Mary of the C.P.R. fleet will take up the Alaskan service and her first sailing will be from Vancouver on November 16, arriving here on the 18th en route north. The further dates scheduled are November 30, December 14 and December 28, leaving Vancouver.

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NOTICE is hereby given that the Sale of Lands to be held on the twenty-fourth day of October next upon which delinquent taxes are due has been postponed so far as lands in the Prince Rupert Assessment District are concerned and that on the 25th day of November following a sale will be held of all such lands in the said Assessment District.

C. W. HOMER, Assessor and Collector DATED this 2nd day of October, A. D. 1918

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