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SWASTIKA MAN TEMPTED TO TALK SECESSION

"If We Can't Get a Fair Hearing, What Else Can We Do?" Asks L. A. Lillieo.

Years ago The Advance emphasized the idea that while the North Land generally did not seek secession, still the persistent attitude of a section of Old Ontario drives the people here to serious thoughts of secession. Take the Government's attitude on the mining tax, for instance. In effect, the Farmers' Government says:—"The tax may not be fair, it may ruin the mining industry (the mainstay of the North Land) and so on, we know nothing about that and care less; all we can see is that we need the money, and the farmers have an ugly objection against taxation, so the North Land should be the goat again. And what are you going to do about it?"

The answer, of course, is that the North Land is not going to be the goat forever. If the Government intends to continue to make a goat of the North Land then the sooner the North Land does more than just talk secession the better for the North Land.

The North Land is getting stirred up to demand a square deal. The people here are not inclined to lie down under any old kind of treatment much longer. Toronto papers last week carried some evidence of this, if they only had sense enough to see it. As for example the following:—

"We don't want to secede from Old Ontario. We know it would mean enormous and unnecessary wastage in the machinery of a new provincial government and a new capital. But if we can't get a fair hearing and essential facilities to develop the potentialities of the north country from the government at Queen's Park, what are we ultimately to do?" said L. A. Lillieo, of Swastika, in Toronto this week. Mr. Lillieo was one of a delegation that came here to see the government as to developing roads in the Temiskaming, Gowanda and Kirkland Lake sections and also the desired ninety-mile railway to Swastika, traversing richly mineralized territory. "We came here to seek governmental co-operation in the exploitation of a section capable of contributing largely to employment and provincial prosperity," he explained.

"The delegates are all men with substantial stakes in the country who are working hard for its growth and Ontario's enrichment. We paid our own expenses. We lost half a week at least. And Hon. Harry Mills a locomotive driver, who knows very little about the chief asset and industry of the northland, but who largely controls its interests, accorded us ten minutes of his valuable time. Premier Drury gave us ten minutes, too. He couldn't spare more as he had to give an hour's address to some business men's association. He had just about time to tell us it would be impossible for the government to help us with roads that would mean the opening of rich mines, because we hadn't road-making material in our section. If there's not rock and gravel there it's not to be found anywhere. But the provincial powers haven't time to listen to men whose whole interest is the making of Ontario business that will benefit all the province."

NORTHERN PART OF B. C. ASKS SEPARATE PROVINCE

A bill has been presented to the Dominion Parliament by Col. C. W. Peck, V. C., for the formation of a new Canadian Province to consist of that portion of British Columbia lying north of the 52nd. parallel of north latitude and including the Yukon Territory. The new province is to be formed subject to the approval of the majority of the electors in the territory mentioned, as determined by plebescite. Mr. Thompson, Member for the Yukon, seconds the bill.

The part of British Columbia now seeking to secede from the rest of the Province has for several years felt the injury to its development caused by its long distance from the seat of government and the lack of interest and sympathy shown for its prospects and development by the more densely settled parts of British Columbia. About a year ago when The Advance was conducting a campaign of education regarding secession sentiment, Dr. Thompson, the member for the Yukon, happened to pay a visit to friends in this Camp. He was much interested in the talk here regarding secession and said that if even a bill to this end came before the Dominion Government he was one member that would support it if he were in the House, for he could understand the feelings of the people here in the matter, his part of British Columbia being situated practically the same as regards what might be

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termed the older part of the Province. At that time Dr. Thompson suggested that this North Land join his own North Land in a new Province to be created. "Oh, we are too far apart for that to work," was the reply given him. This was just the reply he had apparently hoped for: "Would we be any further apart in a practical way as regards our real problems, than we both are from the older sections of the Provinces that now control us?" he asked with a smile. Further, he pointed out that both this North Land and the British Columbia North Land had mining questions, settlement questions and other general problems of the same type. In distance in actual miles they were far apart but in the problems and prospects they had much more in common than the fellow citizens to whom they were tied in a Provincial way.

It will be noted that the proposition for British Columbia's North Land to separate from the rest of the Province has not smashed the British North America Act to smithereens. It has not imperilled the British Throne

or Constitution as some people seem to fear might be the case if the word secession were even whispered in earnest. In fact it is peculiarly and particularly a part of the British North America Act and the same British Constitution that new Provinces should be created as need arises. Only in that way can progress, development and contentment be assured. And the need surely is evident when a few people in one little corner of a Province attempt to make the largest and richest district of the Province "the goat" on every possible occasion.

The Caledonian Society Open Dance in the Masonic Hall on Tuesday evening, April 5th will be a pleasant event and all lovers of dancing are welcome. In addition to the popular modern dances which will make up by far the greater part of the programme there will be two or three particular or special Scottish dances, such as the Highland Scottische. The dances in general, however, will be the popular modern ones that all dancers here know.

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