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TORONTO WORLD WRONG RE SECESSION MOVE

Makes Poor Guess as to Enthusiasm For New Province of the North Land.

In its issue of Thursday last The Toronto World devotes nearly a column of its editorial space to a discussion of the agitation now under way in New Ontario for secession from Old Ontario of all the country north of the French River and Lake Nipissing and its erection into a new province with control of all the resources thereof. The World seeks for reasons for the agitation, and eventually suggests that "certain concerns interested in mining are also active in the secession movement." The World is altogether on the wrong track. The present agitation for the creation of a new Province comes practically altogether from the "every-day man", the common citizen, the ordinary fellow whose chief "interest" is just the progress and development of the country and the assuring of the comfort, happiness and freedom of its people. Some weeks ago when The Advance first published the suggestion that immediate steps be taken for the separation of this North Land from the rest of the Province of Ontario, the proposal met with almost universal approval up in this country, not because mining or other "interests" were behind the project, but because the people in this land are heart sore with that hope deferred that maketh the heart sick. In the North Land there is a wonderful wealth of resources in forest, mine and land. The country only needs a fair opportunity and a square chance to develop into one of the greatest countries in the world, but hitherto about all the assistance given by Governments has been the slight encouragement begotten from occasional promises. There has been a lack of knowledge and a lack of active interest regarding the needs, the possibilities and the interests of the North Land. The apparent ignorance of the Governments regarding this wonderful country has only been equalled by the errors and misconceptions shown generally by the people of Old Ontario in regard to the North Land. The North Land is weary of being considered by Old Ontario simply as a source of mining royalties and timber dues. The people of this country want intelligent attention and support in the up-building of this land. They have the finest faith in the future of the North Land. They know its bountiful resources that only await the right development. They have reached the end of their patience with the attitude of the rest of the Province that does not seem to care. Visitors who come up to this country from other Provinces and other countries are astounded at what they see here. They wonder that more attention is not given this land by the powers that be; they are astounded at the lack of interest that retards its due development. The people of the North Country have waited and waited more or less patiently for the intelligent interest that would give them the fair opportunity for the country. Always they receive instead some plausible excuse. At present the excuse runs along like this:—"Give the new Government a chance. Wait and see what they will do." The North Land will wait and see. But in the meantime the people here would have it distinctly understood that they have great faith and hope in this their country and they intend that it shall have a fair opportunity for development. If the Ontario Government will not or can not help in the progress of this land, then a new Province can be created to do the work along right lines. Because of the fact that the people of the South neither know nor appreciate the North Land, and because this great country feels itself consistently neglected and held back, the agitation for the creation of a new Province gathers headway and force. The Province of Ontario can hold the North Land, if it will only play the game fairly. It is up to Old Ontario.

It is an interesting fact, that directly contrary to The World's suggestion, mining and other special "interests" have not taken any particular part as yet in the movement for the secession of the North Land from Old Ontario. Probably, The World's suggestion was made with the political scheme of stopping such "interests" from actively engaging in the agitation. However, the "interests" might as well come in this time with the "common folks." Having committed the crime of investing their money, at some considerable risk at first, in this North Land they might surely be pardoned the additional crime of being interested specially in the place where their money is invested. Just why The World should object to mining men who have shown such faith and courage in regard to this land having open interest in its progress and affairs may puzzle many simple

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