

OTTAWA NEWS AND VIEWS

Ottawa, March 25, 1923.

Parliament is thoroughly aroused over the attempted steal of the great anthracite coal areas in North Alberta. Names of those participating in this raid are freely mentioned in parliament and on the streets of the capital. The history of this great coal area is of great interest.

In 1912 a Dr. Hoppe, acting for the Isenberg interests, explored and surveyed a coal deposit eighty miles north of Brule on the Canadian National Railway in Alberta and on the way to the Peace River country. It was discovered to be wonderfully rich in both hard and soft coal, preliminary tests showing 100,000,000 tons of anthracite and 400,000,000 tons of bituminous coal. Hoppe secured a lease of this great area for the Isenberg interests.

War stopped the Hoppe-Isenberg negotiations with the Rothschilds, who were anxious to secure this coal supply for half a continent. Rentals were heavy and in 1918 the Isenberg interest were in arrears. It was discovered that both Hoppe and Isenberg were active German sympathizers and propagandists and Hon. Arthur Meighen, then Minister of Interior, cancelled the leases. A Canadian syndicate discovered this cancellation and filed on these claims.

After an inquiry in the Senate, Hon. Arthur Meighen withdrew this area from leasing and made it a crown reserve. It was thought that the vast coal resources had been successfully conserved for the nation.

After the change of government an appeal to the Privy Council on behalf of one Paulson was successful and the cancellation of leases numbering nearly 20,000, extending over many years, was found illegal. Last session, to remedy this, the government introduced a bill in the Senate. There the Conservative Senators proposed that in addition to this there should be a clause inserted whereby the Hoppe leases could not be alienated from the Crown except by Parliament. This the government refused, but gave a pledge that they would be conserved for the nation.

It was with surprise and alarm that it was heard in October last year that the government had granted a flat to the Isenberg interests to sue for the return of this property to them. In the meantime it was learned that the Isenberg claim had practically been acquired by a group of Ottawa politicians closely allied to the government. Nothing could be done until Parliament met. Senator Pope brought this to the attention of parliament and registered a strong protest against the alienation of this property and the violation of the government's pledge. Senator Dandurand, on March 9, brought into parliament a bill to do what the Conservatives had requested the previous session, but admitted that it was too late for this legislation to be effective if the claimants won their case in court. It was also discovered that in January previous the government by order-in-council had considerably strengthened the claim of the Ottawa politicians in their raid on our resources. Senator Bradbury in this exposure was very effective:

"The case is just this. After the late government had cancelled the leases, and when we were led to believe that the door was practically locked and that there was no danger of either the Isenberg people or their assigns again acquiring any interest in those leases, some gentlemen here in the city of Ottawa organized a syndicate headed by a man who had taken a good deal of interest when the committee was investigating the Shillington leases—a man named Murdock—

"Hon. Mr. Tassier: Who is that?"
 "Hon. Mr. Bradbury: I do not know him. I do not know where he comes from. I know that he has been very active in connection with great coal areas. Under this man's direction, I presume, or through his influence, a syndicate of some kind was organized here in the city of Ottawa. There are in it, I understand, several young doctors and two or three young lawyers, and the public is told broadly that there are public men in high places associated with these men.

"Hon. Mr. Casgrain: Name them."
 "Hon. Mr. Bradbury: This last statement, hon. gentlemen, I am not ready to believe, but I want to say it is public property and is heard on the streets, and the rumor has gone to such an extent that something must be done to clear up this question and clear the names of these honorable gentlemen who are to-day resting under a cloud, in the opinion of many men in this city and a number of men in this Cham-

"To my mind, the gentlemen who, as I have already said, have associated themselves together in this syndicate, deserve absolutely no sympathy from Parliament. They have in no way contributed to the exploration of those lands. They are simply a number of young men who think they see an opportunity of clearing up a lot of very easy money. One of them told me that they had an assignment from the Isenberg people—that they had absolutely got rid of the Isenberg people simply by paying them a sum of money. He did not state how much, but I understand it was very small.

"Now, honorable gentlemen, this is a serious question, outside of the real value of these coal areas and outside of the fact that this Chamber owes to the country the duty of protecting the domain of Canada from the exploitation of men who are ready to take advantage of circumstances in order to obtain a great deal of very easy money."

Senator Bradbury gave a history of the famous conference between representatives of the Senate and Commons last session on this question. He told how the Conservatives had urged on the government to protect the public and he made this startling statement:

"I must say in justice to this House, now that the question is under discussion, that from the moment we went into the Council Chamber the Premier (Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King) of this country, seemed determined that the door should not be locked, but that a fiat might issue."

And a fiat has been issued and the political vultures seem in fair way to gorge themselves on the people's property.

Continuing he made other statements even more damaging and again referred in these terms to the value of the property and the rumors concerning its alienation:

"What I am interested in is to protect for future generations, those great coal areas worth \$100,000,000 or perhaps \$200,000,000. My honorable friend asks, why should they be refused a fiat? I say there has not been a case in my experience in which they would be so thoroughly justified in refusing a fiat as in this case.

"Hon. Mr. Casgrain: Is it because the parties have no case?"

"Hon. Mr. Bradbury: What I am going to say is that, in view of the men who are exploiting the situation to-day, in view of the great number of rumors that are being circulated, this House owes it to itself to appoint a special committee in order to afford an opportunity to clear the names of public men that have been associated with those men on the street. Honorable gentlemen, this has been done openly and brazenly by the men who are exploiting the situation to-day. It is not any political rumor. It is said that those men have the assistance of men in this Chamber and men in the other Chamber. I say in view of that—

"Hon. Mr. Tassier: I do not think it is fair to speak in a general way of rumors, attacking anybody in this Chamber. It means that we may all be under suspicion.

"Hon. Mr. Casgrain: Yes; name them.

"Hon. Mr. Tassier: I think the honorable gentleman ought to name the people. As far as I am concerned, I entirely protest against speaking in that general way. When the honorable gentleman speaks of rumors about anybody in this Chamber, I think it is an insult to the Chamber.

"Hon. Mr. Bradbury: I don't blame the honorable gentleman a bit.

"Hon. Mr. Casgrain: Whom do you blame?"

"Hon. Mr. Bradbury: I don't blame the honorable gentleman, but I say that the only proper way to bring out the information, without my making a statement, is to ask for a special committee; and the government can very well do that, and give the man opportunity of proving their case, and of getting all the evidence regarding this situation."

After this damaging indictment, the government was silent. They did not even answer Senator Bradbury's request for an investigation.

The question in Ottawa is, who will get the plunder? Who will divide the spoils?

One Remedy, Anyway.
 The elder brother came home with his bride, who possessed a face like a lemon peel, as his younger brother described it. Alone with the bridegroom in conversation, the latter said: "Well, she ain't a beauty to look at, is she, Jack?" "No," confessed the groom, "but you must remember beauty is only skin deep." "Well, then," replied the younger, "I'd skin her."

A Word for the Under-Privileged Boy



THE Rotary Club of Montreal, like its sister organizations throughout the continent, is an efficient and effective organization working for the good of the community in which it exists. It has particularly devoted its attention to work among the class of boys that fall under the term "under-privileged." In every great city there are thousands of such lads facing life under grievous handicaps imposed by poverty, or by the more dreadful combination of poverty and such physical or moral surroundings as would be a menace to the strongest.

The task of brightening the lives of these lads and of giving them a fair chance to become good citizens is a grateful one, and the Rotary Club of Montreal has done a splendid work in this connection. It has interested itself in a very practical way in the Boys Home at Shawbridge in the Laurentian Mountains, and has done a great deal for boys throughout the city and district.

The Shawbridge Boys Home is the particular care of E. W. Beatty, President of the Canadian Pacific Railway, who is also president of the Home. He has always taken a great interest in the under-privileged boy, and it was natural, when the Rotary Clubs held their convention in Montreal recently, that he should be asked to address them on that phase of their work.

"Perhaps the saddest thing in the world," said Mr. Beatty, "is the sub-normal boy, or one whose standard of health is low, and no work is greater or more inspiring than that which helps to place the handicapped boy where he can face the world on fairly equal terms with the more fortunate."

Mr. Beatty went on to quote an eminent English educationalist who, although not prejudiced against parents as a class, stated with truth that many parents are not appreciative of the problems of their children, and, not being capable of grappling with their difficulties, do not supply the inspiration that tends to make them the kind of citizens they should grow up to be. "The

under-privileged boy of this class," said Mr. Beatty, "is often precocious but more often he is undeveloped physically and mentally, and therefore not capable of accomplishing his own destiny.

"If the under-privileged boy of the city, born to unfortunate physical environment, is to succeed, he must have that environment made natural and normal as far as possible," said Mr. Beatty, and this, he suggested, argues even more strongly for the supervising care by those in authority, and competent inspection involving sanitary housing no overcrowding and supervised playgrounds, etc. Every boy should for his own sake and for the sake of the community, have the use of the common tools of life or a common school education. A boy should also be taught the incomparable practical and spiritual advantages of honest self-made manhood, he added.

"It has been truly said that the best educated man is the man who has a knowledge of living through contact with those whose problems he shares and whose conditions he understands.... I presume there is no more effectual means of stimulating the interest of a boy than the careers and achievements of men of whom he has heard but of whose personal qualities he knows nothing," and the speaker deplored the fact that biographies and other stories which might influence the boy for good are so written that the human side is left out. He added that the boy "must be taught that the great personal freedom we enjoy under our form of democracy carries with it the responsibility of being and doing our very best. He must learn that there is no virtue without temptation and that the sacredness of righteousness is largely constituted in the effect of the individual or nation to attain it. "This," he said, "is not a work that can be initiated by parliament or made effective by legislation. It requires the personal interest and the friendly contact of the man who can compel the respect and regard of the boy."

J. J. MORRISON A POOR FARMER, SAYS ONE WHO KNOWS HIM

(T. H. Race in Mitchell Advocate.)

I rather hesitate to accept the London Advertiser's report of J. J. Morrison's sayings at a meeting he held in Mr. Drury's constituency last week. What he went in Mr. Drury's riding for, we do not know. But he is reported to have told the farmers down there that they should be ashamed of themselves, because they were ashamed of the industry that gave them their bread. Mr. Morrison is not a fool by any means but if he had to stand up on his record as a farmer he would be the first man to be ashamed of himself. I have passed his farm more than once and I would certainly be ashamed of it if it were mine. Mr. Drury is an able man, mentally, as well as a good, successful farmer. Mr. Morrison is an able man mentally, but a mighty poor farmer. So there you have your choice. I have known them both since childhood and knew their fathers before them. Mr. Drury has not yet made a failure of anything, not even the job he is at now. Mr. Morrison has made a success at organizing the U. F. O. but has made a failure of everything else, especially farming. And he is going to fail in his tilt with Drury.

JUSTICE FOR WEALTHY JEW

(Meaford Mirror.)

Justice has triumphed again. Meyer Brennan, wealthy Jew, sentenced to seven years in the pen. for fraud said to involve \$700,000, is free after serving only one of the seven years.

His father was released from jail after serving but a brief fraction of his sentence.

Officials of the Merchants Bank, one recalls, escaped all penalties for their mismanagement and illegal acts.

This is justice.

Justice is the quality, not of being just, but of "getting away with it"—and the larger the crime the greater justice it would seem.

Small credit to the Liberal Government that it will pardon criminals—if their fraud be large enough or their bank account substantial enough—and let the ordinary offender serve full time without reprieve.

Democratic government is from the people, but a hamstrung justice of this sort is for the privileged ones and for the said influential ones; it has nothing to do with "the people."

Look for the silver lining. One of the nicest things about the month of April is that the very next month is May.

somebody thinks beneficial palmed off on them instead. There was nothing of this about last night's film. The importance of it is that it is a super-film, and it is English—it comes to us from a new source and its success means that it will be followed by others. English-speaking countries will not be dependent as they have been on Los Angeles. And it will be a good thing. It will be a good thing even for Los Angeles.

"The Game of Life" must have been produced at vast cost. The scenes showing processions through the streets of London, at periods as far apart as the Coronation of Victoria and the Diamond Jubilee, with thousands of people costumed according to the differing fashions of the time, must be regarded as achievements in film work. The charge of the Light Brigade at Bala-klava is one of the most thrilling sights ever pictured. Yet all these scenes belong to the plot of the story and play their part in the lives of the characters, whom the audience see at intervals from infancy to t-t-tering old age."

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