

NATURE RESPONSIBLE

FOR DROWNED LANDS IN SEVERAL TOWNSHIPS

The Napanee River Improvement Company Presents its Case Before the Kingston Board of Trade.

A. W. Benjamin and B. S. O'Loughlin, of Yarker, appeared before the Board of Trade on Tuesday evening, representing the Napanee River Improvement company.

We greatly appreciate the courtesy of your board in receiving this delegation this evening, and we will not trespass unduly upon your valuable time.

Let me impress upon you, in the beginning, that the Napanee River Improvement company, is, in no respect, a power company, but it may be more properly termed a conservation company.

From the time the first improvements were undertaken in the early eighties there has been more or less friction between the farmers contiguous to the river and reservoir and the company, but it is only within the last few years that the trouble has assumed acute proportions, brought about in the main by report made by A. J. Halford, engineer of public works, by the Hon. J. C. Reaume, minister of public works, Ontario, dated July 29th, 1910.

Mr. Halford's report, which is a most serious and as Mr. Halford puts it, an intolerable state of affairs. We do not for a moment question Mr. Halford's sincerity and honesty of purpose in making this report, but we do not hesitate to say that he obtained his information from an unreliable and altogether antagonistic source.

As to Loss of Land. Firstly, quoting again from Mr. Halford's report, he says: "The Petworth dam backs the water upon the lands of the township of Camden, a block of land comprising some 14,000 acres, eight thousand acres in the township of Portland and six thousand acres in the township of Hinchinbrooke."

For the township of Hinchinbrooke, please bear this in mind. In August 1912, the farmers in the flooded area, according to arrangements, made upon their behalf, met in Verona, for the purpose of stating their grievances before the commissioners. Mr. Halford, representing the government, Mr. Kirkpatrick representing the farmers' association and Mr. Gibson representing the Napanee River Improvement company.

Ten from the township of Camden, who claimed in the aggregate 550 acres drowned out of 6,000 acres admitted drowned. Twenty-six from the township of Portland, claiming in the aggregate 1,523 acres out of 8,000. As I said before, this whole 14,000 acres is in solid block, and only thirty-six farmers claim to own it.

I appeal to your reason gentlemen and ask you: Do you not think that if this 14,000 acres could be reclaimed and be converted into arable land, would not more than thirty-six good, live, intelligent farmers have gone forward and pressed their claims upon the commission at the very earliest opportunity? I can assure you that this fourteen thousand acres—I do not assume authority for the exact acreage—was always drowned and always will be irrespective of any act of the Napanee River Improvement company. Nature made it what it is and not the Petworth dam.

Regarding Hinchinbrooke. In referring to the township of Hinchinbrooke, Mr. Halford says: "Conditions are not so serious, for the reason that there is not the same extent of flat and low-lying lands. He also sets forth that a large number of the settlers in Hinchinbrooke secured title from the Rathbun company, the company reserving the mineral rights, the timber, to construct dams wherever it chose and to flood the land for any purpose whatever. Having acquired these rights from the Rathbun company, together with the rights and privileges granted us at incorporation, don't you think that we have an undoubted and unquestionable right to flood these lands? How have we exercised these rights?"

On July 8th, 1912, W. D. Black, M.P., wrote the secretary of the Napanee River Improvement company, saying: "I have been requested by a number of the farmers living along the Napanee river, between 3rd and 5th Lakes, to write you asking that water now held in 5th Lake be not let off until said farmers can cut and harvest their marsh hay in that vicinity. This would mean holding it up until about September 1st. I may say that a number of the residents in that vicinity depend largely on these marshes for feed to winter their stock, and the letting

off of the water before the hay is seasoned would mean a serious loss to them. Hoping for a favorable reply to this request, I remain, Yours sincerely, (sgn.) W. D. Black."

Not a word about the flooding of the roads or the terrible stench of the stagnant waters, or the malarial germs that were being disseminated throughout the lands now endangering the lives of those who had no hay to cut. However, I may say that the company gladly and cheerfully granted the request of Mr. Black, and would no doubt have continued the favor for 1913 had there been any occasion, but alas, there was none, the dam having been graciously removed early in the season and long before the tender blades of grass put forth their heads.

The second item for consideration is the roads and, as by evidence that the Petworth dam is not a factor in flooding the roads in Camden and Portland, we have but to refer to the years 1887-1893, when the dam was out entirely. In those years the roads were flooded to the same extent as they were previously and since the dams were replaced, and the fact is, the roads were constructed across the 14,000 acres of swamp, previously referred to and the only remedy is to raise the roads. In Hinchinbrooke, there are only two short pieces of road, and these two and these two sections could be raised above high water for a sum not exceeding \$300.00, and we proposed to the reeve of Hinchinbrooke in 1912, that if the council would raise these two sections, the company would be disposed to make a liberal contribution towards the same. Our offer was treated with silent contempt.

Question of Disease. The third and last item in the bill, refers to the disease-breeding condition of the swamps. Let me quote Mr. Halford's exact words, "Alternate floods of water, at irregular seasons renders this swamp a hot source of malaria." You will note that in this connection he refers to it as a swamp, whereas in the preceding section of his report, he says we back water upon and render entirely useless a block of land comprising 14,000 acres, and at another time he refers to it as the most valuable part of the township. Would good land when dried off, give forth stench and malaria?

I am informed that Dr. Maloney, provincial health officer, confirms this malarial theory. I am also told on good authority, that Dr. Connell, pathologist at Queen's university, says there is not and has not been a case of malaria in this entire district, which should be sufficient to refute the statements of gentlemen, whose sole knowledge of the conditions existing, has been gathered from hearsay sources. In addition, let me refer to the declaration of two reputable practitioners, well known to many of you who speak from long experience.

First, here is the declaration made by Dr. J. H. Aldham, of Yarker: "I, J. H. Aldham, of Yarker, in the township of Camden in the county of Lennox and Addington and the township of Portland in the county of Frontenac, during the past twenty years."

"I am a member of the Board of Health for the township of Camden. My practice has been largely around the drowned lands in the townships above mentioned and I have found them quite immune from malarial or kindred diseases, such as would arise from stagnant or dead water."

"I am familiar with the large area in said drowned lands known as Mud Lake. A large percentage of the bottom of this lake is of organic matter, which in its present condition, covered with a few inches of water, is quite harmless. If this area was made bare by drainage, during the summer months, in my opinion, the resultant decomposition and stench would constitute a menace to the thickly settled community surrounding it."

"I do not think that it would be conducive to the Public Health to have the dams of the Napanee River Improvement company lowered or removed."

This is the declaration of Dr. M. I. Boeman of Newburgh:

"I was a member of the provincial Board of Health for four years, in the township of Camden, in the county of Lennox and Addington, for the past forty years. For the greater portion of that time, my practice was largely around and upon both sides of the lands known as the drowned lands. My experience has shown me that this area has not furnished any more cases of malaria or diseases due to stagnant water than other parts of the township of Camden or the adjoining townships. I have an intimate knowledge of the shallow lake known as Mud Lake and its surroundings. The bottom of this lake has a large percentage of organic matter, which, in its natural condition, covered by water, is inoffensive and innocuous. If this area or a portion of it was made bare, by drainage, then during the summer months in my opinion, the resultant decomposition and stench and the breeding places for mosquitoes thereby furnished would constitute a menace to public health."

So much for the farmers' side of the question.

What the Industries Mean. Now, let us look for a moment, just what the Napanee river means to another section of the community.

There are, now, twenty-two industries established along the river in a distance of fourteen miles. These twenty-two industries represent an investment of over \$400,000, for machinery and plant. They generate and utilize 1,350 horsepower. They furnish employment to 250 skilled mechanics earning from \$2 to \$4 a day. The annual pay roll of these twenty-two industries is at least \$150,000. In addition to this the employees engaged in the several industries own real estate worth \$100,000, or in excess of that amount, which if the mills were closed or removed to other locations, would be worthless. This \$100,000 represents the life savings of a large number of men.

The villages along the river are dependent almost entirely upon these industries, particularly the merchants. It is estimated that the merchants and grist mills in these several villages, buy from the people of King-

ston from seventy-five to one hundred thousand dollars worth of goods every year, to say nothing of the business done with the retailer. The town of Napanee is even a larger buyer than the villages combined, so, it is no stretch of the imagination to say that the mercantile trade of the Napanee river valley is worth to the town of Kingston, on a very conservative estimate, \$200,000 per annum. I do not mean to say Mr. President and Gentlemen, that in the event of any calamity befalling these industries that Kingston would suffer to the full extent of the sales they now enjoy, but I do say that if the annual pay roll of these industries to the extent of \$100,000 or \$150,000, was withdrawn or suspended, that Kingston would suffer very materially in consequence, for it is a well known fact that the volume of trade in any country, state, community or individual is in exact ratio to their purchasing power.

Mr. President and Gentlemen, we have tried to present this whole question to you in a fair, honest and unbiased manner and we submit in conclusion that the declaration of the two medical men that we have produced, clearly establishes the health condition and exonerates the company from charge or responsibility. The geographical condition of the country is responsible for the road conditions during the early spring freshets, and the remedy is easily at hand of the several municipalities.

The claim of the farmers for damaged and flooded lands is, we believe, imaginary and without merit, but admitting for the sake of argument that a portion of all of these lands, comprising as they themselves estimate, 3,119 acres, were reclaimed, their value, as estimated by a competent engineer, range in price from zero to \$10 per acre. Supposing, then, that we take \$5 as a fair average, it would represent in dollars and cents for this 3,119 acres \$15,595. Compare the intrinsic value of this land with the vested rights of the Napanee River Improvement company.

Company, expended on dams, lands, maintenance, etc., \$50,000; individual mill owners investment in plant and machinery, \$400,000; employees invested in real-estate, \$100,000; total, \$550,000.

Take this in conjunction with an annual expenditure of \$150,000 for labor and we think we are justified in bringing this matter to your attention and to the attention of the government and ask that our interests be not only preserved in their entirety but that they be protected from further acts of vandalism, incendiarism and dynamiting, as foreshadowed in the letter of E. N. Parks, under date of December 23rd, 1913, wherein he says: "The Fifth Lake dam and a number of others down the stream have been dynamited a number of times, and it is expected they will be blown out again, if ever rebuilt, no matter how strongly constructed or fortified."



ALFRED HEMMING Who comes with Lawrence Brough in "The Grand Old" at the Grand on Saturday, Jan. 17th, matinee and night.

STORM FORD MOTOR WORKS

10,000 Seek Employment Under Profit Sharing Scheme

Detroit, Mich., Jan. 14.—A crowd of men, estimated at 10,000, seeking employment at the plant of the Ford Motor company, started serious rioting when they were told, after they had stood in the freezing cold for several hours, that work could not be given them. An officer was knocked down, his clothes partially torn off, and bricks and other missiles were hurled through the windows of the factory. After a fire hose had been turned on the crowd the rioters dispersed. Five arrests were made.

The efforts of a policeman to turn the crowd away from the factory doors started the trouble. "We can't stand here and freeze to death," shouted some of the leaders, and a concerted rush was made toward the building entrance. Several hundred men managed to enter the plant before the trouble makers were under control. The thermometer registered nine degrees above zero and many of the men had been standing in line since long before daylight.

The new, twenty-two industries along the river in a distance of fourteen miles. These twenty-two industries represent an investment of over \$400,000, for machinery and plant. They generate and utilize 1,350 horsepower. They furnish employment to 250 skilled mechanics earning from \$2 to \$4 a day. The annual pay roll of these twenty-two industries is at least \$150,000. In addition to this the employees engaged in the several industries own real estate worth \$100,000, or in excess of that amount, which if the mills were closed or removed to other locations, would be worthless. This \$100,000 represents the life savings of a large number of men.

The villages along the river are dependent almost entirely upon these industries, particularly the merchants. It is estimated that the merchants and grist mills in these several villages, buy from the people of King-

ston from seventy-five to one hundred thousand dollars worth of goods every year, to say nothing of the business done with the retailer. The town of Napanee is even a larger buyer than the villages combined, so, it is no stretch of the imagination to say that the mercantile trade of the Napanee river valley is worth to the town of Kingston, on a very conservative estimate, \$200,000 per annum. I do not mean to say Mr. President and Gentlemen, that in the event of any calamity befalling these industries that Kingston would suffer very materially in consequence, for it is a well known fact that the volume of trade in any country, state, community or individual is in exact ratio to their purchasing power.

MAY HAVE NO TEAM

IF WAR OFFICE SUBSTITUTES SERVICE TARGETS

Says Col. Sam. Hughes—Waiting Out of Aperture Sight is Canada's Chief Objection.

Ottawa, Jan. 14.—As foreshadowed, no Canadian team will be sent to Bielefeld this summer if the war office persists in its attempt to revolutionize the conditions governing the king's prize and other leading competitions at Bielefeld.

As noted some days ago, the element at the war office which desires to substitute so-called active service targets for the present bull's-eye variety obtained sufficient control to require change of the conditions of the leading matches. In part this was effected by "service" target, in part by the introduction of rapid firing at certain stages, and in part by the forbidding of the aperture sight.

Colonel Hughes, who during the holidays was in the west, returned the other day and took stock of the situation. His decision was rapidly reached. If the proposals made by the war office are insisted upon Canada will not send a team.

What particularly attracted the attention of the minister was the proposal to bar the aperture sight. This seems to be aimed directly at the Canadian service weapon, for its design is such that the aperture sight is essential to its use; there is no middle sight and no place for it, the rear sight being an aperture sight. If this sight is forbidden the Canadian rifle cannot be used. Colonel Hughes also disapproves heartily of the so-called active service target. As in all branches of knowledge, the teaching of rifle shooting should proceed from the known to the unknown, and individual skill, for the testing of which Bielefeld exists, can best be proved by the bull's-eye target.

Methodist Missionaries III. Vancouver, B.C., Jan. 14.—Rev. Dr. Thomas Crosby, foremost among the early Methodist missionaries of British Columbia, is lying at the point of death at his Kitlingo home. Within a few blocks of him are also lying ill Rev. A. Green and Dr. Bolton, both former missionaries of the Methodist church. Dr. Bolton is not expected to recover, but Mr. Green is convalescent.

You Pay Less Here

THE SUIT HOUSE THE COAT HOUSE MENDELS

OUR STOCK-REDUCING SALE

Is Now In Full Swing

Every article in the store reduced to clearing prices, prior to stock taking. If you are missing many snaps—

COME TO-MORROW

You will be surprised how far your dollars will go here during this Sale.

132-134 MENDELS Princess St. Kingston's only exclusive ladies ready-to-wear store. T. J. O'Connor Phone 532 Sales Manager.

SPECIALS For Week of Jan. 14-21 Living Musical Box. You have never listened to such deep-throated melody and such thrilling runs as these lovely songsters produce and maintain all day long. Imported from France. Regular price \$2.00 each. German Trained Roller Warming Canaries, in full song. Regular price \$2.00 to \$2.50. Yorkshire Canaries, mostly all deep yellow, from 6 to 8 inches long. Regular value from \$2.00 to \$3.00. English Bullfinches, piped, handsomely plumaged and trained singers. Regular price \$2.45. English and Russian Goldfinches, handsomely plumaged. Regular \$4.99 value, this sale \$1.99. Imported French Toy Poodle Puppies, very choice, pure white. \$12.50. Australian Lovebirds, known as the handsomest of all cage birds. A \$10.00 value, a pair \$5.99. Imported Harris Mountain Female Canaries, each \$1.00. Large Breeding Cages with partition and seed guard and four feed and water cups. Regular \$2.00 value, for \$1.00. A Laundered Brass Cage with metal tipped perches. A \$2.00 value at \$1.00. Parrots \$8.48 Each. We are in receipt of a shipment of 200 MEXICAN DOUBLE YELLOW-HEADED PARROTS, known as the king of the parrot family. These birds are magnificently plumaged, being of a beautiful green color, red and blue feathers appearing in the wings and tail. The forehead is characterized by deep yellow feathers, thus giving the birds their name. Their size is about 15 inches. These birds are generally held at from \$18.00 to \$40.00 by stores who do not handle such great quantities of them as we do. We have decided to sell these birds at the remarkably low price of \$8.48 each, because we wish to increase our mail order business by letting our parrots do the talking for us. Write for one early, as we have only 200 of them at that price. Parrot Cages, \$2.25 each. We guarantee safe delivery to any express office in Canada. ONTARIO BIRD STORE 27 YONGE STREET ARCADE, TORONTO, ONT.

108 NOX A COLD. 108 is the number of the prescription once subscribed by a wonderful doctor. It stops a cough, relieves asthma and bronchitis, and is good for all lung and throat trouble. The best cough medicine for children, try it. 25c. per bottle. All drug stores. Mahood's Drug Store.

Furniture! Furniture! 15 to 20% off all Xmas and Fancy Goods. R. J. REID Leading Undertaker Phone 577

Schlitz Brown Bottle Claims Authenticated

by Dr. Robert Wahl, President of the Wahl-Henius Institute of Fermentology. We reprint from his letter.

"Our observations, extending over the last twenty-five years, have convinced us beyond a doubt that exposure of beer to light has a very detrimental influence on its quality generally, but especially upon the flavor of the beer. We have tested beers repeatedly in this direction, placing the bottles into direct sunlight, and testing the same after one, two, three and five minutes exposure, found that the beer with three and five minutes exposure became undrinkable, on account of the peculiar odor developed. The detrimental effect of light upon beer can be successfully counteracted by the employment of brown or dark colored glass bottles, and such bottles are therefore recommendable."

He quotes famous authorities to corroborate his opinion. Authorities on the subject of the detrimental influence of light on beer are: C. Lintner, Lehrbuch der Bierbrauerei 1875, S. 343. Beck, Zeitschrift für das gesamte Brauwesen, 1882, S. 370. V. Huth, Der Bierbrauer 1876, S. 127. Ney, Allg. Zeitschr. f. Bierbr. u. Malzfabr., 1878, S. 273.

Light cannot harm Schlitz in Brown Bottles. It is made pure and then kept pure.

Schlitz The Beer That Made Milwaukee Famous. Telephone No. 243 Rigney & Hickey, 126-128 Princess Street, Kingston, Ont.