

THE DAILY NEWS

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DAILY EDITION

Wednesday, Jan. 28, 1914

The present civic administration came into office by a fusion of the basest motives. In this they were assisted by the ever popular cry of "Down with the corporations." Consequently the decision of the people appears to be strongly in favor of public ownership. With this The News finds no fault. "Vox populi vox Dei"—"The voice of the people is the voice of God."

While the people have most decidedly given their approval of public ownership, it is quite another thing to decide what form that policy shall take. There are few people in Prince Rupert who will go as far as Mr. Cy Peck when he said that he would favor public ownership should the cost be double that of the private corporations. It is well known that Mr. Peck does not carry that principle into his own private business. There are very few experts, however, who would harness a stream of half the required capacity when the proper amount of power could as well be had?

Woodworth Lake at best can develop only about 2,500 horse power. Wark's Channel is known to contain 10,000. The same initial cost—apart from a little extra pole line—will install a plant in either

place. What madness to proceed with the smaller stream. It is just like a farmer trucking his products to market in a wheelbarrow when he could as well send them by train. It looks, however, as if the main-spring of the present council was of the wheelbarrow variety. It will not do to say that Wark's Channel power is not yet granted. According to William Manson it is reserved for the city, and why not take steps to secure it?

This paper has no intention of following the knocking methods of last year's opposition. In order to do that successfully a person must be a born "knocker," and The News does not belong to that class. Every question will be considered on its merits, and praise will not be withheld whenever it is deserved. On one issue at least it is to be hoped we shall all agree, viz.: the advancement of our common good. With that end in view the council will receive all loyal support in any assistance they may see fit to offer for legitimate publicity. A grant of \$10,000 would be none too much and would go a long way toward inducing the proper class of people to take up their abode in our midst.



BEDROOM IN TORONTO GENERAL HOSPITAL OCCUPIED BY SIR JAMES WHITNEY

The premier arrived in Toronto on the morning of the 19th of January as a big surprise to the public. He came the 500 miles from New York in his private car and was transferred to the General Hospital, and is occupying the above bedroom. Sir James shows no ill effects of the journey at the time of writing, and the hope is that he will recover under homelike conditions.

PROVINCE HAS POTLATCHED RESOURCES, SAYS WILLIAMS

CLAIMS GOVERNMENT SUPPORTERS ARE INFECTED WITH PREMIER WORSHIP—CONDITIONS ARE DUE TO THE BOUNTY OF NATURE AND MERCY OF GOD

"Premier worship" was the phrase coined by Parker Williams in the legislature last week to describe the attitude of government supporters toward their leader.

The disposition to worship the premier is a marked characteristic of his followers, said Mr. Williams in continuing the debate on the address in reply to the speech from the throne. The premier receives their flattering remarks with becoming modesty. This premier worship has been a matter of growth, becoming more and more extravagant year by year. It has come to the point that conditions and results are attributed to Sir Richard which are "wholly and solely due to the bounty of Nature and the mercy of God," said Mr. Williams.

"We refuse, however, to waste our time glorifying the premier, and we refuse to give him credit for that which should be credited to the forces of Nature. We believe our mission here is to deal with these matters which need remedying and those conditions which may be improved to benefit the people, and not to tickle the vanity of the premier. There are feeble-minded folk," continued Mr. Williams, "who think he can raise the price of copper at will, or back one's note without impairing his own credit. Men who have payments overdue on lands bought from the government are prone to rise and sing 'God Save the King' when the premier comes in, but they have in mind their own interests and are currying favor with the premier, with that end in view."

Turning to the debate on the address, the speaker criticized the member for Dewdney, who, he said, "the other day treated the house to a sort of mental lango for an hour or so," mainly because some people had dared to press upon the electors in the islands riding in the recent election the claims of a candidate other than the government's choice. It appeared that the member for Dewdney had no conception that the people might

want some other representative. There was a definite attempt, Mr. Williams charged, to blacklist any one not in accord with the government. In the recent case of the Islands election, certain people from Victoria who had taken part, had too much influence, so the blacklist had not worked in that instance. "What is the matter with the disenabling bill," suggested Mr. Williams humorously, "to prevent any one running against a government candidate?"

"The member for Dewdney has lauded the premier for saving the province," said Mr. Williams. "Well, I have heard that story so often that I can repeat it backwards. The description of the condition of this province when the present government took hold of it, and of the services of the premier in saving it put me in mind of the description of the world at the time of creation—'And the world was without form, and void, and darkness covered the face of the waters.'"

Pursuing his criticism of the remarks of the member for Dewdney, Mr. Williams pointed out that he had been safe when he stuck to generalities, but had made one mistake when he went into figures for the purposes of comparison of conditions in 1903, when the government took office, and 1913. He had tried to show that the difference in revenue in 1903 and 1913 proved prosperity. But he had overlooked the question of overdraft. In 1903 we were familiar with the statement, the overdraft had been one million dollars. But take the public accounts, and it showed that the overdraft in 1913 was one and one-half million dollars. "In other words, we were just a half-million dollars further in the hole than in 1903, which is a fair deduction," said Mr. Williams.

"More than that, there is a thousand times less excuse now than ten years ago," asserted Mr. Williams. "Had previous governments been disposed to sell the resources of the province they could have had more in the

treasury. No government is broke when it had resources as large as the government of this province had ten years ago. This government has 'potlatched' the resources of the province in the past ten years."

Big Cargo Halibut

Yesterday the trawler James Carruthers, belonging to the Canadian Fish & Cold Storage Co.'s fleet, pulled into the company's dock with a cargo of 100,000 lbs. of halibut. This is the first big cargo in for some time, as very little fishing has been done owing to the rough weather. The Carruthers threw their gear out from the trawler itself, as it was too rough for the dories. The catch was very successful and will encourage that method of fishing.

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