

THE DAILY NEWS
THE LEADING NEWSPAPER IN NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA
Published Daily and Weekly
Guaranteed Largest Circulation

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HEAD OFFICE
Daily News Building, 3rd Ave., Prince Rupert, B.C. Telephone 98.

TRANSIENT DISPLAY ADVERTISING—50 cents per inch. Contract rates on application.

DAILY EDITION  Friday, February 12, 1915.

EDITORIALS

Premier McBride complains that criticism of the Provincial government in connection with the Dominion Trust failure will damage the credit of British Columbia. Could anything be farther from the truth?

The only thing that can hurt the credit of British Columbia is a lie. The Dominion Trust was a colossal lie. It was a huge balloon, inflated with real estate hot air, masquerading as a solid business structure. Its collapse damaged the credit of British Columbia, but the damaging fact today is not that it collapsed, but that it was allowed to exist. The only thing that can re-establish the credit of British Columbia is a searching post-mortem examination.

It is futile for the Attorney General to lay so much of the blame on the late managing director of the Trust. There were others. The men who put the late W. R. Arnold in power knew, or ought to have known, that he was not a genius, but a lucky speculator. If the other directors knew the true state of affairs during the last two years, they were guilty of a crime; if they did not know, they were criminally guilty. The heart of the lie must be laid bare, and the men responsible for it swept from public life forever.

A lie cannot face the absolute truth and live. Can the McBride government face the truth? Can it face the truth about the Songhees Reserve deal and live? Can it face the truth about the Kitsilano Reserve deal and live? Is it afraid to face the truth about the Dominion Trust lie? In spite of the ravages of the McBride government, the credit of British Columbia is still strong enough to face the truth, and will be stronger when the lies

hidden by the present government have been torn up by the roots, labelled McBride, Bowser & Co., and consigned with these gentlemen into an ignominious oblivion.

According to rumor, the people of British Columbia will be asked for their verdict on the present mal-administration in April. Its great weakness has been its strength; it had so much rope that it carried out the proverbial hanging operation. It will go down to history as an example of how not to govern. Autocratic political bossism must give place to government of the people, for the people, by the people. For years the political bosses throughout the province have kept the machinery well oiled, but some of the sand of the Songhees and Kitsilano Reserves has got into the bearings and there is not enough oil left to wash it out. The jarring is causing shivers along Sir Dick's spine and he is casting longing eyes on a quiet, peaceful corner in Ottawa, where trusts will do no bursting and critics will be kind.

The report that Premier McBride is to resign from the provincial arena and contest New Westminster for the Federal House is probably well founded. There is no doubt that Sir Richard views the prospects of the party in British Columbia with grave alarm, and to suffer a defeat while he is in the leadership of the party would mean a loss of prestige to him which is altogether certain he could not recover. The personal equation is therefore a strong one. At the same time, there is another reason which leads to the conclusion that Sir Dick is about to try to enter the Dominion House. Mackenzie & Mann, having bled this province dry, are anxious to secure Sir Richard's willing services at Ottawa. At the next session at Ottawa, it is certain that Mackenzie & Mann will again appeal for financial assistance; and who could better serve their purposes than our Provincial Premier, Sir Richard McBride.

The country is far from through with Mackenzie & Mann yet. The burden which they have been able to impose upon the country will have to be borne for generations to come. The people of this prov-

ince are at last waking up to the position in which our native son, Sir Dick, has placed this province at the behest of Mackenzie & Mann, but this realization will be brought home in much more forceful manner when the guarantees have to be met, as they will next year. Sir Richard wants to make a get-away before that time arrives and if he ever lands in the Federal House it is dollars to the hole in the doughnut that he will be found championing the cause of Mackenzie & Mann for further tens of millions.

EIGHT-HOUR DAY VS. NINE-HOUR DAY

Mr. Henry Ford, of Detroit, is not merely a manufacturer, but a sociological experimenter. A year ago he started two experiments, and lately, to the "Federal Industrial Commission," he reported progress in both. One was paying to his employees a percentage dividend out of the profits of his motor car company for the year; the other was the substitution of an eight-hour day for a nine-hour day in the case of workmen. With the intelligence and accuracy that have made his business a phenomenal success he has carried on observations through the year, and there is no reason to doubt the soundness of his conclusions. There has been an improvement in the economic condition of the employees that is not due to the actual receipts of their share of the profits: an increase of a hundred and thirty per cent. in bank accounts, of eighty-six per cent. in the value of houses owned. In other words, there has been a marked advance in the practice of thrift, in confutation of these pessimists who predicted last year that Mr. Ford's cash donations would put a premium on profligacy. A like result has been noticed in Great Britain from the payment of old-age pensions.

Still more striking is Mr Ford's testimony regarding the effect of the eight-hour day change: the increased efficiency of the men has been from fifteen to twenty per cent. in the amount of work produced. That is to say, each man on the average has done more work by more than one-sixth in eight hours than he used to do in nine, and furthermore, the daily absences from work have decreased from ten per cent. to three-tenths of one per cent. This seems to indicate that the proper division of the twenty-four hours is into eight hours for work, eight hours for rest and eight hours for recreation. There can be no doubt as to the beneficial effect of such an arrangement in promoting effective longevity. All this should be surprising, and will not be so to those who have paid close attention to the influence exerted by the mind on the efficiency of the body. The feeling of fatigue, which is so destructive of efficiency, is psychological rather than physiological. The result of Mr. Ford's first year of experimentation foreshadows for him a high place among sociological reformers.—Toronto Star.

CRACOW AND WARSAW ARE OPPOSING KEYS

Mr. Hillaire Belloc gave a lucid explanation of the main features of the war to a crowded audience in the Queen's Hall. He showed where the fate of the campaign is being decided, and why Cracow and Warsaw are so important.

"In the present phase of the war the task of the Allies in the west between the Swiss mountains and the North Sea is to contain the enemy. There must come a time when an advance will be ordered; but for the moment the task of the Allies in the west is the dull, necessary, hard task of holding as many as possible of the enemy. Theirs is the hardest moral duty of all—the duty of waiting under the strain.

The Detached Reserve.

"Meanwhile, in the east, in Poland and upon the Serbian frontiers, the fate of the campaign is now being decided. On the campaign in Poland mainly depends whether the war is to be a very long and wholly destructive business or a comparatively short war and one from which the civilization for which we are fighting may re-arise. It must, however, be remembered that in the west the Allies are not only containing the enemy, but are preparing a vast reserve against him. The doctrine of the 'detached reserve' is the soul of French strategy. The new army and the Territorials in this country are part of the reserve. The British fleet is part of it. This keeping back of a great reserve irritates civilian opinion and exasperates even military opinion, but if it is held back until the right moment and then launched the victory will be decisive.

Importance of Cracow.

"There were," said Mr. Belloc, "in the east three theatres of war. Two—the East Prussian boundary and Serbia—were subsidiary. The primary field was the ancient kingdom of Poland. Two things were essential to either combatant, and both were Polish towns—Cracow, the ancient and sacred capital of the Poles, and Warsaw, their wealthy and modern capital. The fortress of Cracow in the south blocked the way to Silesia. The depot of Warsaw, flanked by its two fortresses of Ivangorod and Novo Georgievsk, controlled the railway communi-

cations of the Russians. Let the Germans possess Cracow and they would at once make any prolonged and successful campaign of the Russians against Germany, if not against Austria, impossible until Warsaw was recovered.

"Cracow, being the door to Silesia, was essential to Germany and Austria at this moment. Just beyond Cracow there lay through old Silesia to the left the great highway to Vienna, the Moravian gap between the Carpathian and the Bohemian hills, while to the left lay the high road to Berlin behind the Oder and the frontier fortifications. More than that, Silesia was the South Lancashire of Prussia. Let a Russian army occupy Silesia and all mercantile Germany would be struck at the heart. Again, on a smaller but very intense scale, Silesia represented the great landed aristocracy, the second material wing of the modern German Empire. The estates of Pless, Liegnow, and many others would be found within a cavalry ride of the frontier, and if an enemy's cavalry ride over your land it is not only a ride."

Importance of Warsaw.

"Warsaw was essential because there converged the railway communications upon which any Polish campaign depended. To understand what Warsaw meant one must see the Vistula—a stream not only broad, but deep, across which bridges were extremely rare. It carried all the merchandise and life of its valley. Hold Warsaw and no one could hold the line of the Vistula against you.

"Germany had made her great bid for Warsaw and had hitherto failed. Russia had had Cracow within a week of her grasp, and once, it seemed, within a day or two, and had twice been foiled. This double failure on both sides was responsible for the indeterminate character of the eastern campaign."

THE WEATHER.

By F. W. Dowling, Observer.

(5 a. m., Friday, Feb. 12, 1915.)
Barometer 30.038
Max. temp. 41.0
Min. temp. 30.0
Rainfall06

Some fellows join the navy to see the sights and others get jobs as icemen.

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This picture shows a sign erected at Southgate, England, on some building ground. The new buildings are to have bomb-proof cellars, likely in anticipation of a visit from the Germans.

