

Daniell's Statement Regarding the Recent Libel Suit

John Hill, Jr., of the Chicago Board of Trade, Reviews the Situation.

On Friday, the eighteenth day of October, in the criminal assize court at Kamloops, the editor of The Herald was found guilty of criminal libel. The case, which terminated so disastrously for The Herald, was the outcome of a campaign into which this paper has been forced by a chain of circumstances familiar to our readers. We do not intend to resurrect the history of this campaign, neither is it our intention to fill the columns of this journal with lamentations over the fate of the libel case, or with the voluminous material which we have gathered prior to and during the progress of the recent proceedings, in support of our old attacks upon the man who brought the case into court, one George John Hammond.

Let it suffice for us to say that The Herald went into this fight alone. That there was never anything in it for us but the gratification of knowing that we were modifying the disastrous effect of indiscriminate, misleading advertising literature which was flooding the continent regarding Fort George, and the belief that the future would justify our attitude—a belief which we still adhere to in spite of the verdict returned against us in the Kamloops court. We went up against the bankroll of a man who has accumulated a vast fortune in the operations to which we took exception. Our business was badly affected by our determination to carry the fight into the last ditch, and the libel proceedings instituted against us have cost this journal thousands of dollars. In spite of the assertions made by the organs controlled by Hammond there is but one interested party in the Northern Interior Printing Company, Ltd., owners of The Herald, and he is the man who conducted the fight against the interests, and we say here and now that NOT ONE DOLLAR HAS EVER BEEN CONTRIBUTED TOWARD THE HERALD'S CAMPAIGN FUND BY ANY PERSON WHATSOEVER. We admit that in order to meet the heavy demands upon our resources during the campaign we have been assisted in our financial affairs by many gentlemen who appreciated our position and who had confidence in our policy, but this money is to be repaid with interest. It was our fight. We took all the chances. We have lost; so be it.

There are many circumstances in connection with the case which we would like to refer to at length—circumstances which would place our version of the story in a light which would command general public respect for our work, and appreciation of the facts which induced us to follow the line of action pursued by this journal in the past. But in spite of everything we can say now the fact remains that twelve fellow-countrymen of ours filed into court at Kamloops and found that the editor was "guilty as found in the indictment." The public look at results; we lost the case, the editor was subjected to a withering address from the bench, and he walked out of the courtroom with the stigma of a nominal sentence upon him. The fact that the prosecution feared to allow the case to go to trial where the operations of both the complainant and the defendant are matters of common knowledge; that we were not allowed to present documentary evidence on which we largely relied to substantiate our charges, and that we were hampered by limited financial resources, did not enter into the consideration of the proceedings. It was a question of law and justice, and the law seemed to have the best of the deal. And so we bow to the decision of the twelve fellow-countrymen; and we shall refrain from publishing the evidence which we were not allowed to introduce at the trial, for this is a paper with rather high ideals for a country newspaper on the outskirts of civilization, and it shall not be said that we are poor losers, or that we seek redress by utilizing the columns for which our subscribers pay in a long explanation of facts in support of our version of the affair. We leave the public to judge for themselves. There is a regular method of redress open to us.

Before we lay the story of Mr. Hammond and his operations amongst our record of subjects which do not justify further discussion (for the development of this country has obviated the necessity of future reference to his townsite operations, and his advertising campaign is now a thing of the past) we must dwell upon some matters in connection with the trial which have been so shamefully misrepresented that in justice to the people who support this paper and to the gentlemen involved we must publish our story.

In the bill of indictment prepared by George Hammond's attorneys in the case against us, exception was taken to references we had made about the past record of the complainant. In order to verify all the information we had received on the subject J. B. Daniell visited the States last summer and made arrangements with a gentleman named John Hill, Jr., of Chicago, to appear before a commission in Chicago, with other witnesses, and give evidence which would support our statements. The commission failed to materialize owing to the fact that an official of the court did not send the necessary papers to Chicago in time to have the testimony taken and to get the papers back in time for the case. We, therefore, telegraphed Mr. Hill asking him to come west armed with documentary evidence and testify in our behalf. John Hill, Jr., has been a member of the Chicago Board of Trade for over 25 years. He was chairman of the "bucket-shop" committee whose duties

were to protect cash grain and to safeguard legitimate speculation by prosecuting the bucket-shops in Chicago. That his efforts were successful, and were appreciated by the Board of Trade of the city of Chicago may be gathered from the following resolution adopted by the Board of Trade Jan. 13th, 1902:

"Resolved: That the thanks of the officers and members of the Board of Trade of the City of Chicago in annual meeting here assembled are hereby tendered to Mr. John Hill, Jr., for his determined, unfaltering, courageous and successful efforts for the suppression of bucket-shops and of every form of uncommercial conduct."

"Resolved, that a copy of the above be sent to Mr. John Hill, Jr."

In addition to his work on the Board of Trade Mr. Hill was also Chairman of the Civic Federation Committee of Chicago. His work for this organization was the suppression of gambling. In order to secure evidence against the gamblers Hill had to employ low characters. It was noticeable in Kamloops that Hill's testimony regarding Hammond was not disputed, S. S. Taylor, a business associate of Hammond's and his star lawyer, confining himself to trying to impeach Hill's testimony by referring to the so-called crooks that Hill had employed. On the 17th of August, 1898, Hill's house was dynamited, and his wife and himself narrowly escaped with their lives. The police circulated reports to the effect that Hill had dynamited his own house for advertising purposes, and color was lent to this theory by the Chicago Inter-Ocean, a paper then performing similar services for the gamblers and bucket-shop men of Chicago, to those rendered townsite promoters by such sheets as the Fort George Tribune, the Vancouver Saturday Sunset or the Victoria Week.

We have on our files the reports of the Chicago Record, the Chicago Times-Herald, the Chicago Tribune, the Chicago Evening Post, and the Chicago Daily News reporting how the grand jury had denounced the charges made against Hill and censured the police. Mr. Hill has been held up to all sorts of abuse by the organs which champion Hammond's cause.

Some time ago we received the following letter from Chicago, and we publish it verbatim. It is an expression of opinion which may not meet with the approval of everyone who reads it, but we think that it will interest our readers, as the charges it contains are laid by a man who has made a long study of speculation. We print the letter hereunder, as it is evidently intended for publication by the sender:

Chicago, October 31, 1912

Dear Mr. Daniell:

I arrived in Chicago Friday evening October 15th; it required almost a week to return from Vancouver, as I met with numerous delays. I hasten to write you at the earliest opportunity as I wish to convey to you my impression gained by a three weeks' sojourn in British Columbia.

It was my first visit to that part of the world and I must confess that I am disappointed in your people and their methods in so far as I was able to get their attitude toward the investor in, and the promoter of townsite, farm and orchard properties.

The opportunity given me to analyze this situation was unusually favorable owing to my work in your defense in the case of George J. Hammond, President of the Natural Resources Security Co., Ltd. against you for libel. I made a close study of the methods of the promoters and the claims they make for their respective townsites, etc.

To say that I am surprised, does not express fully the effect upon me of the information I have gleaned, rather say that I am dumfounded. That British Columbia cannot see that this townsite, orchard, farm boom spells disaster, leads me to believe that your lawmakers and courts are hypnotized by the glamour that the promoter's bankroll sheds over his operations.

The newspapers the world over seem to have become "creatures of advertisers," so that, while the bankrolls are working, the public will not be informed in a conscientious manner of the true conditions.

That you were out of step with the times has been proven against you. You did not realize the true functions of the present day newspaper, which is to take the advertiser's money and "be good."

Although convicted of libel you will at no distant day be thanked by thousands whom your campaign have saved from loss.

In the crude frontier days "bunco-steerers" and "cappers" directed the public to gambling dens, urged them to "take a chance at a square game, etc." Progress and civic pride have wiped out that element, but in Vancouver "spider and fly" method of selling townsite lots to the chance passerby, who is attracted by a gaudily dressed window on the business thoroughfares is as heartless a business as that of the bunco-steerer.

Taking the spider and fly method, in connection with the selling of lots by mail to residents of the States, of England, and of Eastern Canada, by means of flashy and deceptive literature, "follow up" letters, etc., the whole business savors of fraud. It is worse than the old get-rich-quick schemes, which have been driven out of the United States by the postal authorities and federal prosecutions.

It speaks well for your moral stamina that you have not

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REAL ESTATE ACTIVITY IS VERY MARKED

There has been considerable activity in the local real estate market recently, the sales affecting close-in acreage principally. Mr. John Bronger sold his pre-emption, District Lot 2440, to an Edmonton real estate firm for \$200 an acre. This acreage is situated directly across from the northwestern section of the Indian reserve on the Nechaco.

Mr. W. F. Cooke, of the Northern Lumber Co., sold Lot 1433, a quarter section of land half a mile west of "Fort George Centre," to the south of the Collins Addition, for an equal sum.

Indications point to a growing demand for close-in acreage, and we believe that very large figures will be paid as such property changes hands en bloc in the future.

BIG MINERAL PROSPECTS IN THIS DISTRICT

Edmonton Alta., Dec. 1.—Mineral wealth is in evidence everywhere in the Fraser valley, said G. L. McDonnell, a prospector, on returning to Edmonton from western British Columbia, where he was sent by an English syndicate to report upon the mining possibilities. He walked from Mile 140 to Mile 53 over the grade for the Grand Trunk Pacific railway. The trip was a rough one, he added, but it was interesting from the fact that the scenery is more picturesque than that in the Kicking Horse Pass of the Rockies.

"With the completion of the Grand Trunk Pacific through the mountains," Mr. McDonnell said, "the old Cariboo will return to its former fame as a producing district. Barkerville is not likely to come back but other camps will spring up. Fort George seems destined to be the center of the next big gold mining development.

"Prospectors, who know every foot of the country, believe there is much gold there, saying that the old-time miners only quit when placer mining gave out; they had no apparatus or process to reduce the quartz. Now new possibilities arise."

For obvious reasons Mr. McDonnell was reticent. He would not give exact locations. However, he said that silver and lead are plentiful, also that copper shows strong on out-croppings, adding: "Prospectors say gold should be there too." He indicated also that his report will be satisfactory to his principals in England.

"The Fraser valley is the most beautiful and interesting of the two routes through the Canadian Rockies," he continued. "It is wider and more expansive than the panorama in the Kicking Horse Pass. On the southern side of the river, say down as far as Mile 100 the mountains are some distance off, their snow-clad peaks silhouetting the sky-line, shutting out that which is beyond. Beyond is the Cariboo country.

"On the other side of the stream, here threatened by the tumbling river of many rapids, and there, where the river suddenly diverts on its bending way for perhaps twenty or thirty miles to the northward, are expanses of timber, the green leafed overtopped with the masses of the amber tints of other hardier woods, all billowing, surging up from the fifty-by-fifty-mile plains until they reach the railway grade, jump it, and in their course climb the mountains until they recede into the barrenness beyond the timber line."

Mr. McDonnell said that between 4000 and 5000 men are working on the new railway in the valley. The ring of their picks and shovels on the shale, the thunder of blasting, the stamping of hundreds of teams: the lowing of hundreds of steers being taken in for food, the crunch of beaching scows heavily laden with supplies; the commingled sounds of all these find no echo outside the mountains which encompass this army of workers.

There was a shortage of fresh meat in several camps visited by Mr. McDonnell, but this is explainable, he says, by the fact that the beef were detained.

The recommendation recently adopted by the Creston and Cranbrook boards of trade, that legislation be enacted varying the conditions under which pre-emptions are procurable in British Columbia is likely to obtain early and favorable consideration by the Lands Department, which is inclined to see merit in the pro-

posal advanced—which is that a smaller money payment and the requirement of additional actual work in the improvement of pre-emptions is to be reviewed at an early date, and changes in the law regarding them are almost certain. At present the department is collecting all data and information bearing on the subject, in which respect the inspectors of pre-emptions will no doubt render valuable assistance. Mr. H. Cathcart, the newly-appointed inspector of agencies, is now on his first official tour of the provincial interior.

Referring to the many references that have appeared in the provincial press of late having

for their text the stated determination of the government to erect a joint traffic and railway bridge in partnership with the G.T.P. railway company, at Fort Fraser, Deputy Minister Foster states that this announced intention of the government is erroneous and decidedly premature.

Correspondence has taken place with the railway company, and the fact has been ascertained that that company is willing to be joined by the government in the erection of such a bridge as suggested. It is now the business of the department to investigate fully the question of cost, and ascertain if the joint bridge proposed can be built with no more expense in the governmental contribution than would suffice to erect an independent vehicular traffic bridge, when necessity arises for such a structure.

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followed the mob and become a part and parcel of the dishonest system which is giving a false prosperity to British Columbia. If Hammond alone can sell over two million dollars' worth of Fort George lots to residents of the United States, Eastern Canada and other foreign districts, turning land worth two or three dollars an acre three years ago, into cash at the rate of \$1000 to \$4000 an acre, by simply driving a forest of stakes 25 feet apart in one direction and 120 feet apart in the other direction, (Townsite lots in Fort George are 25x120 feet) and Fort George is similar to the other townsites I see displayed for sale, then the apparent prosperity has no permanency. It will fade away as soon as an outraged public, or some honest public officer, or a powerful newspaper, attacks the system and stops the flow of gold into the real estate shark's maw.

But the pity is that the loss will fall on working men and servant girls who have been induced to buy lots in some land of milk and honey, such as Fort George, where flour is \$28 per barrel, and oats \$3.40 per bushel. Where on October 3rd, 1912, there was no sugar, no bacon, and very little flour for sale, and the railroad is still several hundred miles away; a three-hundred-mile stage ride being necessary if the buyer wishes to view his real estate.

Cruel men like Hammond do not hesitate to mislead the public. His record in the United States has been exceedingly unsavory and his methods in British Columbia differ none from those he used in the United States, where in 1899 at Chicago he formed the Combination Investment company, promising great riches to investors in his pools in grain. So successful was he that within ten months he was able to abscond with a fortune, and when the bankruptcy court closed up the affairs of the company, the report of the referee contained the following reference to Hammond as an officer of the company:

"The proceedings here taken was the filing of a bill by Gallagher, who was one of the officers of the Combination Investment company, which company, I will remark, so far as I have been able to ascertain, was formed for the purpose of fraud, and it certainly was carried on in that spirit. The responsible officers, who appear to have been in charge, have absconded apparently with a large part of the funds, as no explanation has been made of the discrepancy from \$300,000 of debts to \$27,000 of assets. The filing of the bill resulted in the appointment of a receiver and the holding of about \$27,000 in bank, which, were it not for the speedy stoppage by the power of the court, would presumably have been drawn out by these absconding officers."

George J. Hammond was the President of this concern and one of the absconding officers of which there were only two. The creditors number about fifteen hundred, many in Canada.

This ended Hammond's career in Chicago and after a year or more in "retirement" Hammond slipped into Minneapolis and with his partner in the absconding affair formed the Coe Commission Co. As President of the Coe Commission Co. his career in Minneapolis much resembles his present relation to the world of finance in Vancouver. He was dazzling the public by boasting \$800,000 capital and surplus when the Coe Commission Co. went broke, owing several hundred thousand dollars to over a thousand creditors who never received a cent; \$12,000 was all that was left of the boasted \$800,000 and the trustee for the Estate sued Hammond for almost two hundred thousand dollars, the books of the company showing that he had drawn out at least that much in excess of his salary, etc. In the end the help received 27 per cent. of the wages due them at the time of the failure, again Hammond faded away to slip into Vancouver and the confidence of the British Columbians and become President of the Natural Resources Security Co.

The people and the courts of British Columbia back up this notorious swindler even to the extent of convicting you of libel for publishing the truth about him, but I predict that they will apologize to you within twelve months and that Hammond will get his desserts if he does not take the same course that he did with the money of the Combination Investment Company's funds and abscond.

That your conviction was really a victory and a tribute to your courage in refusing to retract or apologize is emphasized by the fact that you have succeeded in making a public record of George J. Hammond's (alias Fred J. Francis) Rogues' Gallery picture taken in May, 1898, when he was arrested for wire-tapping.

His whole record has been that of a swindler, and you were amply provided with proof to convince any fair court of that fact, but evidence, which in our courts would have been accepted without question, especially when offered by the defence, was not permitted to go to the jury.

That the net result of Hammond's operations in British Columbia will equal the results of his various criminal operations in the United States will be your vindication and the shame of your courts and newspapers who now encourage him in his nefarious promotions.

I hope you will continue the fight and the reward is sure to be yours.

Sincerely,

JOHN HILL, JR.

To John B. Daniell,
Editor Fort George Herald,
South Fort George, B.C.

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This property is situated within one mile of the Railway Depot and terminal yards, right across the railway and traffic bridge of the Fort George G. T. P. townsite and Indian Reserve.

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Why?

Because it was the first established post of the H. B. Co., 50 years ago.

Because it was the first selected pre-emption by the early settlers.

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SETTLING FARM LANDS

Mr. H. S. Clements, member for Comox-Atlin, has given notice in the Dominion House of the following resolution:

"That in view of the large areas of agricultural land in British Columbia at present unoccupied and undeveloped, immediate action should be taken by the federal government to encourage agriculture by assisting actual settlement on such lands, and also to establish a small number of experimental farms in British Columbia, particularly in the northern part of the province.

"That the government should take immediate steps to revise the present Indian regulations in British Columbia, with the idea of establishing in that province more industrial schools, and also more systematically and thoroughly develop the reserves held for the Indians in order to furnish them with a higher standard of educational facilities than they at present possess.

"That the members of the federal service in British Columbia are at present receiving salaries that are inadequate for their welfare, considering the high cost of living in the province, and immediate steps should be taken by the government to substantially increase the salaries now paid."

REMOVAL OF STUMPS

The Agricultural Gazette of New South Wales, issued under the direction of the minister of agriculture of that country, says a farmer there has discovered that a mixture of equal parts of sulphuric and nitric acid will destroy a stump of the hardest wood in a few weeks.

The stump of a mahogany tree three feet six inches in diameter was destroyed so completely in five weeks by the use of 12 cents' worth of acid that it could be knocked to pieces with a garden hoe. On the subject of applying the acid, the Gazette says; "The acids are used in equal parts and nothing is added to them. A hole is bored in the stump with a two-inch augur, deep enough to hold the quantity of acid to be used, and then one acid is poured in and the other added. The hole is then plugged airtight with a wooden plug."

A stump three feet in diameter should be treated with about one-half pint of each acid. The nitric acid is poured into the stump first, and the sulphuric acid is added in all cases, and not the reverse. In mixing these acids much heat is generated and care must be taken that not over a half-pint of each is mixed at one time, which must be allowed to cool before any more is added. Both of these acids are extremely corrosive and should not be allowed to come in contact with the person or their clothing.

A run of twenty-one miles over the frozen prairie roads by the Calgary motor fire apparatus saved the business section of the town of Langdon from destruction recently. Fifty-five minutes after the call for help was received in Calgary, the city motor pump was throwing water from a slough on the outskirts of Langdon into the Hicks block, where a general store and stock were consumed. The timely arrival of the Calgary apparatus prevented the spread of the fire into the adjoining buildings.

To Outsiders

Reliable information given on anything in Fort George district. Property looked after. Real estate reference A1.

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LOCAL AND DISTRICT

John A. Fraser, M.P.P., who has recently returned to Quesnel from a trip to the coast, will visit South Fort George next week.

The Fort George & Alberta Telephone Co. have installed telephone instruments on their wire, between Blackwater and this place, at Pinker's and Smith's road houses.

Several freight teams arrived in town this week from Quesnel. I. A. White brought up the steel cells for the new jail.

George Hardie returned from a trip over his right-of-way contracts between here and Stoney Creek yesterday. Mr. Hardie has about 150 men at work. He states that it is a difficult matter to secure men at present.

R. C. S. Randall, of the local Government office, is building a fine home on his island pre-emption at the mouth of the Nechaco.

The largest single mail to leave Ashcroft for the north over the Cariboo Road left the railway last Saturday. It consisted of one hundred and six sacks.

That the work of blasting out the rocks at the "Hudson's Bay Gardens" is progressing rapidly is borne out by the continuous explosions which are heard in town as the work is carried on.

Mr. Jones, one of the Nechaco Valley's pioneer ranchers, arrived in town this week with a freight team from Milne's Landing.

John O. Williamson, of the Fort George Drug Company, has on hand a splendid stock of Christmas goods.

Before Stipendiary Magistrate Herne this week an Indian named Maurice Quah was sentenced to six months' imprisonment for being drunk and disorderly.

J. B. Daniell returned from the coast last Wednesday. He left Ashcroft at ten o'clock last Friday morning in one of the B.X. motor cars, arriving in Quesnel the following evening, the roads being in perfect condition for the cars. Mr. Daniell states that interest on the outside is keen regarding South Fort George, especially in Winnipeg, where he stayed for some time on a business visit.

L. E. Bonner, manager of the West Canadian Deep Leads Co., of Stanley, was remanded for trial on a charge of blowing up the ditches of the Lowhee hydraulic mine at Lightning Creek a short time ago. Mr. Bonner was admitted to bail in the sum of \$3000. The case was heard before Mr. John Stevenson, of Quesnel.

Hon Duncan Marshall, minister of agriculture for Alberta, has placed an order with a firm in Montreal for a thousand pure-bred Barred Plymouth Rocks, Rhode Island Reds, Buff Orpingtons and White Wyandottes for delivery early next spring to the provincial poultry farm in Edmonton. The birds are solely for breeding purposes. Stock and eggs will be delivered to farmers and poultry growers direct from the experimental farms in various parts of the province. It is expected that several thousand high-grade birds will be added to the flocks during the coming year. Mr. Marshall believes the best way to encourage the industry is to assist the farmers.

Mrs. Arthur Murphy, president of the Women's Canadian and the Women's Press clubs of Edmonton, is at the head of a movement to bring before the provincial legislature at its session next spring a plan to preserve for the people the buildings known as Fort Edmonton, formerly owned and occupied by the Hudson's Bay company, organized in 1670. The fort, erected prior to 1805 and known as "the last house of the world," is to be restored by using the original materials. The original fort was owned by the North West Fur company and was built in the latter part of the eighteenth century by J. Hughes, M. Shaw and J. MacDonald of Garth. It was known as Fort des Prairies and Hughes' fort in 1805. This and the Hudson's Bay company's post were amalgamated in 1821. W. Bird, a factor of the last named company, named the place Fort Edmonton after his birthplace in England. The building occupies a prominent site on Parliament Hill.

FORT GEORGE DRUG CO.

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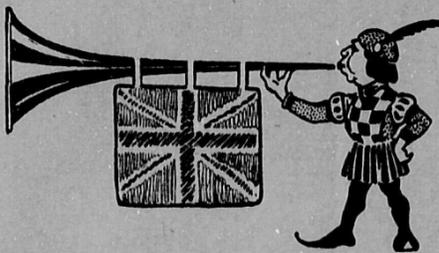
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With which is united

The Traders Bank of Canada

INCORPORATED 1869

Capital paid up	\$12,400,000
Surplus	11,400,000
Total Assets	179,900,000

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Montreal, Que.

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