

THE WEST

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THE MANAGER,
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WEDNESDAY, February 20, 1907.

TWO BODIES CONTRASTED

The grain growers convention which meets in this city today is hardly second in importance to the legislature which meets here tomorrow.

These two scenes are worthy of consideration and contrast. The grain growers will discuss and adopt resolutions urging legislation along certain lines, while their representatives will sit in another building and announce a program for the session that will be dictated only by government policy. The one knows no politics; while the other which is the only body that can legislate, knows nothing but party politics.

The elimination of party lines is a good principle in a parliament of the grain growers where they have to deal with issues that vitally affect practically the only industry of this country, while the same men repudiate this principle as applicable to the deliberations of the legislative body only a few blocks away.

The grain growers can be depended upon to become enthusiastic and harmonious in their convention containing elected delegates from the various sub-associations throughout the province, and all the ills that the grain growing industry is heir to will be fully threshed out, and the man who would suggest party interest during a discussion would be hooped off his feet.

In the legislative assembly a short distance away, the men elected by the people to enact legislation will only bring down measures after the party has been caucused and the government is certain that whether good or bad, whether in the interests of the people or the railway corporations or some other monopolistic concern, it will receive the party support.

The student of human nature falls down when he tries to find consistency in these facts.

CHEAP PHONES

The people of Alberta will owe much to their first government when the telephone policy as announced by Hon. W. H. Cushing is carried out. Only under such weather conditions as prevailed this winter can the farmer realize what a blessing government owned rural telephones are.

Telephones are a utility that should not be under a monopoly. The Bell system is one of imposition and owing to their blanket charter the only way to deal with them is for the people to install their own system.

This is one of the matters to be discussed at the grain growers convention tomorrow and then the government will be expected to declare their policy with regard to this question.

THE ROBIN'S DEAL

Elsewhere we publish the speech of R. S. Lake, in the House of Commons on the notorious Robins Irrigation contract. It will be remembered that the Opposition asked the Government for certain information before the Christmas adjournment, and both Mr. Oliver and the premier evaded the question and asserted that there was nothing further to give the House. During the holidays however, the Opposition dug up evidence involving the Government and their friends in a deal which for graft has not been exceeded in the disgraceful annals of the present Government.

The beneficiaries this time are well known Moose Jaw Liberals. Arthur Hitchcock was the big shareholder and the scheme was in the name of Robins. His name was no doubt used to conceal the deal from the public eye. Senator Ross has figured for a slice and his name is shrouded by the government, but his connection is proved beyond all doubt. This concern has certainly cleaned up well and without any outlay. There was no improvement to the lands involved but valuable concessions were acquired from the government.

The Opposition have certainly found out all the particulars in this deal much to the surprise of the Government and Mr. Oliver says he is not responsible for he lays the charge on Mr. Sifton. The people are not so much concerned about the minister who put it through, for it has all been done under the same leadership, and Sir Wilfrid went out of his way to try and cover up the facts which he little thought would ever get to the public.

CONTROL OF GRAIN TRADE

One feature of the grain trade of the west which has not been emphasized during the discussions arising out of the evidence before the royal commission and the prosecution at Winnipeg, is the control which is exercised by the Winnipeg Grain Exchange over the grain industry of three provinces, and the operators are only responsible to the government of the province from which it receives its charter.

This condition prevails and its existence is due to various circumstances, and as a remedy it has been suggested that our government take some step to exert authority over the grain trade. The question then arises as to what extent the government can exercise authority in this matter. The Winnipeg Grain Exchange is practically a private business concern under a charter from the government of Manitoba and if grain men from other provinces wish to become associated with that body for trade purposes that is a matter of choice. The exchange is not operating outside of the province which grants it a charter, but members of that board are grain dealers operating in other provinces. Through transportation and trade conditions the grain trade has practically become centred at Winnipeg, and some such organization is necessary, but the abuse of power by such controlling interests is as deplorable as it is injurious. The good affects of this organization on the grain trade is felt just as much in Saskatchewan as it is in Manitoba, and the abuse of its influence works just as much hardship to the farmers of this province as to the grain growers of Manitoba. The legislature of Manitoba, however, is the only body that can call the Winnipeg Grain Exchange to account, except proceedings be taken as they are now for violation of the criminal code. The private prosecutor has gone as far as he can go in the case now before the Manitoba courts, and the government can proceed or not as they see fit.

They alone have the power to proceed because the action was taken in the lower courts of that province. If the attorney general of Manitoba does not carry out the prosecution the farmers of Saskatchewan suffer proportionately with the grain growers of Manitoba. The people of Manitoba can take the matter up with the government at the polls but the farmers of this province have no recourse whatever. This is an unfortunate condition of the grain trade today, but of course if action were taken in this province the case would proceed here in a similar manner without any power of interference from the Manitoba people. The conditions as they are have resulted from abuse of power by an organization operating under a Manitoba law and which controls the grain trade of this province without being in any way subject to our legislation, and this is what some of the grain growers here want to find a remedy for. It has been suggested that the formation of a grain exchange for this province would solve the difficulty but this cannot be done by legislation for those who operate the grain trade alone can say at what points they will establish an organization.

It is apparent that the only solution to the grain trade difficulties can be found in the organization of the grain growers. The provincial government can lend a great deal of assistance through the construction and operation of elevators, and by securing adequate transportation facilities, the latter being a very important factor in connection with the grain trade. The grain growers through their organization can ship their grain direct to the world's markets, but they must have the facilities and it will take both an enormous capital and a thorough organization to execute this project. This is the biggest problem that confronts the grain growers of the west today. In a few more years the grain trade will have grown to such large proportions and to think that it will be controlled by a single organization in one province, is something for immediate consideration by the farmers of Saskatchewan. The Grain Growers' Grain Company is no doubt a move in the right direction and might be the nucleus of such an organization as we suggest, but it must have government assistance and there must be a line of elevators owned by the government and there must be at least equal transportation privileges with other operators.

This movement is at present only in its infancy but it will either grow and develop rapidly or the present operating concern will assume such proportions that the grain growers of these provinces will be forever under their control.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The retrenchment policy of the government respecting the new lands title office is very interesting. The estimate is said to be one-third of the contract price and the department has become so discouraged that the building may be undertaken by day labor. We imagine that the contractors who tendered on this job knew more about the cost of construction than the man who prepared the government estimate and if this is so there must be incompetency somewhere. Of course the government set a bad example when they bought sites at high figures and through secret arrangements, and if the contractors have figured higher on this work than they should have under present building conditions, it should be remembered that through certain transactions the public have the impression that cost is no consideration with the spending department of the government.

PRESS COMMENTS

(Toronto News.)
Canada's railway commission is described as a success.
What are the fruits of success in the life of a railway commission?
1.—Good railway service.
Is Canada's railway service good? Canada's railway service was never worse, in fact never so bad.
2.—Reduced rates.
Have rates been reduced? Not in general, and not by the action of the railway commission in particular.
3.—Respect for public rights.
Are the public rights respected by the people of Canada? The railways of Canada laugh at public rights, and so far as the eye can see, the usefulness of the commission helps them to laugh.
A commission that has done nothing

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Laxative Bromo Quinine
Cures a Cold in One Day, Grip in Two.**
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is the best teacher. The best scholar is he who learns from the experience of others. Take the matter of artistic
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Don't you know that people who are real judges of our goods never trade anywhere else? And you know they are just as careful of a dollars as you are. They have learned where to get the best goods at really low prices. We are ready to teach you the same lesson at any time.

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MAKE A SPECIALTY OF IMPROVED FARMS AND ALSO HAVE A LARGE LIST OF WILD LANDS TO DISPOSE OF. NO CHARGES FOR SHOWING LAND. INFORMATION FREE

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To the Farmers

NOW that spring is approaching you will be looking for a good reliable drill to do your seeding. We have the drills that have stood the test of years. The Sylvester Double and McCormick Single Disc; we have them in Hoe style also. To insure against smut use our smut machine. A call will convince you that our goods are right.

R. E. Mickleborough
Implement Dealer
ROSE St. Next Standard Office REGINA

Advertise in "The West"

A Boston schoolboy was tall, weak and sickly.
His arms were soft and flabby. He didn't have a strong muscle in his entire body.
The physician who had attended the family for thirty years prescribed **Scott's Emulsion.**
NOW:
To feel that boy's arm you would think he was apprenticed to a blacksmith.
ALL DRUGGISTS; 50c. AND \$1.00.

Alexander Allan rancher, was four one mile from his house and being lost his way.
A. W. Carswell Hastings died at had a paralytic wife and one son, Sask., and a daughter of Montreal.
It is said that Ottawa is going to nip a large factory one has in Ottawa contractors' and business.
The most serious since 1876 occurred theimer's residence London, when seven worth \$80,000 frames and carried also secured a
Reports reach that nearly two fishermen have been seen on ice floes, Finland. Of the only ten men in safety. The ice been recovered.
A train on the way ran into a bridge crossing and four of them killed. There were six, but it is not lowered on the train.
The headquarters Group of Terrorists at the Moscow. Several students of the ringleaders of bombs were shot.
Through the Russian Washington, secret mine-Vrasakoi, an appeal to the financial assistance peasants, who number.
After being in her for years, a member of the stomach Barker, of Nesopocan was performed found in the lower. It was an injury and was badly carried.
The original man the massacre of Major Robert Duncannon, and directed bell, of Glenyon, v. Puttick & Simpson graph manuscripts.
It has been his head mistress of a St. Petersburg, who was a man. She, a quieted life, a teeny pupils at After her somewhat the sex was discovered.
The police have a leaders of a gang of who have terrorized of Pas-de-Calais at frontier for two years time they have come of robberies and murder.
As an expression of Japan during its the Japanese government for permission to co-erican ambassadors Japan during the v-orations.
Louis S. Rouse, of the Cincinnati, the last fifteen years suicide. He had hopes with his wife when he arose exclaim have to do it." He another room and his dying instantly.
Independent grain out Illinois are held bankruptcy through railroads to supply the story told before way committee by. They charge that were receiving disbursement of cars, as smaller dealers were their supplies routing and their contracts, all for the lack of station. Remedial legislation sought.
PRESS COMMENTS
(Continued from
ing the government as well without its as a success.
A success—and the to the country that evils that would have or, ended if the coming anything else but a sal high-priced failure.
Vancouver The Hon. Richard of British Columbia day more than the hical party. He has ministerial wisely any of the province, but province itself, before large in the night