

THE ALBERTAN

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28, 1913

MUNICIPAL MUDDLE

What is wrong with municipal government in the West? With an abundance of good water available Edmonton has had difficulty, extending over several years, in getting an adequate supply of clean water; its council appears to meet merely to provide an alderman with the opportunity to challenge another to a personal encounter; and one of its aldermen stays up all night to interfere with a capable chief of police and thus deprive the city of his services.

Having approached very closely to the limit in bungling the affairs of the city, the city council will now adjourn until after the Stampede, when they will return with renewed vigor to complete the work.

The Dominion government has robbed Calgary of one of its city officials. If it could arrange to call a few more to government appointments, there are people in Calgary who might become reconciled with the spoils system.

The phonograph is being used by German "hello girls" to make the stereotyped replies to users of the telephone. Some of these prominent British Unionists, who are being interviewed in every Canadian city, to say nothing of certain of our Canadian politicians, might use the phonograph with advantage. They could declare at each place visited that war with Germany is inevitable, while at the same time "saving their breath to cool their porridge."

The general manager of the Canada cement merger is travelling through the West circulating bonded assurances that the annual cement shortage will not be experienced next year. This gentleman also declares that the last shortage after all amounted to nothing. He announces, however, that the merger is doubling the capacity of its plant at immense expense and at the risk of losing all sorts of money in its philanthropic efforts on behalf of the West. It may therefore be necessary next year to stimulate its efforts by a reduction of the tariff on cement.

The tasks of municipal government are too important, too vital to the welfare of the community, to be entrusted to men of the calibre of those who now dominate municipal politics. There are capable men in the service of this as of every other city in the West, but the task of finding them in the crowd is only less difficult than that of Lot, searching for an ever-diminishing number of righteous men in Sodom. There is an urgent call for men of ability and integrity, whose sense of duty to the community is strong enough to move them to the sacrifice of time and energy necessary to rescue us from the policy of muddle.

SIR WILFRID AND THE WEST

A week or more ago, when it was announced that Sir Wilfrid Laurier would commence a tour of the West at this date, The Calgary Herald, in common with other Tory papers in the West, charged the doughty Liberal chieftain with tardiness. Only one interpretation could be placed upon this Western visit; the hero of a hundred political struggles was running away from Premier Borden, hopeful thus to avoid a discussion of the naval policy. Now comes the report that Sir Wilfrid will not come West save possibly for a brief visit just before the house opens. The Herald speaks of this later announcement as unfortunate, presumably because it upsets the not very plausible explanation of Sir Wilfrid's motives that were prepared by them with the exercise of much labor and ingenuity.

Whatever decision Sir Wilfrid may be obliged to make regarding the proposed tour there would be general disappointment in the West if he found himself unable to leave the East during this fall. No time could be more fitting for such a visit and he would be assured of the very warmest welcome. The West looks to him as its leader and would give him such a demonstration as would scatter any last vestige of doubt that may exist in certain quarters concerning the sentiment which it entertains for the fundamental principles of Liberalism.

DEFAULTING BANK CLERKS

The defalcations of bank clerks in Toronto has aroused the usual discussion concerning the temptations of this calling and the salaries paid to those engaged in it. The discussion is not without interest, though it is to be feared that it will accomplish nothing. Banking institutions are not very different from other institutions that employ labor, and the salaries paid to their employees are determined in the main by the relation of supply and demand. Youths fitted for the work of bank clerks and with little else open to them are numerous, and therefore cheap. Teachers also, for precisely similar reasons, receive no more for the very important work they do. If men capable of managing a railroad were as numerous they would receive no more for their labor. It is unfortunate, especially as, from a point of view which seems to be the highest, the general manager of a railroad is often of less value to the community than a good school teacher. It must remain so, however, until we have succeeded in re-organizing this old world and revolutionizing our standards of value.

fellows in Toronto whose defalcations bid fair to blacken their respective careers. It is time to protest, however, against the mawkish sentimentality which inclines to the argument that if they had received an additional \$20 per month in salary they would not have robbed the bank of thousands of dollars which they lost to the rapacious and unscrupulous bookmaker. The temptation to which the bank clerk is exposed has been somewhat over-rated in view of the certainty of tinal exposure and punishment. One would also expect that the intelligence one supposes as necessary for the work would save the youth from the delusion that profit is to be made from transactions with the race-track bookmaker.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The citizens of Calgary apparently refuse to accept even good water from a bad council.

Suicide in Australia is on the increase. Why don't the Australians emigrate to Western Canada, where life is worth living even though the cost of living is high?

The government has engaged an expert engineer to improve the acoustic properties of the chamber of the house of commons so that the members may be more readily heard each other speak during the forthcoming naval debate. It would do better to employ an expert psychologist to ascertain why anyone should want to hear the great majority of the speeches delivered in the house.

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Vest Pocket Essays

By GEORGE FITCH

BUFFALO

THE city of Buffalo was named by an early resident of New York who once got that far west and mistook the killing of the Erie canal stevedores for the wild bison of the plains. It is a handsome city, the second largest in New York state and has 425,000 people who are noted for their hospitality, each citizen having entertained at least 125 relatives by escorting them to Niagara Falls, which performs nearby. Buffalo was first laid-out in 1813, but was laid out even more badly in 1910 by Cleveland and Detroit, which passed it in the census war. Its population grew slowly until 1824, when the Erie canal was completed. It then became a great seaport and during travellers braved the canal in droves to visit it. Buffalo also became the great transfer point for freight between the east and west and over 13,000 varieties of plain and fancy cuss words used by canal boat skippers in those stirring days are still preserved in the municipal museum.

Buffalo is now a great lake port and railroad centre. It is lighted, heated and trolleyed by Niagara Falls, the greatest cataract in captivity, which is located 20 miles north of the city and is fed half-eaten sandwiches by tourist parties from all parts of the country. Buffalo has the largest soap factory in the world, a 7-acre office building, a depot built while Ramesses was still in the high school, a motor boat which does fifty miles an hour, some fine public parks, two class A Democratic politicians and so many asphalt streets that automobilists cry when they have to leave the city and go to Paradise. It is growing fast and will have 500,000 people and another coat of paint on the New York Central depot by 1920. The history of Buffalo is braided up with national politics and it is one of the few cities in the country which has produced two presidents. Millard Fillmore was born and died in Buffalo and Grover Cleveland got his start by shuffling for the country in an able and impartial manner. William McKinley was shot while visiting Buffalo, but not under the auspices of home talent. Buffalo would be a great metropolis in the middle west, but located as it is under the shadow of New York and Philadelphia it is not looked upon with awe and is not even allowed to have a big league baseball team. The fast trains now run around it and were it not for the Falls and Messrs. Mack and Connors, Buffalo would have as hard a time flagging public attention as do Newark and Jersey City.

Ideas of a Plain Man

By DR. FRANK CRANE

GENIUS

IT is a genius that feeds the world. The word Wagner makes this comparison; that, just as we all live upon the earth, but it is necessary that plants and animals transform the minerals of the soil so that they assume forms suitable for our nourishment, so men of genius take the great facts of Nature and reduce them to such substance as shall supply our souls. Shakespeare says the poet gives "to airy nothing a local habitation and a name." Mr. Bailey stated in the national legislature that without the farmers we should all perish from the face of the earth. Doubtless, but the genius is not less necessary. Without him civilization would soon sink into "a war of kites and crows." It is not labor nor the laboring man that is essential to society; it is brains. Remove every hand-worker from the earth, and humanity could still live, for the non-workers could soon learn to work. But remove all superior minds, the inventive, resourceful, far-seeing, organizing minds, from the world, and we should slip back into barbarism at once. False aristocracies, of inheritance and privilege, we might well dispense with; but the real aristocracy of superior men and women is an eternal necessity. "The equipments which decay the insectivorous lives of men," says Wagner, "are symptoms of moral rickets. We live by our capacity to recognize and honor what is great, and we die by suspicion, skepticism and the spirit of misanthropy."

750,000 ULSTER MEN TO SIGN THIS COVENANT

Pledging Themselves That If Home Rule is Enacted They Will Ignore Government

London, Aug. 27.—The Times says the covenant to which Ulster men will pledge themselves at the meeting on September 28 is that if some rules enacted they will not acknowledge the parliament at Dublin, will not obey its laws, and will not pay taxes. It is expected that the privy councillors will be the first to sign, and that those signing the covenant will number from 500,000 to 750,000.

There is reason to believe, moreover, that the Ulster leaders at the meeting in Belfast on September 29 will announce the heads of the constitution which they will set up in the contingency of the enactment of home rule. It will separate the judiciary as well as the executive.

Stories of an armed rising, the seizure of the Belfast post office, and other such plots are untrue.

Speaking along similar lines, Right Hon. Walter Long, M.P., in addressing a crowd of about 10,000 at the Ulster club, said: "We must come face to face with the great problems which confront the empire. He remembered unflinching firmness that it will arrest attention and command the support of the English and Scotch people."

PREDICTS LATE CROPS WILL BE HEAVY

Continued From Page 1

Erskine—About 15 hours' rainfall during week. About 10 per cent of the wheat is cut; some fields are badly lodged. Oats are a good average crop, and cutting has commenced in many localities. About 75 per cent of the barley harvesting is finished.

Halkirk—Weather conditions during the past week very ideal, but it has been raining all day yesterday and today. Wheat and oat harvest will be general next week. A good portion of the barley is ready cut. There is every prospect of fine crop of fax.

Langdon—Perfect weather all week. Grain is nearing maturity and cutting will be general this week. Next week wheat is nearly all cut. Some fall rye threshed during week and yielded splendidly. Two weeks more good weather required to mature the spring wheat and oats.

Stathmore—Weather during first part of week ideal, but that couple of days has been cloudy, with light rains. Barley is nearly all cut. Some fall rye threshed during week and yielded splendidly. Two weeks more good weather required to mature the spring wheat and oats.

Carman—No rain this week. Some cutting and harvesting will be general but not general until next week. No damage reported from any cause.

Clareholm—Weather conditions during past week very good. Wheat and grain is maturing rapidly. Some spring wheat has been cut, but harvesting will not be general until next week. Threshing of winter wheat will commence this coming week.

Barons—Weather has been very warm all week and crops are ripening more rapidly than anticipated. Cutting will be general Monday. No damage reported of any description.

Macleod—Weather during past week has been ideal for harvesting and nearly all the farmers are cutting. Spring wheat is splendid crop, but winter wheat not so good. Within two more weeks of fine weather all grain will be out of danger.

Granum—Weather during past week has been very good. Wheat and grain is maturing rapidly. Some spring wheat has been cut, but harvesting will not be general until next week. Threshing of winter wheat will commence this coming week.

High River—Weather during past week has been ideal. Winter wheat is nearly all cut, and spring wheat is turning rapidly. Barley is ready to harvest, and oat harvesting will be general by September 1. Some wheat and barley will be out of danger.

Purple Springs—Have had no rain for two weeks. Wheat and barley nearly all cut, and threshing will be general in a few days. Very little fax cut yet, but same is in good condition.

Bow Island—About 90 per cent of wheat and barley cut. Some wheat threshed, averaging about 26 bushels per acre, and grading No. 1 and No. 2 Northern. There are about half cut, and some fields are about half cut. Threshing will be general next week.

Parkland—Heavy rainfall the night of the 24th, which will delay harvesting for a day or so. Fall wheat practically all cut. Spring wheat harvesting will be general this week. Oats are turning fast and record crop is looked for.

Reley—Dry weather at this point. Fall wheat nearly all cut, and greater part of seeding done. Oats and spring wheat still green. Fax well advanced and good crop is looked for. Threshing will start in about ten days.

Cardston—First part of week was ideal for harvesting wheat. Very cold rain the night of August 25. Some threshing may be done this week.

COAL SHORTAGE IN MONTREAL Montreal, Aug. 27.—While ordinarily there are stored in Montreal at this time of the year about 250,000 tons of stove coal, local dealers state today that there are not 500 tons of this coal in the city.

The dealers also announced that the price of stove coal is jumping within the next two weeks, stove coal loose is selling at \$7.75 a ton and in a week or two will likely go to \$8.25. Egg coal loose is quoted at \$7.25, and will likely reach \$8.00 a ton in a week. Best being sold at \$8.00, will be sold at \$8.75.

CONTRIBUTION TO NAVY A DELICATE QUESTION

Should Not be Discussed by Public Men of England Until Policy is Announced

That is the Opinion of F. E. Smith, K. C., Noted Leader of the Unionist Party

WINNIPEG, Aug. 27.—"The question of the Canadian contribution to the navy is a very delicate one," said F. E. Smith, K. C., the young Unionist leader, today. "Personally I think that English public opinion has dared express his opinion openly until the Prime Minister of Canada had delivered his statement. I might say without impropriety that the general opinion of Mr. Borden's government has been received with gratitude by all parties in England. No proposal has so touched the imagination of the people in regard to the imperial conception since Canadian co-operation in the war."

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HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY SCHOOL SHOES FOR BOYS, GIRLS, MISSES

ALTHOUGH school started on Monday many mothers will hardly realize their children's shoe requirements until the children have been attending school for a few days. In view of this we wish to call further attention to our well assorted stocks and to our ability to supply your children with well made, stylish, serviceable and correct fitting shoes. Furthermore, we wish to emphasize their high quality, also their splendid value at the different prices.

Girls' and Misses' Shoes: "Classic" shoes are one of our best lines for girls and misses. They are made of the finest materials by skilled workmen and come in many smart styles. They also give splendid service and being made on "natural shape" lasts allow the feet to grow as nature intended they should grow; all sizes. Prices \$1.50, \$1.75 and \$3.00

Nail Brushes, 25c. Hair Pads, 25c. THESE PADS are different from most lines now on the market. One feature is that they are made of real human hair and another is that they can be removed when their condition demands it. A third feature is the price, which will speak for itself when you see the goods. Price 25c Notion Counter

Hatpin Specials: By purchasing a large quantity and by going to the direct source of supply we are able to offer you these Hatpins at 25c, whereas they would command about 50c if bought through the ordinary supply source. The collection is large and varied and contains brilliant pearl and other stone settings, also antique and the new pear shape enamel pins, etc. Strong steel pins fashionable short lengths. Wednesday morning and balance of week special. 25c

Glass Jug and Tumbler Specials: It will certainly be worth your while to come and secure these two specials because both afford an exceptional saving. Made of pure clear crystal of a medium thickness. GLASS JUGS, hold about 3 pints, are 8 inches high and in the shape of a regular jug. This morning 25c. TUMBLERS, match jug, plain, but nice shape. This morning 10c, 6 for \$1.00. China Department, Second Floor

Boys' Suits For Fall and Winter Wear. IT WILL PLEASE mothers to find such a splendid assortment of Boys' Suits as that which we are showing for fall. Not only is there a wide range of smart styles, but also a splendid selection of distinctive patterns. Then there is the smart tailoring, the good quality materials and their good wearing ability, all of which qualities make them exceptionally good values at \$4.00 to \$12.50

RICHARDSON SAYS HYMAN KING TRIED TO BRIBE HIM Evidence is Not Corroborated; King is Remanded; Admitted to Bail. Colored Man Makes Gun Play to Frighten Robbers; Shoots at the Wrong Man

Winnipeg, Aug. 27.—On June second this summer, Winnipeg consumed more water than was pumped that day. Winnipeg is also face to face with a most serious water famine next summer. A much larger supply will be absolutely necessary then. The only source that can be possibly tapped in time is the Poplar and Crystal springs, an extension of the artesian well system estimated to cost \$1,000,000. To secure a supply from the Winnipeg river is out of the question, as it would take four or five years. Such was the evidence given by Col. Taitan, city engineer, before Public Utilities Commissioner Robson today at the public inquiry in which Prof. Schiffer, of Wisconsin university is acting as expert adviser.

Big Sale of Horsepower. Montreal, Aug. 27.—Mr. C. H. Oshon, K. C., president of the Western Canada Power Company Limited, states that negotiations have been in progress for some time for the sale to Interprovincial Electric Co. of a large block of Power, approximately 40,000 horsepower, have been concluded, for the present, and Mr. R. F. Hayward, general manager of the Western Canada Power Co. who has been conducting these negotiations in London, is now on his way home to submit his board of directors a draft which it is understood has been approved by him. This contract, if carried out, will necessitate the enlargement of the Western Canada Power plant, which was contemplated at the time of the issuance of the annual report.