

## The Albertan

W. M. DAVIDSON,  
Editor and Manager

## THE CITY LIGHT

If the new council decides to accept the mandate of the council of 1906 and reverts to the old committee system of administration and have the entire state, it is to be hoped that it will appoint an active and progressive man as chairman of the light committee.

Last year the light plant succeeded in spite of the fact that there was little interference from the chairman of the committee. This year it has risen to the eminence of a sturdy competitor.

Whatever interference there was last year from the chairman of the committee was bad. There was no effort to increase the light business of the city, no plan for the getting of new business, for as a matter of fact there seemed to be a studied effort to prevent an increase in business, and there was always too much alarm lest the city should get into conflict with the private company.

The policy of the city has been too conservative. For instance the city is losing all hotel lighting because it declines to give a flat rate to these large commercial concerns. This has been the policy of the city.

A man with the vigor of Ald. Watson or Ald. Clarke, or the business ability of Ald. Young or some of the newly elected aldermen is needed to make the city electric light plant a pronounced and unqualified success.

## PROVINCE AND TELEPHONES

The government of Alberta has decided upon its third long distance telephone system, which will run from Lacombe to Stettin. With the completion of that line, the government will have built about as many miles of telephones as the Bell, which has been operating in Alberta for many years. It may be pointed out, too, that there are nearly as many independent systems in the towns of Alberta as the Bell has exchanges in the province.

The time is rapidly approaching when the government system will be the premier system and the Bell will take second place, which will be a few years before the government system will be the only system.

The Rutherford administration has given Canada the example of the speedy and satisfactory methods which a successful and business government adopts.

## THE IMMIGRATION

While immigration from the British Isles is falling off in United States, it is increasing very rapidly in Canada. The very natural conclusion is that the class of people who in times past were attracted to United States are now coming in large numbers to Canada.

And this change will become more evident as time goes on. To get started is the first thing. To get going is the second thing. To get going is the greatest task. That being accomplished, if the country is good, the rest is easy.

If we continue to get a majority of the English speaking immigrants or Northern Europe immigration, we do not worry because our wealthy neighbors get many times as many who come from Southern Europe.

## PROSPERITY IN CANADA

Prosperity reigns throughout all Canada. In every district, in every province, in all parts, the same story is being told. The provinces by the sea on account of the impetus in the lumber trade is adding new life to the industries of New Brunswick, and the development of manufacturing in Nova Scotia, are coming along very well.

The provinces of Quebec and Ontario are having their share of the prosperity which is prevailing from coast to coast. As for the three prairie provinces, no comment is necessary. There is every evidence that the great provinces of the Columbia is at last coming into its own. Throughout the province there is the thrill of a new life. The Dominion is gaining the confidence which is so essential to the development of a nation.

## AN EDMONTON UNTRUTH

Edmonton and Calgary have their little rivalries and their little misunderstandings without very many bones being broken, and as a rule the little jibes at one another do no harm and do nothing but good. An honest, fair and keen rivalry does help along sometimes and makes every person sit up and take notice.

As long as the rivalry is fair there is nothing to complain about. Calgary always does play fair. It goes its own way, goes its own gait and that is all there is to it. It does not go out of its way to interfere with the progress of Edmonton. It does not knock.

Calgary was doing an amount of boasting about the clearing returns, which was all right. The expansion of our clearing returns had opened the eyes of the people in the east and the west, and the north and the south. It has been the marvel of the financial world. It was a great credit to the prosperity of the province.

But the people of Edmonton, or some person who wrote some article in Edmonton, wrote to the leading financial paper in Canada, casting certain reflections upon the way that our clearing returns were made up. That person insisted that there was something about them which was not fair. Had the objection been well taken it would not help Edmonton out at all, but it would have the effect of making financiers who did not understand the situation suspect all western methods.

But the objection, as we have explained by a quotation from the Edmonton Journal, was not well taken. The Edmonton people complained to the Monetary Times that the clearing returns from Calgary did not come from Calgary alone, but from banks throughout Alberta, which was partially true, while clearings through the Edmonton banks came principally from Edmonton.

Now the Calgary bank clearing dis-

trict has an area of about 100 miles north, 100 miles south, 60 miles east and 75 miles west, not a very large district. But the Edmonton district on the other hand has an area 100 miles south, unlimited district north and west, and 400 or 500 miles to the east. A vastly larger territory than Calgary. Nevertheless, in the light of these facts an Edmonton official attempted to place us before the financial world as dishonorable in our methods and unfair to Edmonton.

It is the same with our building returns. Our building inspector says that the building in Calgary and the suburbs during the current year amounted to \$2,400,000. The building inspector in Edmonton says that the building done in Edmonton amounted to \$1,800,000. We took the word of the building inspector of Edmonton without further investigation. But the Edmonton people not only have doubted our returns, but the Edmonton Bulletin sees something wrong in it and finds that the cement building which is being constructed by the brewery is really 50 miles away.

But some person in Edmonton goes still further and sends a despatch down to the east that Edmonton stands fifth in the Dominion and that the Calgary returns are incorrect and that they have been padded. The Albertan is not certain that the figures of the building inspector at Edmonton are correct. But the Albertan is quite prepared to take the same treatment of others. The Albertan is quite convinced that the Calgary returns are correct, at least that they do not overstate the building done.

These two particular incidents do not show Edmonton as playing the game with any great degree of fairness.

## MR. BRYCE AND CANADA

On the appointment of Mr. Bryce to Washington, the London Saturday Review reiterated the theory that reciprocity between Canada and the United States would result in the annexation of Canada to that country. The new British jingoism pretends a great love for the colonies, but it does not know when it is intolerably offensive to them. It is certainly not going to add to the loyalty of Canada by ceaselessly denying its existence. By this fear of a Canadian revolt is nothing to what is implied in the objection raised against Mr. Bryce as one who would add Canada in obtaining a treaty of reciprocity. This implies that it would be the duty and delight of an ambassador of the new imperialism to thwart Canada in any agreement for better terms with the United States which she might find for her advantage. All the talk on this subject is the more stupid in that there have not yet been heard, even among the most advanced promoters of reciprocity in the United States, any proposals that have borne any semblance to reciprocity that Canada could think of for a moment.

In view of this sort of talk against the appointment of Mr. Bryce, Lord Strathcona was on leaving London, questioned by a United States press representative as to how the appointment would be viewed in Canada. Lord Strathcona is quite correct in saying there will be no disposition in Canada to regard the appointment of Mr. Bryce other than in a most favorable light. As a student of affairs and a historian whose works testify to his broad sympathy with the progress and development of free democratic institutions, he can be relied upon to act with wisdom and moderation. A British ambassador at Washington must of necessity be largely concerned in matters affecting Canada, but he can have no power of initiative, save what may be conferred upon him by the government he represents. The government of the Dominion being in close and constant communication with the Colonial Office in London, the treatment of all matters having a bearing on the relations between the Republic and the Dominion are regulated through that channel. Mr. Bryce will, therefore, act as his predecessors have always acted under instructions from the Foreign Office with the advice of the Secretary of the Colonies, who is kept informed of the Canadian attitude on all questions of international concern. Mr. Bryce will bring to the discharge of his functions a higher title to ability than that of a peerage. Holding a foremost position among the literary men of the time, he will command respect, founded on intellectual achievement, and his selection has already been accepted as the highest compliment that could be paid to the government and people of the United States. All things considered, Mr. Bryce should make an ideal ambassador, and there is every reason to believe that he will fill the position with satisfaction to all concerned.

## EDITORIAL NOTES

"This is the first winter that many Calgary people have had any personal acquaintance with Jack Frost in this part of the country."

Although reported at death's door several weeks ago, President Castro and the Shah of Zersia are still increasing the doctor bills their heirs will be expected to settle.

Mr. Hunter, in describing the sermon that his brother evangelist preached on personal impurity, said that it was so powerful that some bad men had fainted. Perhaps in Calgary it would be as well to preach this particular sermon somewhere in the vicinity of the hospitals.

The Calgary Herald after a careful enquiry into the coal shortage has solved the question, and in an editorial yesterday concludes that that there has not been so many orders for coal there would have been no coal shortage, which is a very wise conclusion indeed.

Regina people are giving great publicity to the fact that a train on the Prince Albert branch travelled six miles an hour one day last week. That's nothing. Trains on the C. & N. W. branch have often travelled that fast, and have been known to go even a little better than that.

## A column by

Dods

## Courtsey

Last week Mr. Hunter stated that the reason that Mr. Crossley and himself had been so prosperous during their career was that they were always courteous.

On Sunday afternoon the following conversation occurred in the Methodist church:

Mr. Hunter: "How many persons here have learned to smoke after they were twenty?"

One person, name unknown, put up his hand.

Mr. Hunter: "Then you ought to be ashamed of yourself."

From every person, high or low, I look for courtesy.

That is a truth which I throw The world should pay to me.

But, if perchance, I should be rude, Excuse me, if you can, For courtesy applies to me And to no other man.

Interviewed by Dods, Mr. Hunter said that he was not sure that he was about to write a book on the ways and habits of bartenders. He would scorn to speak to such persons. He had no offers of doorman as yet. But the time would come.

What a curious thing it was now that the hotel keeper who put up the prayer for the hotel keepers the other day was the man who pays his hotel clerks one-third less than any other hotel keeper in town. I wonder who gets the rest.

## The Morocco Embroglio

Tangiers, Jan. 6.—(From Our Very Special Correspondent.)—A Lord Methuen said upon a similar occasion and in more or less similar words: "This has been the most singularly fight of the century."

As Lord Methuen was speaking in the last century I am quite certain that I am right. For ten hours persons fought. I have never seen fighting anything like it outside of Ward IV, Calgary. On all sides followers and others might have been served fleeing. When the gallant, glorious, intrepid and stalwart 5th R. I. equals stalwart-warriors entered the surrendered fortress fifteen prisoners were discovered. They were arrested. They were made no mistake. A man sprained his ankle. He is in the hospital. He is not. He is not, but he would like to be. The sun has gone down in BLOOD. All is quiet. The dead have been dismissed.

The dead have recovered. The conquering army of the conquerors will follow later—have arrived with the loot. A great war. The captured sheep are alive and on the carpet. The conquerors have arrived. Greeted by the conquerors they said "Manana" (tomorrow). They will take the Spanish have arrived. They have cornered the cigarette market.

The victors are in the mountains, the vanquished are in the valleys. All is quiet. The wounded are doing well. The mosques are full. There are no licensed houses in this country.

Do the Indians know?

A couple of months ago different papers were publishing interesting little items about the Indians and their preparations for a hard, cold winter. But we wise people thought nothing of their superstition and left the coal bin empty and went our way without further consideration.

A couple of months have passed away and we find that we are in the midst, or towards the end, let us hope, of a very hard winter. The question now is, do the Indians know about these things, and if they do know will they tell?

When it is remembered that the ancient Egyptians had a vast amount of knowledge which is Greek to us, and other ancients were wise where we are ignorant, Indians and untutored persons have greater powers of sight, of hearing and of the senses in general than we civilized people have, this Indian story seems to be a true one.

So perhaps they do have communion with the weather spirits unknown to us. Perhaps so.

It might be worth while for some of the best of us to have a pow wow with the red men on these points and learn from them or try to learn from them. It might be well if before the next labor trouble some coal man would make a date with Man Who Gets In Out of the Rain or some of his kindred and ask him about the coming season.

Whatever these persons may do, there is one person who intends to see these Indian people next season as early as they get their prophetic factory in operation, and if they say, "I see it coming," this person is going to get much coal in the coal bin as Joseph had corn in Egypt.

And there is one thing so really delightful about these persons that after pulling off a good thing like that and making it stick, none of what we are in it and says, "I told you so."

## DODS.

What Jesus did

(Edmonton News.)

"Jesus never went to the theatre. And he never played cards, says Evangelist Hunter. This is the heading over the Calgary Albertan report of one of the meetings held by Crossley and Hunter, the evangelists who are now holding forth in that city. Mr. Hunter's next season is likely true, but there are plenty of things which Christ never did which good Christians do every day. Because Christ never attended a hockey match, or a football game, or a barred from doing so. Christ did not have a bank account so far as we know, but a few years ago when a certain financial institution collapsed in St. Thomas, it was shown that Messrs. Crossley and Hunter had been able to put something aside for a rainy day. If we are going to insist on Christians only doing what the Scriptures show Christ to have done, their conduct will certainly be circumscribed to an extent which no man of intelligence will deem necessary. All that anyone has a right to insist on is that they should do nothing which is contrary to the spirit of his teaching. Card-playing may be turned to evil purposes, but so may any other amusement. Why should it be condemned in itself? Why should all the good games be left to the Devil? To the majority who indulge in it, it is a perfectly harmless source of recreation. Let Mr. Hunter attack the gambling card player, not the game itself. As for the theatre, it also is the source of wholly innocent amusement. It has been the means of bringing many bright hours into otherwise dull and dreary lives but it has done more than this. At its best it is a great educator. Why should we discourage it, simply because in some instances it exercises a demoralizing influence? The remedy is not to blot the theatre as an institution, but for those who are prone to decency to rebuke and uncleanliness to support those plays which are above reproach.

## Hymnbook Impositions

Editor Albertan:

I present to you two evangelists in the city. A committee has been appointed by three denominational churches to arrange the financial matters of the evangelistic campaign. I wish that the committee's attention to the hymn book imposition. The same people that are responsible for the finance are practically compelled to buy a book as a side issue. Anyone that is conversant with publishing can easily see that the profits on this book are enormous. The evangelists, as I am told, did not inform the committee concerning this source of revenue, which they should have done. The more Christian way would be to sell the books at cost, five cents. Mr. Moody always carried a five cent edition of hymns. In some places he sold it for two cents. If he did make money on the deal, the existence of the Norwood institutions and their need, would appeal to the buyer as a guarantee of no graft.

Let us presume that the present evangelists visit twelve places in a year and sell five hundred at each place; their pin money would be nearly five thousand dollars a year. The incongruity comes to view when we hear them warning us of the sin of getting money. The books will be virtually valueless when they depart. Think of a workingman with a family of ten being told that they ought to sing! An impossible obligation when money is as scarce as oysters in a Jew's soup. None of the old revelations are a root to every kind of evil. Let us pray for the evangelists.

For the good of the cause.

C. C. COE.

The Religion of the Future

Editor Albertan:

Man and God are the co-relates of a workingman's religion. Sorrow and resignation are indeed beautiful flowers grown in the garden of many a noble heart. But it is active love and energy which can cash on the chart of human progress, and progress is the realization of the divine spirit which is incarnate in every human being. A double standard of morality will not be tolerated, one for Sunday and the church and another the opposite for week days for the shop and counting room. An invidious distinction obtains now between secular and sacred. It will be wiped away. Every thought and deed of men must be holy or it is the religion of men. Did not Isaiah deride and condemn all ritual religion? "Wash ye, make ye clean." This religion will be most emphatic in its convictions that a life worthily spent here on earth is best, and it is the only preparation for heaven. The religion of the future will be the religion of men who claim the right to be saved while they are perfectly content that others shall not be saved, and not lifting a hand to reduce the brother men from misery and wretchedness.

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Will there be prayer in the universal religion? Man will worship in the beauty of holiness. His prayer will be the prelude to his prayerful action. Silence is more reverent and worshipful than a wild torrent of words breathing forth not adoration but greedy requests for favors to self. Can an unforgiving heart pray "forgive us as we forgive?" Can one pray "give us this day our daily bread" when he refuses to break bread with the hungry? Had not the little waif caught the inspiration of our universal prayer who, when first taught the sublime phrases, persisted in changing the opening words to "Your Father which is in heaven?" Rebuked time and again by the teacher, he finally broke out, "Well, if it is our Father then I am his son." When the gates of prayer in the church rise we will then recognize the universal brotherhood of man. Will this new faith have its bible? It will. It remains the old bible of mankind, but gives them a new lustre by remembering that the letter killeth religion. It is not a question of literature, but of life. God's revelations are continuous, not contained in tablets of stone or parchment. He speaks today yet to those that would hear Him. A book is inspired only when it inspires. Religion made the Bible, not the book religion. And what will be the name of the church? It will not be known by its founders but by its fruits. God replies to him who insists on knowing his name, "I am He who am the church." If it has any name it will be the Church of God, because it will be the church of man.

"When Jacob," so runs the old Rabbinical legend, "wears and footsore the first night of his sojourn away from home, would lay himself down to sleep under the canopy of the star-set skies, all the stones of the said cried out, 'Take me for thy pillow, and because all were ready to serve him all were miraculously turned into one stone. This became Bethel, the gate of heaven.' So will all religions, because eager to become the pillow of man, dreaming of good and beholding the system by which this world may be made, indeed a veritable paradise by discarding all artificial, traditional, and man-made religions, and into one great rock that the ages cannot move a foundation stone be laid for temple of humanity, in the construction of which will be ushered in the brotherhood of man, the co-operative commonwealth."

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