

# The West.

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## MILLER NOW AFTER MR. AYLESWORTH

### Accuses Minister of Justice of Hitting Below the Belt --Says that He Was Deceived--Armstrong on Rural Mail Delivery--Says that There is Great Discrimination -- Further Graft on Transcontinental--More Rock Frauds.

One result of the defeat of the Miller bill to suppress gambling on race tracks has been an extraordinary bitter attack by Mr. Miller on Mr. Aylesworth, the Minister of Justice. Mr. Miller's charge in effect is that Mr. Aylesworth assured him that the bill was satisfactorily drafted, and that when it came up in the House he assured the House that it was badly drafted. "He advised me in one way when I consulted him, and has advised the House in an entirely different way," was Mr. Miller's final remark.

The member for South Grey brought the matter up on a question of privilege, resenting a statement by Mr. Aylesworth in debating the bill that he (Miller) had quoted a letter which he had not expected to see quoted. Mr. Miller made it perfectly clear that he had procured the letter. "From Mr. Aylesworth for the express purpose of using it, and he declared that he had warned Mr. Aylesworth of his purpose."

"I have a great deal to complain of, I think," he said, "as to the treatment of the Minister of Justice in connection with this whole matter. Having discussed the question with him, as I have discussed it with him and he having made the statements that he did make, and which it would perhaps take too much of the time of the House to discuss, I do say that if I had used the Minister of Justice as he has used me in this matter, I would have thought that I had struck below the belt and that I had not acted of these honestly or honorably. That is a plain statement to make but if the Minister of Justice demands of me to explain of my words I am ready to do so at any time either in the House or outside of it."

Mr. Aylesworth protested that he had not meant to impute dishonorable conduct to Mr. Miller and the member for South Grey retorted by charging the Minister with double dealing. His objection to the bill had been that it would interfere with private betting. Mr. Miller submitted the bill to him, and the Minister said: "I do not think it can be improved on, for the purpose for which it is intended." "But," said Mr. Miller, "I took the fullest care at all times to tell the Minister of Justice that it was not the desire of the promoters of the bill to in any way interfere with private betting. Knowing that that was not the intention, he suggested that the bill could not be improved upon for the purpose for which it was intended. I said to the Minister of Justice: 'Is this bill, in your opinion, would affect the man who makes a private bet, I would like you to suggest any language that you can suggest that would leave out the private better and exempt him. He said: I cannot suggest any language that would be an improvement on the Bill as it is drawn in that respect. Afterwards I myself, fearing the Minister of Justice might make some further objections to the bill in that regard, that it was interfering with private betting, drafted a clause and submitted it to him, and as he in his own writing amended it in order, as he thought, to fit the case, I said: Will the amendment, as you have changed it, fill the bill, and exempt the private better? He said, I think it will. The Minister of Justice then must have known that that was my intention. The Minister of Justice looked carefully over the bill. He said that clause 236 did not in any way interfere with the private better, but that it would with the recording or registering of a private bet."

And in conclusion, Mr. Miller repeated that Mr. Aylesworth had said one thing to him and another thing to the House.

It need only be added that Mr. Miller is a devoted Liberal.

#### Rural Free Mail Delivery

In the course of the discussion of the Post Office estimates J. E. Armstrong brought up the subject of free rural mail delivery. The present party system, he said, "merely leads to the creation of contention and strife in the rural districts." The mails are delivered only on existing mail or stage routes and only in certain portions of the country. "But," he asked, "have not the people on the other concessions just as good a right to the advantages of the rural free mail delivery as those residing on existing mail or stage routes? Why should the men on these routes have their farms increased in value as they upboughted-ly are, by their enjoyment of the ad-

vantages that come from the delivery of the mails at their very door, and the people who live a mile or so away, perhaps in a more thickly settled portion of the country, be deprived of these advantages?"

Mr. Armstrong went on to note the disadvantages under which the farmers now labour. "I want," he said, "to call attention to the fact that the time has come in some of the older provinces where the population is decreasing yearly instead of increasing in the rural districts. Take the Province of Ontario. The Deputy Minister of Agriculture of that province made the statement that while in 1889 the population was 1,108,874, in 1899 it was only 1,047,018, showing a reduction of 61,856. The cities have increased in number but not the rural districts, and many people from the rural districts have gone to the Northwest where they can get the advantages which they do not enjoy in the older provinces, and which advantages are a great inducement to people to remain on their farms."

"The day is at hand," he continued, "when we must give to the people in the rural districts every advantage to induce them to remain on the land—not only telephones and electric cars, but free mail delivery at their doors. The expense of running a farm is far in excess of what it was years ago, and takes a lot of money to get the mails, especially when wages are so high as they are at present. Rural free mail delivery will bring the farms and rural communities in closer connection with commercial centres. It encourages the improvement of country roads, and by making rural life more attractive it stimulates agricultural activity. "It has the means of increasing the value of farm lands."

#### Graft on the Transcontinental

Here are three further instances of the way in which robbery and plunder went on along the line of the Transcontinental.

Case No. 11—The government engineers returned this cutting as 1,330 yards of loose rock and 155 yards of common excavation. This money out at \$897. Mr. Lumsden after seeing the work said that it was all common excavation. If all the material removed were earth, the proper cost would be \$311. Thus there was an overpayment of \$586, or 123 per cent.

Case No. 12—The country pays for 4,127 yards solid rock, 4,210 yards of loose rock, 4 yards common excavation, or \$9,204. On inspecting the work, Mr. Lumsden placed the proper classification at 5 yards of solid rock, and one-eighth of the rest loose rock. This would work out at \$3,124. Thus there was an over-payment of \$6,079, or 194 per cent.

Case No. 13—The returns were 8,751 yards of solid rock, 4,741 yards of loose rock, 5,145 yards of common excavation, or \$11,577. Mr. Lumsden's note was: "Little or no rock; considerable loose rock, say one third; rest common excavation." Or, say, 100 yards solid rock, 6,212 yards loose rock, and 12,325 yards of common excavation; working out at \$5,844. Thus there was an overpayment of \$10,733, or 183 per cent.

Case No. 14—The returns were 8,751 yards of solid rock, 4,741 yards of loose rock, 5,145 yards of common excavation, or \$11,577. Mr. Lumsden's note was: "Little or no rock; considerable loose rock, say one third; rest common excavation." Or, say, 100 yards solid rock, 6,212 yards loose rock, and 12,325 yards of common excavation; working out at \$5,844. Thus there was an overpayment of \$10,733, or 183 per cent.

Case No. 1—Proper cost, \$4,420; actual cost, \$14,636; overpayment, \$10,216; or 230 per cent.

Case No. 2—Proper cost, \$1,735; actual cost, \$7,711; overpayment, \$5,976; or 344 per cent.

Case No. 3—Proper cost, \$1,059; actual cost, \$4,198; overpayment, \$3,139; or 296 per cent.

Case No. 4—Proper cost, \$1,618; actual cost, \$5,857; overpayment, \$4,241; or 263 per cent.

Case No. 5—Proper cost, \$3,440; actual cost, \$11,735; overpayment, \$8,295; or 241 per cent.

### McCARTHY FOR LEADER

#### Ottawa Report States That Maitland McCarthy Will Lead Alberta Conservatives — A New Liberal Leader Wanted.

Ottawa, April 21.—It is evident from the reports received here from Alberta that the Conservative party there are preparing for a fight against the Rutherford government all along the line. They are already scenting war, and are understood to be tightening up their organization work on the quiet.

The question of leadership has been bothering the heads of the organization for some time, but it is pretty well understood that Maitland S. McCarthy, the active and popular representative of the Dominion House from Calgary, will lead the forces. There was some talk of McCarthy last year, but everybody then looked upon the contest as being so utterly hopeless in the face of the railway policy of the government that the leaders deemed it impossible for him to make the sacrifice. It is also learned that the Liberals of Calgary would not at all be averse to McCarthy leaving federal politics as they are desirous of securing that seat if possible. It is not likely that they would ever offer him opposition, but would let him run either in the city or some outside constituency. What the Liberals here fear is that instead of a Liberal coming to Ottawa, R. B. Bennett will be McCarthy's successor, but there is no likelihood of that as Mr. Bennett does not aspire for the present to federal politics.

#### WANTS MORE CAMP SPACE

### General Lake Regrets Lack of Training Last Year—Says it Had Bad Effect—Wishes Camp Grounds Provided.

Ottawa, April 25.—The annual report of the militia council, which was presented to the House of Commons today, shows that last year the total establishment of 43,742, 28,224 underwent the annual training, of whom 12,000 were in district camps, 769 at regimental camps and 16,565 at local headquarters.

The report of Sir Percy Lake, inspector-general, lays stress upon the effect of the reduction of the militia vote last year. He states that the efficiency of the whole force has suffered severely from the decrease in votes upon which is depended for maintenance and drill. In the present force the establishment had been reduced below the limits of efficiency and recruiting had to be stopped.

Sir Percy Lake's view is that had as was the effect of this policy upon the active militia, it was even worse upon the permanent force, and especially regrets the impossibility of having had all the permanent force mobilized at Petawawa for combined training.

Complaint is made as to lack of space for holding the annual camps. In this connection, the reports say that it is obvious that even in the wide northwest, or British Columbia, it should be difficult to obtain sufficient ground, but where the land is in private hands, high prices are invariably asked for it, and, as regards the public domain, it is a pity that the department of the interior has so far not been able to see its way to set aside what is really urgently needed for military purposes. A steady increase in the number of units in the west is certain in the future, and more and larger camps grounds will be needed. The value of land is fast rising and vacant areas are becoming settled. No time should therefore be lost in securing suitable areas in each of the provinces west of Lake Superior.

The inspector-general states that one of the defects most noticeable throughout the force is the weakness of many corps in qualified officers. The question of inducing more officers and non-commissioned officers to attend the schools of instruction and qualify, he says, is one of most urgent importance.

One of the passing notes of the permanent force at the present time, the report says, is a larger number of qualified officers of the rank of major or upwards.

Cobalt, April 26.—This town is excited over an epidemic of smallpox, and extraordinary measures are being taken to check the disease. Mining managers have unanimously agreed to put quarantine regulations into effect at every mine. The board of health has ordered all theatres, schools and churches closed for fourteen days. There are twenty cases in the isolation hospital. People are flocking to the doctors to get vaccinated.

### ELEVATOR MEN FINED

#### Big Companies at Port Arthur Fined for Violating Grain Act—Empire and Port Arthur Companies.

Winnipeg, April 26.—It has been known throughout the grain trade for some weeks that an important investigation in connection with the operation of elevators was being carried on by the Dominion government officials, but such absolute secrecy was maintained that it was not possible to secure any details until the fines had actually been imposed and paid by the elevator companies involved.

The story in brief is as follows: At the close of navigation on December 10, 1909, Inspector Gibbs, of Port Arthur, followed his usual custom of measuring the elevators. The work was done on the Sunday following the close of navigation, which was on a Friday. Mr. Gibbs found, on comparing the figures resulting from his measurements and the statements given by the elevators to the warehouse commissioner, that there were in the case of a number of the elevators very serious discrepancies.

The law requires that each terminal elevator shall furnish weekly to the warehouse commissioner a statement of the amount of each grade of wheat in their elevators.

When Mr. Gibbs found the serious nature of the discrepancies he laid the matter before Mr. Horn, chief inspector at Winnipeg, who in turn consulted with Mr. Castle, the warehouse commissioner, and the matter was then referred to Ottawa and the department instructed Mr. Castle to institute an investigation under the powers conferred upon him in the act. For the sake of convenience the investigation was held in Winnipeg, the books being brought here from Port Arthur. It is the first time that an investigation of this nature and gravity has been held under the act and counsel for the various elevators raised many technical objections which in the end they waived and the investigation was proceeded with.

#### MINER CRUCIFIED.

#### Awful Death of Miner Suspected of Being a Spy.

Washington, Pa., April 25.—George Rabish, the Slav miner, who was crucified and tortured with a crown of thorns by fellow miners at Avella, Pa., on Saturday because they thought he was a company spy, died early yesterday. Sheriff Murphy of Washington county, has thus far prevented the American miners from carrying out their threats to take the law into their hands and lynch the leaders of the crucifixion, and four are under arrest charged with taking part in the affair. The trouble started in the mines of the Pittsburgh and Washington Coal Company when a report spread among the miners that Rabish was acting as a company spy. He was rushed from the mine by a mob, taken outside the little village and beaten until rescued by the mine superintendent. Four of the assailants were taken before a justice of the peace and fined. Seeking revenge a crowd of miners

#### Attempt to Wreck Train.

Melville, April 24.—An attempt was made to wreck the passenger train on the G. T. R. about three miles west of Fenwood on Monday night, and was only averted by the sturdiness of the locomotive engineer.


As the train was steaming along at its usual speed, the engineer noticed an object on the track ahead, and immediately reversed his lever and shut off steam, but not in time to bring his train to a stop before he struck a tie, which had been deliberately placed on the track.

Mr. Davies, chief of the railroad detective force, who was on the train at the time, commenced investigations at once, but up to the time of going to press no arrests have been made.

One year ago at the same place this same deed was done. The police have their suspicions of a man, and an arrest may be made at any time.

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dragged Rabish from his bed, and out to the same spot where he had been attacked the day before. They stripped him and jabbed a crown of thorns on his head. After a mock trial he was sentenced to death. Rabish was bound by ropes to a cross made of mine timbers which was hastily raised, and stoned by the mob, most of whom had been drinking. A nail was driven through his left hand and a dance around him began.

Again Neiser rescued him, but this time Rabish was almost dead. He was taken to the mine hospital, where he died in the night. The same four men who were fined Friday for attacking him were arrested. It is believed that their examination will bring out the names of the mob leaders.

