

The Canadian Courier

A National Weekly

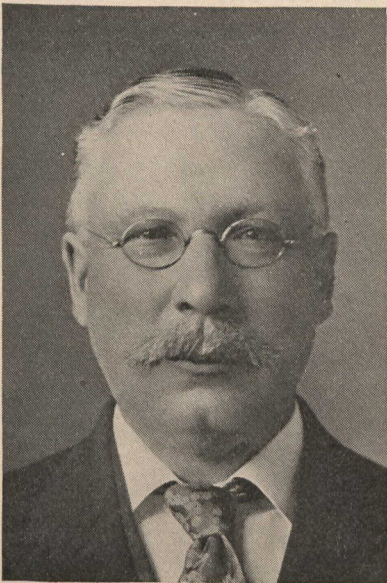
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IN THE PUBLIC VIEW



Hon. A. C. Rutherford,
Premier of Alberta.

NEW ideas are beginning to emanate from the West. The most recent and spectacular comes from Alberta whose Liberal government has declared itself in favour of provincial railways. Premier Rutherford says he will institute a department of railways in Alberta. He says that settlement is outstripping the steel. Private enterprise, however progressive it may be, does not satisfy Mr. Rutherford, who from personal acquaintance does not strike one as being a whirlwind of innovation. Indeed, the Premier of Alberta is a very quiet, unobstreperous gentleman who presides with much dignity over the Legislature facing an Opposition of two members. He has been in the West for about fifteen years, and has lived most of that time in Strathcona, which for some years had the distinction of being the terminus of a railway that

refused to cross the river to the present capital of the province. When the present Premier hung out his first law shingle in that disconsolate wooden town, it looked to the new arrival as though the last hope had its home somewhere about that humpty-dumpty, yawning street marked mainly by hotels. Strathcona of that day was a sad, sombre spot, and even when the Klondike stampede made a world's fair of Edmonton, the railway town failed to get into the march of modernity; for the people persisted in crossing the river to outfit at Edmonton, not caring a continental about the railway and knowing that for some thousands of miles there was nothing but the cold, hard trail of the overland route. Hundreds of those overlanders who drifted back to Edmonton and Strathcona down on their luck could have predicted to Mr. A. C. Rutherford, leading lawyer of the dismal town, that there never would be another mile of railway in that part of the world. But private enterprise and immigration changed that trackless solitude to a land of railways and of new towns. When Edmonton got its first railway there was a celebration second only to the pow-wow that took place when Edmonton became the capital of the new province. Now the Premier who had

to wait so long for even a box car, says that Alberta must have more railways in a hurry, even if the Government has to guarantee the necessary bonds. Alberta has government telephones. Edmonton has municipal utilities. The West is marching on.

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PRESIDENT ELIOT is the latest most conspicuous advocate of temperance. Now that the British House of Lords has thrown out the licensing bill and the time of year has arrived when municipalities in Canada are reconsidering the liquor question, the opinions of the ex-President of Harvard carry unusual weight. All his life President Eliot has been a careful drinker. He has not considered that high thinking and occasional drinking are opposed. He has been a high thinker. His intellectual activities



President Eliot,
Of Harvard, just retired.

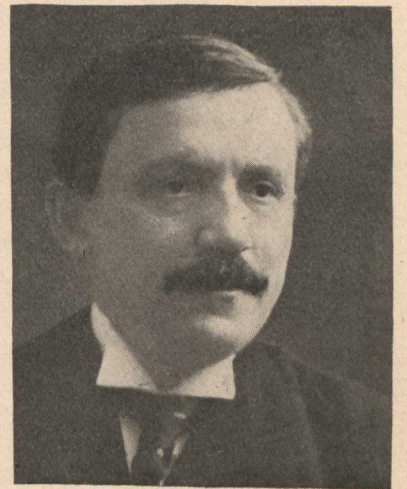
have been many-sided. He has been a practical progressive who while at the head of a great university devoted mainly to academic questions, has been one of the foremost thinkers in political economy. He has studied communities and social development. He understands the forces that make for the upbuilding of social systems. He is a student of democracy. At the same time President Eliot has studied the individual man. Now at the age of seventy he has discovered that he really did not need the moderate amount of liquor which he has consumed. He says that though liquor undoubtedly induces a form of gladness, it is a species of gladness he can very well do without. This is a sane and high opinion which will carry much weight with temperance reformers.

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HON. JOHN BURNS also has spoken his mind concerning drink. He says that British workingmen know too much about the bottle. This is one of the outspoken things for which Mr. Burns is well hated by some people. At present he is rather under the ban of a section of the Labour party whom he represents in the Commons and Cabinet. The Socialists do not like him. As President of the Local Government Board he has incurred the resentment of Liberals. Mr. Burns will persist in saying bluntly the things which he thinks deeply. Here and there in Canada on a railway train you may encounter a labouring man with a kit of tools and an English accent who relates with much pride how he used to know "Johnny" Burns in the days when he was simple member for Battersea and a very plain man whose house was frequently visited by such notables as Lord Rosebery and Mr. Balfour. Anybody who has met Mr. Burns knows that he was never born to be a diplomat. He is plain, blunt John Burns, who as Cabinet Minister and special adviser to His Majesty on the problem of the unemployed, carried the same sturdy simplicity that makes the most remarkable combination of rugged strength and honesty ever known in a British Cabinet. And it is quite likely that if occasion arose Mr. Burns could do as once he did—stand outside St. Paul's and lead a mob of unemployed folk in the singing of "Dare to be a Daniel." Indeed, John Burns is very much of a Daniel who is not afraid of the lions.

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MR. C. R. HOSMER, manager of the Canadian Pacific Telegraphs, has recently been made a director of the Bank of Montreal. Mr. Hosmer comes near to being a great man. In finance, he has been a success. In national undertakings he has shown a fair grasp of general principles, without going so far as to lead any one to accuse him of being too ideal or too statesmanlike. He began life as office boy, became a telegraph operator, and finally "promoter and perfecter" of the Canadian Pacific's wonderful telegraph and cable service. He is above all else a worker. Strange how industrious telegraph operators get to the top—Van Horne, Shaughnessy, Edison, Carnegie, and a few others, and Mr. Hosmer is president or director of as many companies as almost any of them.



Mr. C. R. Hosmer,
President C.P.R. Telegraph Company.



Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux,
Who is attracting so much attention in England