

**THE NORTH-WEST COUNCIL.**

This body has concluded its deliberations after a session of a little more than a month. Our member Mr. Geddes returned by the train on Wednesday but we have not yet had an opportunity of ascertaining from him what has really been accomplished and it will be some time yet before the new and amended ordinances are published. In view of the amendments that have been passed during this and preceding sessions since 1879, it is absolutely necessary that the ordinances should be revised and codified in order that the people of the territories should be able to understand the system of laws by which they are governed, and we would suggest that the government appoint a commission of, say three: one of the Stipendiary Magistrates and two senior barristers of the Territories, to perform that work and to superintend the publication of a new and revised edition of the ordinances.

In another column will be found the latest reports of the closing days of the session. They are somewhat meagre and convey but little information as to the nature of the ordinances introduced and we will therefore have to wait until they are published before we can pass judgment upon them. There appears to have been several matters of public interest discussed and a radical change in the constitution of the Council was proposed by Mr. Oliver, Member for Edmonton who is an active member of that body, and a pronounced liberal in his views. His resolutions which we have published elsewhere were voted down, and an amendment of Mr. Jackson, the member for Qu'Appelle, also an energetic and prominent member was passed.

We presume that the school bill, introduced by Mr. Oliver in the previous session and ordered to be printed for circulation during the recess, was discussed but with what results we are not yet informed. We observe that it was proposed to reduce the average attendance of scholars, necessary to obtain government aid, from 15 to 10, which is a wise amendment in view of the sparse population of many of the settlements. We perceive that the sum of \$1000 has been appropriated to this district for public purposes, a sum far too small to meet with the wants of the people. It will take nearly that amount to rebuild the Elbow river bridge the want of which is severely felt by residents across the river. It is true that the greater portion of the large sums collected in this district for whisky and other fines goes into the coffers of the Dominion Government, then we trust that our representative will make suitable application to the proper quarter so that we get some return for this and other public services. As we have before stated, thousands of dollars have been levied on the people of Calgary during the last year for fines, and we have a right to demand a return of some portion at all events, for our roads and bridges and for educational purposes. We notice that the Minister of Public Works intends to visit the North-west shortly. Advantage should be taken of his visit here to impress upon him the necessity of the Dominion Government building a court-house and jail in Calgary, and also giving a grant to the Elbow bridge. We observe that the members of the Council made a strike for their back pay and also for their indemnity for the present session. This is quite right. Many of them come from a great distance and they are entitled to their travelling fees as well as a moderate sum for their time and services.

Since the above was written we learn by telegraph from Regina that a new municipal act has been passed by the Council, which will render it necessary for the citizens of Calgary to send in a new petition and necessary papers, and a new proclamation will have to be issued. It will be necessary for our townsmen to take immediate action in the matter, if they wish to secure incorporation, without further delay. In the matter of the Bow River Bridge our editor writes the pleasing information that the necessary appropriation will be made by the Dominion Government upon the proper application being made by our people. This should be done at once, in order to prevent the Edmonton trade being diverted from Calgary. In the matter of the granting of licenses for the manufacture and sale of malt liquors, the friends of the movement will be gratified to learn that the question has been settled, so far as the North-west Council is concerned, in favor

of granting the privilege; but it will not finally be settled until after a meeting of the Dominion Cabinet is held (probably early next month) to decide whether the Dominion Government or the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-west Territories will issue the licenses. A strong effort was made by the temperance men to prevent the granting of licenses, and to abolish the permit system, but the intelligent public sentiment is strongly in favor of beer licenses being granted under proper restrictions.

The latest accounts from the Columbia River are to the effect that there are a number of dead boats there doing nothing and likely to continue at the business. About 200 entries have been made for mining locations but placer mining has been almost impossible up to this time, owing to the high water in the rivers caused, not so much by the rains as the melting of the snow on the mountains by the excessive heat. At Silver City the Healy (Alberta) mine is turning out some fine copper ore which the company intend to send to Swansea, Wales to be smelted. The present indications are that this mine is going to turn out very rich. The surface ore yields over 70 per cent copper and a considerable percentage of silver and other minerals. There is a prospect of Silver City booming again and that after the placer mining craze is over, the inhabitants will return and settle down to hard pan.

**EDITORIAL NOTES.**

Louis Riel made himself notorious some years ago as the leader of the Red River rebellion, for which he was outlawed, appears to be anxious to again become distinguished in public life. He has been for some time past in the North Saskatchewan district holding meetings among the French half-breeds, on the subject of their grievances in regard to their lands. There is no doubt that they have some cause for complaint and there is no reason why they should not be entitled to the same privileges as their brethren in Manitoba. But we agree with our contemporary the Prince Albert Times, that they are going the wrong way about it to engage the services of a man like Riel who has been until lately an outlaw and is now an American citizen. There are plenty of able men in Prince Albert some of them connected by marriage with the half-breeds, who are much more competent and better fitted in every way to bring the wishes of the half-breeds before the Dominion Government and whose representations are much more likely to be successful than those of a man of such an unenviable reputation as Mr. Riel.

Our local scientists are airing the theory that the copious rains which have prevailed in this district during the present summer have been caused by the blasting operations in the mountains. The theory is rather far fetched indeed. While admitting that artificial or other sudden explosions will discharge a rain cloud, it has yet to be shown that they will produce one and it also remains for the local scientist to show how it is possible for these explosions, confined as many of them are by the rocks they are intended to crush can make the wind blow steadily from the north east and the south east and from the quarter in which these explosions occur.

Some generous hearted people in town are very much annoyed, because the Nor'-wester does not back out a good deal of abuse and verbiage against the Mounted Police. We are in fact accused of "hang-ling on to the skirts" of the Mounted Police. That is not our business any more than it is to abuse them. The fact is the persons who make this complaint do not support either of the local papers. When they want to read a paper they go and borrow it, their objections are not essential only by their meanness. Such men have no idea of the duties of a journalist or a newspaper proprietor in a small place, and they are not likely to know. We have repeatedly said that our columns are open for those who may have public matters to discuss but they are not at the disposal of a cabal of mischief makers and fastidiers upon any subject they may choose to discuss. It is true we may not know too much about our business but we have a "midling tight grip" upon the handful of things we do know about, and we don't purpose losing our grip for a "sprint" of Tooley street tailors.

The remarks of our contemporary in regard to the necessity of a public hospital at McLeod apply with equal force to our own town. The necessity for a good hospital here is everywhere becoming more apparent. Who will move in the matter?

Our boys went to McLeod yesterday to play the cricketers there. As there are two or three old cricketers there it is likely they will muster a good team. Our special reporter has gone with our club to report proceedings for this paper.

**NOR'-WESTERS.**

**GLEISCHEN.**  
Special correspondent to the Nor'-wester.  
This is the country where it does not rain. I thought above remark was true last Tuesday and Friday for it did not rain but it poured down. The heavy wind accompanying it lodged the grain and vegetables some what and to-day every thing is right side up again and no damage done, on the contrary a great deal of good.

We are to have a post office established here with Mr. W. D. Creighton as postmaster which makes all Gleyschens happy.

New buildings are being put up by Mr. Beupre and Mr. Grabo.  
The C. P. R. buildings have been repaired which gives Gleyschen a decidedly better appearance than before.

Quite a number of our boys are at the front to clear up wrecks and it feels somewhat without them.  
Crops here are doing well and the prospect of an abundant harvest is good. N. J. W.  
**MELEOD**  
Guests:  
Our High River correspondent sends us the following results of some of the branding there: North-west Cattle Co., 850 calves; Mount Healy Ranch Co., 140 calves, and Mr. John Quire 73.  
Hon. H. M. Cochrane has bought 6,000 sheep from Richter & Hunt on the Teton, and 2,000 from Patterson on the Shonkin. They have taken the trail for the North-west.

Mr. D. W. Davis tarped over about 1,750 cows and bulls and a few steers that the J. Kelly Ranch last week. They were purchased by that company from I. G. Baker & Co.

Mr. John Quire of High River, has lost five cows during the past summer. They were taken out of his corral by Indians the calves being left.

Mr. C. E. Davison is on the road with a band of 1,600 head of sheep.

It has been suggested to us that movement be set on foot to provide suitable accommodation for those who are overtaken by accident or illness.

As proposed the only place to which a man could be taken in a public hospital, which is not intended for this, and to which patients have only been admitted, because there was no other place.  
The benefit of a public hospital cannot be overestimated. Everyone knows just what those benefits are, so it is scarcely necessary to detail them. The simple fact that patients can get good medical attention, including and including the use of a moderate cost, should also recommend the idea.  
If such a project is once started, everyone should give liberally. There are those in the country who might not benefit at one time or another. Those engaged in the cattle business, who are constantly surrounded by dangers of one kind or another, should be particularly favourable to the scheme. The cowboy who at any time is liable to be laid up with a broken arm or leg, can probably be depended upon to contribute their share. It should be a matter of great satisfaction to them to know that in the event there is a local institution to which they can go.

**MOOSE JAW.**  
The weather for past weeks has been all that could be desired. The crops are growing splendidly. Already a more buoyant spirit is beginning to pervade business circles in view of the excellent harvest now regarded as most assured. The prospect of the C. P. R. experimental farms, over which so many wiseacres shook their heads, is said to be excellent. In our own neighborhood wherever good seed was properly sown, in well prepared soil, the harvest bids fair to be abundant. No one any longer doubts that the agricultural capabilities of the Moose Jaw district are first class.

**EDMONTON.**  
Mr. Tyrrell, of the geological survey, arrived in Edmonton last Saturday with his party. He is engaged in in tracing up the coal seams, and has little faith in the supposed coal deposits.

**FROM THE PEOPLE.**

**BEER OR NO BEER.**  
To the Editor of the Nor'-wester.  
Sir:—I am glad to find that the meeting for the promotion of temperance announced in the three protestant churches last Sunday resulted in the formation of Blue Ribbon Society whose officers are Rev. Mr. Dyke, President; Mr. Robertson Vice-President; Mr. Armour, Secord Vice-President; and Mr. Runkin third Vice-President; Mr. Spencer Douglas, Secretary, and Messrs. Ingram, Douglas and Clark members of the committee. The society which is non-nominational will hold its meetings fortnightly in the Methodist church commencing Monday evening the 13th inst. at 8 o'clock when it is hoped that all gifted with a sense of responsibility for the welfare of the community will be in attendance. The desire is to provoke discussion on the subject of temperance, and to create a sound moral sentiment giving evidence that a large portion of our people are opposed to not only the drinking customs now prevailing here, but that they are determined to maintain for this North-west country the advanced position it holds as a prohibitory district.

The out-cry for a beer license is a great mistake, and if carried out will be but the introduction under sanction of law of all the evils of the drink traffic. Beer will be but a cover for ardent spirits and revelry, profanity and riot in private.

Did you—unfortunate victim of a wife—did you hope in coming to this country that you would be safe here? that your husband, with a passion for drink, would learn to be sober and kind, and that once sober, fortune would smile upon your household, and all would be peaceful and happy? Did you—broken hearted mother—on parting with your dear and only boy, commend him to God's care, and pray earnestly that in all his wanderings he might be kept free from the alluring cup? Sister, are you concerned for your own hearted and manly brother? Or yes, God's help has been invoked, the earnest and heartfelt prayer has gone up and your hearts anxious souls, are at peace. But see! The evil one is at work and your boys' tender hearts are ruthlessly shattered. Your hearts may be torn and lacerated by anguish and disappointments, but what matters it when many debasing appetites must be appeased. Would you expect—would you dare to interfere with his liberality? Away with the idea. We are not serfs, we are free men. WE SHALL HAVE BEER. Poor infatuated beings! Beware lest your selfishness be possession of your better nature and that at last when He comes to take account of His servants you may be obliged to hear the significant words "Inasmuch as ye did it to the least of these my brethren ye did it unto me."

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