

THE ALBERTAN

M. DAVIDSON - President and Editor
A. MOORE - Business Manager
W. CHEELY - Managing Editor

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THE STREET RAILWAY

In a very interesting interview in The Albertan yesterday morning, Mayor Short of Edmonton explained why the Edmonton street railway is better managed than the Calgary system is better managed than the Edmonton system. But he points out that the city of Edmonton is more extended than Calgary, that a large area of vacant land in the heart of the city makes transportation difficult and the problem of the street railway serious. That area remained vacant through no fault of Edmonton but because it was untaxable, which was not the error of Edmonton.

On the other hand Mayor Short pointed out that Edmonton gives its street railway much more to do in the way of meeting expenses than Calgary does. It makes it meet a portion of the cost of the high-level bridge. It puts against the railway system other forms of expenditure, such as a percentage of the cost of pavement along the lines. Edmonton is asking too much of its street railway, while we, on the other hand, are asking enough.

A comparison of the two systems shows that the failure of Edmonton to make profits is due to a particular feature which is fast disappearing, to errors in management which can be corrected and because of the Edmonton system of book-keeping. There is nothing in it at all that reflects upon the principle of municipal ownership.

On the other hand a comparison shows that the Calgary system is not making as much money as we really believed and that should put us on our guard against making any wild cat extensions even considering a reduction of the fares at the present time.

A MUNICIPAL COAL MINE

A combined effort is being made to discourage the city from further extending its municipal ownership operations by getting possession of a coal mine. The arguments used against the establishment of a municipal street railway a few years ago are being repeated with striking similarity.

Calgary people should be paying about three dollars or less per ton for coal. They are paying seven and eight dollars per ton. The difference between what Calgary is paying and what Calgary should pay is about half a million dollars annually.

Yet we are asked to sit down quietly and pay this added toll and never make a struggle, because we are told the money market is very bad, because the city cannot operate coal propositions to advantage and because we shouldn't operate coal propositions even if we could.

The Calgary Herald opposes the mere consideration of the coal mine because the money market is so bad. The Calgary Herald opposed the bridges across the rivers last fall because the money market was bad. It favored the manufacturers building costing \$250,000, a few weeks ago, despite the fact that the money market was bad. But it now opposes the coal mine, again worrying about the depressed condition of the money market. The Herald is playing a sort of hide-and-seek game with this money market.

Now you see the effect of the stringency, now you do not. It is certainly a handy thing to have about when you desire to oppose progressive action.

As the holders of the mines are prepared to take city bonds in payment for the property, that part of the financing will not cause very much trouble. There would be other expenses, but they would be met without much difficulty, quite as readily as the proposed manufacturers' building.

The objection that we cannot operate a coal mine is precisely the same that was raised at the undertaking of all municipal enterprises. It was raised by The Calgary Herald when the municipal street railway was first suggested.

The third objection is that we should continue

to pay toll to the coal companies which have been holding us up since we began, just because it would be unkind to interfere with their business.

That is hardly an argument that will meet with the approval of self-reliant people who are anxious to reduce the cost of living. Expenses here are about the highest in Canada, though they should be the lowest. We are in a cattle country, but pay more for our meat than consumers in most parts of Canada. We are in the best wheat growing country in the world and pay more for flour than consumers thousands of miles away who eat flour made from our wheat. We are in the center of a rich coal district and have difficulty in getting coal at a reasonable rate and sometimes cannot get coal at all.

We have established the principle of going into any business where conditions make it imperative, whether we are interfering with established interests or not. We have a paving plant which does business despite the competition of powerful opposition.

The first duty of the city council is to the citizens of Calgary. The aldermen should make it their first endeavor to see that this is a cheap city in which to live. It should endeavor to get cheap power from cheap coal to assist manufacturers who are here now, and to attract others. If the aldermen succeed in doing that this year they will have accomplished more than any of their predecessors.

They should consider the proposition very carefully. A successful issue will mean the solution of many of the serious problems which are facing Calgary.

TAKE A REFERENDUM

Here is one way of killing three birds with one stone.

Let the government submit in the form of a referendum the question of the naval policy for the Dominion.

At the same time let it submit a referendum upon the abolition of the Dominion senate.

Then we shall know what the people think about the naval policy, what they think about the second chamber and we can make a test of the referendum also. That would be accomplishing three very important things.

The questions to be asked of the people on the naval policy are not very much involved. Do you favor a cash contribution during the emergency? Do you favor the organization of a Canadian navy? Do you favor no action in the navy business at all? That would be a decision upon the principle, and the result would be a certain indication of the wishes of the Canadian people.

It would be the same with the senate. Practically all the people who are not aspirants for the senate, would vote for its abolition. That means a small majority for its abolition. Some might vote in favor of reforming the senate by making it an elective body, but even that is somewhat doubtful. The United States senate has done more harm to that country than the Canadian senate has done harm to Canada.

This referendum would give the honest, straight, fair opinion of the Canadian people as nothing else would give it.

THE RAILWAY SUBSIDIES

The fact of the matter is that the Dominion is taking about \$15,000,000 of the money of the people of Canada and handing it over to Mackenzie and Mann. If Canadians had the right to vote on money grants in the Dominion as they have in the municipalities, the grants would not be made.

Various governments from time to time have given in the way of cash subsidies, bond guarantees, either earned or promised, to this most successful combination of railway operators, the enormous sum of \$200,000,000. That should be sufficient, one would imagine, for all practical purposes.

The argument that is made in parliament is that previous governments subsidised the Canadian Pacific railway to an enormous extent, that another government was generous to the Grand Trunk railway to an excessive degree, that therefore this administration should hand over the money of the people for the financial benefit of Mackenzie and Mann. That argument is not a very good one. Is there to be no end of the Dominion handing out grants in such lavish amounts to railways? Are we to tax ourselves at such an extravagant rate merely to raise money to hand over to these smooth railway projectors?

It is the same old story. The scandals of the trusts in the United States and of the influence of Big Interests in the United States senate and all along the line have their counterpart in the relation between the big railway interests and the different governments of Canada.

The people of the United States are in revolt against the influence of the trusts and corporations and the people of Canada are about due to assert themselves against the selfish railway interests in Canada.

Editorial Notes

The Dominion of Canada hands over many millions to the Canadian Northern railway and gets nothing in return except a small amount of stock of most uncertain value.

A casual observer from a long distance might imagine, that there is a race between Mr. Meighen and R. B. Bennett for a dominant place in western Conservatism, with the privilege of playing second fiddle to Mr. Rogers. As Mr. Meighen has made no bonfire speech, he seems to be rounding into the stretch somewhat in the lead.

If the Canadian Northern railway actually needed the money and came to the people with a definite statement, showing what they had done with the money they already had received from the public, and telling what they would do with the balance, the people who furnish the money might be more inclined to listen to it all.

Another birthday has come and gone and knightships have been sprinkled about upon such common people as Barrie and Forbes-Robertson, and nothing in the entire hamper in the shape of a harp or a knightship for either Duke Whaley or Simon John Clarke.

This is not the growing time for the Calgary baseball team, which is having its losing streak early in the season. Even the Mad Hatters beat us, which is something to mourn about.

It looks now as if there would be no opposition to Hon. Mr. Mitchell in Bow Valley. Mr. Harold Riley is not the only Conservative in that riding or near that riding, but he is the boldest one, and a mix-up does not look good to him.

The United States is going towards lower tariff with a rush, and now certain people of New York are stirring an agitation to have New York made a free port.

The seven million stock which the government is to get from the C.N.R. is of very questionable value. It gives the government no say in the management of the road and it involves the country in certain responsibilities which must not be to the advantage of the country.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier made some sort of a fight when the raid was made on the treasury, but Mr. Groulx says he thought he believed that he was taking part in a sham battle. W. F. Maclean was carefully concealed, safe from harm, under the ammunition wagon.

The expenditure of the Dominion of Canada is about \$30 per head, and the taxes are much more than that, and then there are municipal and other taxes, and still we believe that we are not a highly taxed people.

Every person says that the government assistance to the C.P.R. was outrageous, and the enormous grants would never have been made had the people only known what they were doing. Now the members of parliament are favoring this outrageous grant to the C.N.R. because it has not received as much as the C.P.R.

If the Dominion senate keeps on, it will become a valuable function of government. Though opposed to the principle of a second chamber, the public must be pretty nearly convinced by this time that the senate is really nearer to the people than the machine ridden, corporation controlled Commons.

Sidewalk Sketches

By Howard L. Mann

PROFANITY.

Profanity is a spicy and enthusiastic form of utterance which does not allow the conversation to drag or the mind to become congested with thought. When used as a substitute for logic and reason and backed by a flourishing fist and red waiskers it proves highly successful as a means of discouraging argument.

Profanity usually gets an early start by reckless use of the expletive "dam." This is the first word that comes into the mind of the small boy when he steps upon the fiery physique of the honey bee in his bare feet, and from that time on he keeps adding expletives to his vocabulary until finally his ordinary conversation sounds like the remarks of a sporting gallery. The old-fashioned mother used to discourage this tendency by the liberal application of soap and plenty of it, but owing to the scarcity of soap the practice has been abandoned.

Some men are prone from force of habit, and never finish a sentence without tacking on a superfluous suffix. They do not swear a bitter or malicious spirit, but merely in order to start the conversation. This kind of profanity is never abashed by a national call or a meeting of the W.F.M.S. and even ripples through meal time in a preoccupied manner.

Other men never use profanity at all except when goaded to it by striking the latent surface of a hectic countenance against a cooking chair or biting heavily into a splinter from a T-bone steak. Many a woman has lived in the same house with her husband for years and never heard him use an expression that wouldn't be perfectly appropriate at prayer meeting, and then some evening when he sits down on the lawn settee and ceases the inverted stinger of a high-spirited nap, he will rise up and discharge the pent-up emotions of fifty years of exemplary living.

Instances have been known where women cursed their husbands of the habit of using profanity by throwing a few of his own samples in his direction. A better method, however, is to leave him to get his own meals for about six months, which will keep him so busy that he won't have time to keep up with the changing styles in women's wear.

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

Store Will Close at 1 O'clock Each Wednesday in June, July & August

COMMENCING today, June 4th, this store will close promptly at 1 o'clock every Wednesday during the summer months, that our business family may enjoy a much appreciated holiday. The whole store participates, the rank and file, from manager to office boy, and as well, the drivers and horses. To enable the drivers to enjoy the full benefits of this Wednesday half holiday, it will be necessary that Wednesday morning purchases are not delivered until Thursday morning. We'll than you for your assistance.

We will see that store service shall not suffer on this account. But you can help greatly by shopping early. Today we have planned a busy morning with extraordinary value happening.



Kimonos in a Morning Scutter at 95c

Regular Values \$1.75 to \$3.50

YOU can have these," remarked the department chief, "for the big morning attraction today, and you don't need me to tell you that they are one of the best bargains in kimonos we have ever offered."

It's another case, though, of good things being done up in small parcels, for there are only 100 in the lot, just enough for brisk morning shopping. At the saving they represent few women will care to miss the chance of securing one.

Pretty make Kimonos in print, crepe and muslin, in a variety of good shades in floral designs, nicely faced with satin. They come in short and long styles, not all sizes, in each style, but all sizes in the lot, from 22 to 44. Reg. \$1.75 to \$3.50. This morning 95c

Ladies' Golf Coats
Special \$8.95

Those ladies who have longed to add a smart golf or outing coat to their summer wardrobe will welcome such news as this, and make the most of it this morning—

Smart Little Golf Coats, 39 inches long, in two of the season's prettiest effects: one regulation cut style; rounded front corners; patch pockets; two-button fastenings. The other comes in a Norfolk style, belt attached. Very popular garments for holiday and outing wear and made from an excellent quality wool cheviot. Sizes 12, 14, 16 and 18. Special \$8.95

\$1.50 to \$2.00
Flouncings, 85c

Here's a Wednesday morning bargain event that promises to create an early stir around the popular embroidery counter. We can't promise that quantities will last the whole morning. So shop early.

Beautiful Swiss Flouncings, 44 inches wide; made on fine quality Swiss muslin with embroidery well executed in eyelet and blind designs in bold patterns; suitable for pretty summer dresses. Regular values \$1.50 to \$2.00 a yard. This morning 85c

A Morning List of Groceries

A short, terse list of tempting and delicious food stuffs for the table, and especially priced for a busy morning's shopping today.

GOODWILL'S FRUITS "SPECIAL"—Peaches, Red Cherries, Red Currants, Lawtonberries, Regular 35c. Today Special, per glass jar \$3.00
LIBBY'S LARGE WHITE ASPARAGUS—Reg. 40c. Today Special, tin 35c
GALLON APPLES—"Vineyard" brand. Extra heavy pack. Regular 40c. Today Special 35c
BEANS—No. 1 pack. Wax or Refugee. Today Special, 3 tins \$2.75
CORN—No. 1 pack. Today Special, 3 tins 35c
BLUEBERRIES—Gallon tins. Today Special 60c
CORN ON THE COB—Gallon tins. Today Special 65c

Early This A. M. for
Dollar Waists

A quantity of Pretty Waists especially selected for this morning's selling, and representing more than the usual good value offered from this store. We expect a record clearance. Shop early.

They come in a variety of different styles and designs in high and square necks; three-quarter and long sleeves; beautiful embroidered fronts, trimmed with lace and tucks and some finished with crocheted buttons; all sizes in the lot. This morning \$1.00

60 Pairs of Ladies' Shoes
To Walk in a Morning Sale

\$3.00, \$4.00 and \$4.50 Values at \$2.25

The quantity is so small, the value so big, that we'll give these an hour or so and no longer to make a disappearance this morning. Come early.

Ladies' Patent Colt Laced Boots—Narrow, medium or wide toe; low and military heels. Only sixty pairs altogether, all sizes in the lot, but not all sizes in every style. Regular \$3.00, \$4.00 and \$4.50 pair. This morning \$2.25

