

# THE NOR-WESTER.

WARNER & SON, Proprietors.  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 5, 1884.

## THE NORTH-WEST COUNCIL.

It is quite evident from the proceedings of the present session of the North-west Council that a great deal of useful legislation has been accomplished. The session is now drawing to a close and we owe an apology to our readers for not having in the earlier days of the session paid a visit to the capital and taken a view of the members. Whatever may have been the shortcomings of the past sessions of the North-west Council, it is evident from the proceedings of the present session, and we are indebted to the Leader for the report we have given, that these proceedings are characterized by a good deal of earnestness and moderation.

Mr. Oliver, the member for the Northern portion of Alberta, has to be sure some pet notions of a radical nature under the disguise of reform, but he has not succeeded in impressing his views on a majority of his fellow councillors. The member for the north is a pronounced prohibitionist and it is natural that he should take a contracted view of some measures which do not accord with his pronounced views of hostility to the Dominion Government. He is, however, a good worker and as he has not a majority at his back he is not likely to rule the council. Mr. Geddes the member for the southern district is not likely to find anything in common with Mr. Oliver. The one is a champion of blue ribbonism and the other supports a beer license, and as this is really a "burning" question Mr. Geddes is not likely to forget his promise to the people of this district who elected him. Of the important measures of this session, the School Ordinance, the municipal ordinance and several ordinances in which litigants are mainly interested will be the most important. We observe that a report of the Finance Committee recently submitted, among other things recommended that the Council impress on the Federal authorities the urgent necessity there is for the payment of the members, indemnity past due and which is to become due to the members in the council. This is important and we are surprised that members did not look into this matter before. Members who do not look out more closely after their indemnity than they have done in the past are more liable to be blamed for their carelessness than for their modesty. The North-west act allows them an indemnity and certainly members are only blamable for allowing the matter to remain so long as "unfinished business." They are certainly deserving of their pay especially for this session. The same committee have urged the propriety of raising the question as to the nature of their powers. They are of the opinion that their power is executive. If there are any doubts as to this we think they should be set at rest. The Lt. Governor should certainly be entitled to some advisers. He should have an executive to aid him in council.

This we think should take place soon as the council is continually increasing in membership, the territory is vast and it would be of great assistance to His Honor to have an executive. In our next we shall refer to one or two of the projected measures which Mr. Oliver has been endeavoring to effect.

### THE PROSPECT:

Contrary to the general expectation there has not yet been what may be called a rush to the mining country of this district and west of it. A considerable number of prospectors have, it is true, gone in this summer but nothing of the anticipated rush has taken place. A good deal of prospecting is going on but in a small way, but it will take another season before there will be any marked activity in mining matters in the Rockies and Selkirk. The wet weather has been a great drawback and prospecting has been carried on indifferently owing to the delay caused by excessive rains. Placer mining, for which most of the prospectors are seeking will undoubtedly be brisk next season, because by that time there will be a more definite local knowledge than there is now. There can be little or no doubt but that rich placers will be found at the head waters of the Columbia and in the Selkirk. The majority of the prospectors who have gone into the mountains this summer have not been very well equipped for the nature of the country into which they have ventured. A number of them got "broke" shortly after getting out and it has been a fortunate thing for them that they had a railway to fall back upon.

The number of green prospectors who have gone into the field will account for many of the failures this season. Another year will witness a different class of prospectors who will undoubtedly give the country a proper test, for after all, it is absurd to suppose that an inexperienced prospector can accomplish as much as one who has had the experience and who is used to the vicissitudes of a mining life. So far as quartz and heavy mining is concerned it will take some time yet before any great results will be obtained. Capital is needed and this is not forthcoming. A few rich discoveries will startle the eastern world. This may happen at any time, but our own convictions are there will be no great activity in Rocky Mountain mining until another season.

The last Prince Albert Times which comes to hand contains a report of the delegates who went to Montana to interview Louis Riel together with Riel's reply. The names of the delegates are Gabriel Dumont, J. Isbister, Moise Quillmette and M. Dumas. They went from Prince Albert to St. Peter's Mission in Lewis and Clark counties Montana, where they met the ex-president. They say among other things "We asked him to come with us if he could and aid us. This interview took place on the 6th June. Mr. Riel read our paper of trust and begged to be allowed twenty-four hours to think 'the matter over before giving us an answer. We were received in a very friendly way by Mr. and Mrs. Riel. Their courtesy was sincere and simple and true. Generally when entering the house of a very poor man the feeling of the visitor is more or less painful, but entering Mr. Riel's house our impression was different. The humble condition of his home reminded us of the opportunity he had for years to become rich, and even to make an exceptional fortune, and how at all risks he stood firm by the confidence of his people."

In reply Riel said: "I accept your very kind invitation and I will go and spend some months among you in the hope that by petitioning the government we will obtain the redress of all our grievances."

That is sensible, though we cannot see that a petition could not have been got up and forwarded to Ottawa without sending 700 miles for Mr. Riel, who confesses that he is an American citizen. The NOR-WESTER has no particular esteem for Riel, even in his present capacity as an angel of mercy, but it has no fears on account of his presence in the Prince Albert district. Riel made a fatal mistake once and it is likely that the memory of it still lingers, and that, notwithstanding certain amount of bravado which a still possesses the recollection of what mistake will act as a deterrent. So long as he accomplishes good he is welcome, and he appears to be anxious to render beneficial service to the class of people who have a confidence in him which we cannot but admire.

The account of the relief of Lieutenant Greely, Arctic explorer, and the survivors of his party reads more like fiction than fact. The nautical hero who accomplished the rescue is W. S. Schley, Commander United States Navy, who was persistent during and perseverance were finally awarded after overcoming great hardships. The rescue was effected at 9 p. m. June 22nd, "The" The crew numbered about 30, and 80 men engaged in the "Bear" and 80 men engaged in the expedition perished of starvation at the place where the survivors were found. And still the craze for Arctic expeditions will be as great as ever.

A LETTER in the Toronto Globe of the 18th June has been handed to us. The letter is a severe condemnation of the manner in which justice has been administered in this country. It does not complain of Col. McLeod or Col. Herchimer.

### NOR-WESTERS

**MacLEOD**  
Gazette: Mr. Wachter, who is settled in the Lime Kiln Bottom, came to town on Tuesday with a load of garden stuff. He had carrots, onions, beets and small cabbage plants. We have to thank him for a big bunch of onions and radishes. The latter are the finest we have yet seen.

Dr. McEachran of the Wallton Ranch, returned from Montana on Wednesday, after having seen the cattle he purchased fairly on the trail. The drive numbers about 3,700, and counting the calves that will be dropped on the road, about 4,000 will be the number by the time they reach the range. Doc Gields is in charge of the entire drive, which will reach here about the 12th or 14th August. Raymond has charge of the leading band. Dr. McEachran has charge of the leading band. Dr. McEachran has been here for about two weeks.

There were found in their possession. One of these men is quite elderly and respectable looking and is the same horse thief, who, three weeks ago, got a lot of horses from Col. Jarvis under false pretences. There appears to have been a regular nest of these characters who made the Cypress Hills, and from there committed depredations on the surrounding country. Another prisoner is one Ferguson who is held for selling whisky and larceny from F. W. C. & N. Co. stage station. A man named Yauter is also held on a charge of selling whisky.

Yesterday at about one o'clock, Mr. Thomas Sant, of Clinton, British Columbia, while attempting to ford the river about four miles above the town, was drowned. It does not seem to be known finally how the fatal accident occurred, but the supposition is that he was leading some horses across the river, which is very high, that they became unmanageable, and in the confusion he was dragged off his horse and probably under the water.

His hat was found a short distance down the river and the horses were standing on the bank.

### PRINCE ALBERT.

The government rifles which were stored at Carleton have been removed to the Battleford police barracks.

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