

The Albertan

W. M. DAVIDSON, Editor and Manager.

THE CENSUS RETURNS

The census returns prove that the Northern part of Alberta has a few more people in its boundaries than Southern Alberta. That is the case if you count Red Deer as a Southern town, as it probably should be counted.

The difference in favor of the north is immaterial, a matter of less than 500, but upon that small majority many things have been done.

The Albertan merely quotes these figures as the census figures. We do not say that they are incorrect for the reason that we cannot prove that they are not correct. We did know that the census returns were incorrect as far as Calgary was concerned and they are incorrect as far as the population being under-stated, probably somewhat more than the 500 difference between the north and the south.

The census returns will be fixed upon by those who attempted to justify the unfair distribution of seats made when the province was created. This is no way justifies the division that was made. Even with the census returns before them the distribution could not be made just as it is. But the census was not before those who created the province, and their division was not based upon any returns or upon any facts. The intention was to favor Edmonton, and Edmonton was favored.

The lesson of the census is that the south is holding its own even though the north is ahead of it with the second railway and that the abnormal expansion in population that has followed that. And the south will continue to hold its own for it is the choicest part of Alberta and is the choicest part of the west.

Based upon the census returns and the rumor that the next legislature will be increased by about two-thirds, and the fact that Calgary is likely to increase its territory taking in the suburbs, Calgary will probably have three members in the next legislature, that would be about right.

WE ARE DISCOVERED. Alas! we have been discovered. We have been caught red-handed, and the worst of it all, Edmonton has caught us. We have been discovered in the act of making dishonest reports about our building returns.

What do you think of that? Where are we going to get off now? It was the wise and just Edmonton Bulletin that served out this disgusting bit of treachery on our own part. And here it is.

"But all," says the Bulletin, "these figures include \$350,000 for the cement works, which are located in Ekshaw, 50 miles from Calgary."

"These returns are too obviously padded to be of any use for comparison," concludes the Bulletin in disgust.

It is a serious matter if we have to go 50 miles away from home to get enough building returns to beat Edmonton. It is indeed a serious matter.

But if the Edmonton Bulletin could be as anxious to be fair as it is to misrepresent Calgary, it would know that there is a large and expensive cement building in Ekshaw, but there are other cement works equally as large, even larger, which are on Calgary land, which will come into the city the minute that works begins, right beside the Calgary Brewery.

And those were the buildings that were counted in, in the calculation. Adding to the list and not making any allowance for underestimation, which, on account of our building-by-law prevails to a very great extent, the building in Calgary this year quite exceeds that of Edmonton, and according to the figures of the Edmonton Bulletin Calgary stands fifth in building in Canada.

That is a very good record.

WELL DONE MANITOBA. The Government of Manitoba is to be commended for its policy of insisting upon the good old flag flying upon every school in that province. Much senseless opposition has been offered to this patriotic idea, but the opposition has been trivial indeed. No real objection can be given against this patriotic move and much good will result from the flag flying.

In this country we are too coy and too modest about making a little display. We do not fly flags as we should fly them. We should get out the bunting on every possible occasion and we should keep it flying too. It doesn't cost much and it is good business. In Calgary we have the noble ensign flying from the mast head of the Central school, which was the idea and work of the president, president of the Board of Trade, C. W. Rowley. Let the flag fly over all of them.

We can stand a little more spread eagerness in this country. We have the greatest country of the world, right here, we are the best part of the noblest nation in all history, the greatest people God ever made. Why should we conceal the fact, the repetition might become painful to other people, but there is no law against telling it to ourselves, and we would thereby instruct the newcomer.

But the flag idea is a good one, and the province of Alberta would make no mistake in adopting the same suggestion. The idea is not a new one. It is not a new one with Manitoba, but it is a good one.

NOW GET 100,000

The secretary of the Hundred Thousand Club is on the ground and is chafing for work. He is full of the very best and most reasonable kind of enthusiasm, even at this very early hour. He has been through the west, has made a critical study of western conditions, has examined the very best of the west, and he is convinced that we have bitten off no more than we can masticate in the 100,000 idea, and he ought to know.

No club was ever born under more favorable circumstances. It has the support of all citizens. It takes them all in, both business and labor, all of the citizens, and the object is so praiseworthy that no one can resist getting in with it.

So now is the time to unite with the Hundred Thousand Club. Half of its success depends upon the organization, probably less than half of its success depends upon the organization. The other half, more than half, depends upon the individual members.

Every person should join this club and then get into line and make it successful.

MORE HOMESTEADS

If the statement of D. W. Bole, made at Regina a few days ago is correct, and the Albertan is assured that it is correct, there will be the greatest stampede to this country during the next few months that has ever been seen. There will be a rush for Alberta madder and more prolonged than that ever witnessed in the western states.

It is semi-officially announced that the odd numbered sections of land of which there are many thousands in Alberta will be opened up for settlement, and that the right of pre-emption will be given.

It has gone abroad that but few homesteads within respectable distance of a railway are left, which is partly true. But with the opening up of the homesteads there will be farms, and the very best, within easy reach for all.

It is now that we realize to the full extent the criminal policy of handing the lands of the country over to the railways, as was pursued by the Conservative administrations. But there are some odd numbered sections of land yet and the stampede will begin with the passing of the law.

EDITORIAL NOTES. It is well that Evangelist Hunter does not insist that sleeping in the open air in weather like this is essential to salvation.

If we had the counting to do we could have made it somewhat more than 500 in favor of the south, but we did not have the counting to do.

The Calgary aldermen who rejected a good opportunity to get in on the coal business themselves and turned down the proposition, are not a bit slow about urging some other body to go into the coal business.

As far as we know only one additional citizen arrived in Calgary yesterday, but we are quite a number nearer the 100,000 mark just the same, for that person happened to be the newly appointed secretary of the Hundred Thousand Club.

It might be well to inform Senator Perley that Alberta never has gone to Saskatchewan to get exhibits of grains and grasses, but that we might with profit look to Saskatchewan when we want an exhibit of dishonest senators and asses.

To a newspaper man who is accustomed to have something to say at election time, this contest in British Columbia with all there is to be said about it, and with all that the newspapers are saying about it, and not being in it, is an annoyance and an aggravation.

Suppose for a while. If Alberta should have 40 members in the next legislature, the unit of representation would be 4600, wouldn't it? By that time Calgary will be Greater Calgary with a population even by the much conspired census taker of over 14,000. Now 4,600 goes into 14,000 three times and 200 over. How many members should we have in the next legislature, if all these things go right.

CONFIDENT TONE IN CANADIAN TRADE. There Were Few Failures in Dominion Last Year. New York, Jan. 4—Bradstreet's tomorrow will say—"The situation is one of quiet confidence in Canadian trade. Stocktaking returns have been favorable and large orders are ahead on the books of the wholesalers, and the opening of the regular spring season is awaited with sanguine hope. Montreal reports some manufacturers' order books for the entire season's output. Collections are good, and country trade is quiet. Toronto reports unseasonable weather, affecting country trade, which however, is usually quiet at this season. Retail trade is slow. Preparations are making for an unusually heavy spring trade. Industry is very active, and collections are beginning to improve. Trade is quiet in Manitoba, but the spring trade outlook is excellent. Less complaint of land speculation is heard. Collections are good."

Failures in the Dominion of Canada in 1906 number 223, with liabilities of \$9,450,915. Decreases of respectively 13 and 30 per cent. from 1905.

Failures for the week number 19 as against 18 last week and 32 in 1906.

A column by

Dods

The column subject to no guarantee of any kind. It may appear every day or it may not. That depends upon the arrival of the street cars, the disposition of Dods and other matters of state. You may not understand this. Dods knows.

The Celestials. A Chinese man of erudition, Found himself in parlous state, Coquetting with the legal limits, Suffered such a dreadful fate. Diving, delving, working, striving, Placed some gamblers in array. But his patrons, rough and ruthless, Let the gamblers get away!

Bird Talk. "That is good work," said the prairie chicken, as he picked up the loose grain while lay scattered around the foot of Pat Burns' oat stack. "What is?" asked the partridge. For he was fat and lazy and lived in the bush and never read the papers and never heard that the travellers on the trail said as they passed. "Nobody," said the chicken, preening his feathers as he stood on the fence. "I was allowed to shoot me for two years. At least, so I anticipate," he continued, hedging slightly, remembering the Game Act was not yet passed. "Have you ever been hit?" asked the partridge, who was slightly bored and also sleepy. "The chicken blushed. 'I have,' he admitted, 'but as I was flying away at the time I did not see it done.'" "Let us be joyful!" said the partridge, out of politeness. "Just then a rig passed and although it was out of season the driver shot both birds. They dropped. As he died the chicken, spitting blood, murmured: 'What is the use of legislating for brutes?'" The partridge said nothing. He was dead. That night they were both eaten. But the man is still alive.

Heard on New Year's Day. Whither are ye gangling brother? Dinna ope the door. "What, ye senseless bonnie, whist, its ain't ane hous mat'."

A Parabola. There were eight dying men sitting in a council chamber. And as the shades of death gathered over them and the light began to grow dim and the icy breath of the Messenger of Death kissed their foreheads, they whispered one to another.

"What shall we do to render ourselves immortal? So that people will never forget us? So that our names shall live throughout the ages?"

And for a time they could not agree. Some said one thing and some said another. So for a space all was confusion. Then, from a dark and obscure corner there came a hissing, sibilant sound and it filled the room like hot steam.

"Let us do murder. Let us shed blood. So shall we live in the minds of men for evermore."

The sands were running out. Their hour was nearly done. A few feeble gurgles of protest came from three of the passing sinners. But the other five were agreed. So in the Valley of their Death they checked their puling, fragile infant with their bony hands and DIED. And their names are in the mouths of all men for ever.

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