

The Last of the Barons.

By Peter McArthur.

It is a long time since anything in Canadian public life has attracted such wide-spread attention as the stand taken by W. F. Nickle, of Kingston and R. B. Bennett, of Calgary, against the Government's proposals regarding the Canadian Northern Railway. I have yet to meet a Liberal or a Conservative who disapproved of their action. Their conduct has been pleasing to a majority of the people, and I cannot believe that a man with so fine a sense of public duty as Premier Borden can harbor any resentment to his high-spirited supporters who have ventured to assert their right to oppose him on a debatable question of government policy. They have acted entirely within their rights as men and as representatives of the people. I have no doubt that their constituents will endorse their action. And yet it is recognized everywhere that Mr. Nickle and Mr. Bennett have risked their political future. Why? Because they have ventured to defy Sir William MacKenzie. Here is something for free-born Canadians to think about and to think about seriously. Here is a man who occupies no position of public trust, a man who possibly could not be elected pound-keeper if he ran for office, and yet he bulks so large in our public life that our elected representatives fear him even when they are standing on the privileged floor of parliament. Without hereditary prestige or record of high public services, he presumes to play the role of Warwick to our government. He will make or he will unmake. He imposes his will on political parties and they do his bidding. The vastness of his enterprises dazzles the popular imagination and his successes have made him an object of admiration and envy. With his partners, Sir Donald Mann and Zebulon A. Lash, and a few associates he has extended his power into every field of Canadian effort until a point has been reached where the financial credit of the nation is involved. The government must come to his aid or wide-spread ruin will follow the collapse of his daring business adventures. And although it has been shown that support he has hitherto received from the people has been secured through shameless mendacity and mendacity he claims further aid as a right. From a private car pauper he has developed into a financial panhandler who adds threats to his pleadings. One of his lieutenants recently threatened to "get" Mr. McCoig, of Kent, because he had brought on a premature discussion of the C.N.R. guarantee and Mr. Nickle explained in the House, the preparations that have been made to "get" him. But in this Sir William has over-stepped himself. I miss my guess if the people will long endure this baronial insolence. For some years past he has probably exercised more power than any other man in Canada but his abuse of that power should make him the last to wield it. Warwick was the greatest of the Barons—and the last. When the people finally understand what he has done, our mushroom Warwick will go the way of his greater and more chivalrous prototype.

Sir William MacKenzie denies having threatened Mr. Nickle, but it has been shown that in his dealings with the government, Sir William has contradicted himself so often that his contradiction of anyone else does not carry much weight. No one who has had any insight into the workings of the railway lobby at Ottawa can doubt that Mr. Nickle's charges were founded on fact. Mr. Bennett described this lobby as one of the most powerful and shameless that has existed on the continent—only equalled in audacity by the lobby of the Central Pacific that disgraced Washington a few years ago. And it is as thoroughly organized as the Central Pacific lobby which, was perfectly described by the Hon. Joseph Choate, late ambassador to England, in the witty comment "When Hopkins takes snuff in San Francisco, Huntington sneezes in Washington." MacKenzie and Mann's lobby is said to be just as sensitively organized from Halifax to Vancouver and when it threatens to "get" a man it is no idle threat. Only those who know the true state of affairs in Ottawa realize the splendid courage of Mr. Nickle and Mr. Bennett in daring to oppose the wishes of those who control this lobby and direct the power it wields over political parties.

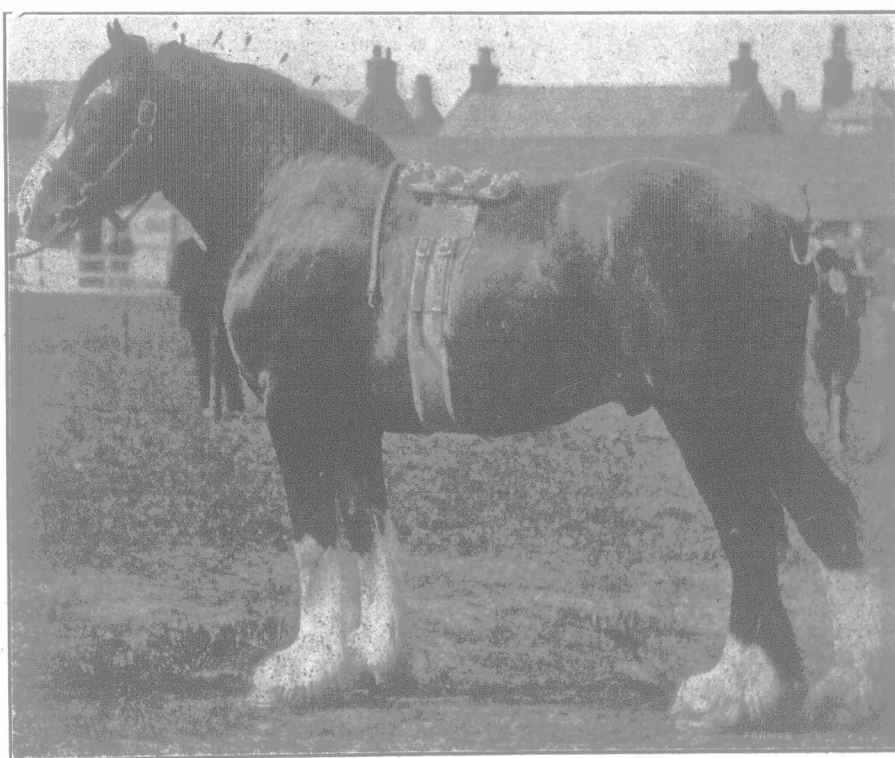
In stating his position, Mr. Bennett made a few statements that every partisan should read and digest.

"Both sides of the House have been to blame. Look to the statute books for the aid that has

been given to this company. Just a few days before an election, one party proposes and the other acquiesces. They are bound to ask a few questions in order that the contribution to the party funds may be large enough. Let us look the business squarely in the face. The time has come when people must take stock of the conditions, and now, faced as we are with conditions such as we never met before, we must decide whether we will continue to add to the predatory wealth of promoters or whether we shall strike a blow for the people of the country."

I do not need any outside confirmation of Mr. Bennett's words. I once sat in the gallery of the House when a railroad measure was being put through—just before an election. The program was carried out just as he described it. The Government proposed certain measures of aid to different railways and the Opposition protested with about the same vigor as you would find in a bunch of trained seals. Campaign funds were at stake and all opposition speeches were made with great care. And the lobbyists of the railways sat in the gallery watching the disgraceful olio and noting who did or did not speak their pieces acceptably.

The words quoted should make it clear to everyone how the lobbyists gain their power. It is through contributions to the campaign funds. There is no longer any possibility of blinking the fact that no political party can hope to succeed in an election without ample funds. The legitimate expenses are too heavy for any candidate to bear. They must be secured somehow, and in that fact lies the source of all the corruption that has blackened the political history of nations. It is useless to pass laws compelling publicity of campaign funds. That only compels greater secrecy. The voters must contribute the funds themselves. If each man who supports a political party would contribute from one to five



Rising Tide.

First-prize three-year-old Clydesdale stallion at Ayr, 1914.

dollars to the party funds the lobbyists would find their occupation gone. At the present moment I am not particularly interested in the final form which the C.N.R. guarantee shall take. A situation has been developed that forces the government to give aid of some kind to prevent disaster. If the Opposition truly realizes its position it will do all in its power to aid the government to make the best bargain possible. Both parties are to blame and they should unite in an effort to redeem the past. But what concerns us as citizens, is the absolute necessity of sending men to parliament who have no political debts to pay. Both parties have a necessary work to do and they should both be in a position to do their work without fearing the wrath of Sir William MacKenzie or any other member of "The Authority." The political organizations in the various ridings should take immediate steps to gather the necessary funds for the next election from the voters in the riding so that their representative may take his place in parliament without being under obligations to anyone but the voters who send him there. And above all, I hope the voters of the constituencies represented by men who have shown an independent spirit will not allow anyone to "get" them because they have had the courage to defy The Last of the Barons.

THE HORSE.

Indigestion in Horses.—II.

ACUTE INDIGESTION.

Acute indigestion is one of the most common and most fatal diseases of the digestive organs of the horse. As digestion in the horse takes place largely in the small intestine it is often very difficult to determine in cases of this nature, whether the trouble is confined to the stomach or whether the intestine is also involved. This is not very important, as affections of this nature in both organs are concomitant and require the same treatment so far as treatment by an amateur is concerned. When the trouble is confined to the stomach the modern veterinarian can act directly by the use of a stomach tube. While this treatment has practically no action upon the contents of the intestine, but none other than a veterinarian should attempt to adopt this treatment.

CAUSES—The usual causes are too much food; food greedily swallowed without proper mastication; feeding immediately after severe and long-continued exercise; severe exercise too soon after a hearty meal, especially if the horse has been given something to which he is not accustomed; sudden change of food; (I may here state that change of diet in horses, and to a great extent in all animals, should be made gradually); drinking large quantities of water too soon after feeding, etc. It is not uncommon to see a well marked case for which no well-marked cause can be given. One of the most frequent causes of the disease is what may be called mistaken kindness on the part of the owner. For instance, a horse that has been idle for some time and given little or no grain is unexpectedly required to go a journey or do a day's work. In order to certify

him for the unusual exertion, he is given a full feed of grain, hitched and driven. The stomach is charged with grain to which it is not accustomed, and the horse subjected to unaccustomed exercise. These two conditions in many cases causes "acute indigestion" or if the horse withstand this usage he is given another full feed and then again driven or worked. He may withstand even this, but we must not be surprised if he does not. When horses under the conditions described are required for service, care should be taken to feed very lightly on grain until after the labor has been performed, then, in order to compensate for the extra labor they should be fed a moderate

allowance of grain for a few days. Some horses are especially predisposed to digestive derangement, as those whose digestive organs are weak either congenitally or temporarily, or when the organs have become weakened by disease; weak, anemic, poorly-fed and emaciated animals; very young or very old animals, horses recovering from diseases, etc. Among the direct irritating causes are green food, food and drinks that are hot, or that are frosted, unclean or partially decayed foods, impure water, mouldy hay or grain, matters undergoing fermentation or decomposition, as roots, fruit, grass or germinating grain. In cases that no well-marked cause can be given, we must conclude that there is some temporary weakness of the digestive organs that, while producing no visible symptoms, render the horse in that condition in which indigestion is easily produced. At the same time it is seldom, except in horses congenitally predisposed, that an attack occurs that cannot be traced to carelessness or ignorance in feeding or usage.

SYMPTOMS—The symptoms of many diseases of the digestive organs simulate each other so much that it is often difficult to say for a few hours just what the disease is. Hence the advisability, when convenient, of procuring expert assistance, as an attack of a serious nature may be mistaken for a simple ailment, and if not