

## THE EDMONTON BULLETIN

(SEMI-WEEKLY.)

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DUNCAN MARSHALL,  
Manager.

THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 1909.

## WHY SO SENSITIVE.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier's declaration that he had not "dabbled in trust funds" of the people of Canada was an "offensive" remark to Hon. Geo. E. Foster.

Sir Wilfrid's statement was in reply to Mr. Foster's reminder that the Premier is the trustee of the funds of the people of Canada, and in rejoinder to the insinuating query as to whether he had diverted those funds from public uses to party purposes.

What that offered less offense to anybody could any man say whose honor was impugned in this manner? Or what less could he say on behalf of himself? The language of Sir Wilfrid Laurier in effect conveyed no reflection upon Hon. Geo. E. Foster or anybody else.

Why should Mr. Foster take as a personal fling at himself an abstract assertion of another man that he had not "dabbled in trust funds"? Why should any man whose mind was at ease on his own score take offense at this explicit denial of an explicitly worded insult?

The offence Hon. Geo. E. Foster professed to find in the remark of Sir Wilfrid Laurier does not lie in the language used. If to say, "I have not dabbled in trust funds" is a cause of offence and a provoker of wrath to Hon. Geo. E. Foster it is because Mr. Foster associates that form of language with something inferior to the business in hand, and because of that association converts another man's declaration of innocence into a condemnation of himself.

The touchiness of Mr. Foster on the subject of trust funds does nothing to re-establish his position in the confidence of the public as an administrator of trust funds. If his record is reproachless why should he fret that another man declares his record to be blameless also, and insist that the declaration was a disguised condemnation of himself?

If there was offence in the Premier's remark it was because Mr. Foster associated the words with a chapter in his own experience which he does not contemplate with equanimity. His uneasiness on the matter does nothing to confirm the faith of those who have believed him guiltless.

## CANCELLING THE 'IRREVOCABLE' LEASES.

Six months ago Opposition speakers and journals were agonizing over the "irrevocable" fishing leases granted to certain parties in respect of lakes and rivers in Western Canada. The language of commiseration hardly sustained the freight of sympathy they loaded upon it for the unfortunate settlers who were supposedly deprived of their means of livelihood. Terms of polite indignation failed altogether to convey their sense of outrage heaped upon the fish consumers of this misfortunate land. The world at large must have concluded that the people of the west had abandoned the business of grain growing and taken with unanimity and enthusiasm to the business of catching fish. Strangers to our habits may well have concluded that the whole populace of the western land had eschewed the delights of vegetable and animal diet and adopted fish as their steady and unvarying bill of fare.

Hansard of February 1st contains the following questions and the answers thereto, which have a bearing on the "irrevocable" feature of these leases:

Mr. Bradbury asked:—  
1—Is it the intention of the government to cancel the fishing leases granted to P. H. Markey, of Montreal, on the Nelson, Hazy, Elton and Pigeon rivers and their tributaries, and the Great Slave lake?

2—Is it the intention of the government to cancel the fishing lease granted to J. K. McKenzie, of Selkirk, Manitoba, on Lesser Slave lake and Lake Athabasca?

3—Is it the intention of the government to cancel the fishing lease granted to Archie McNeil, of Windsor, on James Bay?

Hon. L. P. Brodeur (minister of marine and fisheries)—Yes, as intimated in reply to a previous question. See Hansard of January 26, 1909, page 170.

It is now up to our Opposition friends to assail the Government for its unprincipled disregard of the rights of the Indians and the interests of the public in cancelling leases "irrevocable" in character and beneficial in operation.

## BRUTAL BUT USELESS.

Montreal has a campaign against vice and is now also developing a

unprincipled disregard of the rights of police instigated the former, the merchants are starting the latter, activity.

The shop-keepers of a certain district claim that the former inmates of the disturbed resorts parade the streets, that in consequence respectable women avoid the district and that trade suffers accordingly.

It may be that the real trouble with the shop-keepers is that they have lost the trade of the inmates themselves who have no longer the means of buying.

Be this as it may, it would be interesting to know just what Montreal or any other city expects to accomplish by a campaign which takes from these wretches what money they have and turns them loose without shelter or the means of subsistence. It would be informing indeed to know what these unfortunate creatures can do than "parade the streets."

It is easy enough for Montreal and Edmonton to raid dives, fine the inmates and "break up" the resorts. It is certainly the business of Montreal and Edmonton to "break-up" these places. But does the fine program accomplish the real end of eradicating the evil? It never has done so in Edmonton. Apparently it has not done so in Montreal. It has yet to be proven that it has done so anywhere else.

If brutality be the aim we may fairly claim to accomplish it by the fining and dismissing process, for it is sheer brutality to deprive the unfortunate of his ill-gotten but badly-needed money and turn him loose without recourse or resource. But brutality never reformed or remedied anything yet and never will. Even an outcast cannot contemplate starvation with enthusiasm, much as this may be made to appear desirable from the public standpoint. And being unable to so regard it the unfortunate will return to his wallowing in the mire, for the all-sufficient reason that society offers no other means of getting the bread to sustain life.

Fining comes in time to be regarded as an incident of the business—a kind of tax that is levied occasionally, and which if it does not secure a license on permanent certainty inspires no terror and has therefore no permanent effect. As well fine a murderer for murdering and then stand amazed that he keeps on killing; or a robber for robbing and then expect wonderment that he is still a thief. Either would be more consistent, for the murderer and the thief, being men, may reform and pursue honorable careers. But the unfortunate has no more chance of reforming in this world than in perdition. Sin or starve are the only alternatives society offers to such.

When Montreal or Edmonton really wants to terminate the evil it will continue to raid the resorts, but it will stop fining the offenders and turning them loose with no alternative but to offend again. It will jail them and thus give notice to all of the tribe that there is one place at least very good to keep away from. And it will jail the frequenters too without distinction of race, color or standing.

And when the charitable and philanthropic organizations really want to do something for the help of those who need it they will turn their attention to providing the means of respectable livelihood for those to whom society offers the choice of the bawdy house and the grave.

## CANADA LAUGHS LAST.

Sixty-four cars of settlers' effects have entered Canada at Greta, Manitoba, since the beginning of the year.

Over a hundred and eighty-five cars of settlers' effects entered Canada over the Soo line during March.

Settlers and their families numbering 1,360, have left the Pacific States to the knowledge of the immigration officers, bound for Canada since the beginning of the year.

Canada is now the land of promise in the minds of the people of the United States as the United States was a land flowing with milk and honey to the minds of the people of Canada fifteen years ago.

Fifteen years ago Canada was sending one hundred thousand of her sons and daughters every year to enrich the United States with the labor of their brains and sinews.

Canada now keeps the hundred thousand methinks to develop her resources, build up her industrial and commercial interests and contribute to the growth and strength of her national life.

Canada also attracts thousands of industrious and enterprising citizens from the United States every year to settle on her unoccupied lands, invest in her manufacturing and commercial ventures and devote the fruits of their abilities and capital to the promotion of her national greatness.

Fifteen years ago Canada could not hold her own sons and daughters against the drawing power of greater opportunities across the line. Today

Canada offers her children greater opportunities than they see in the neighboring Republic. Today Canada also offers the enterprising and ambitious people of the United States greater opportunities than they can find at home.

Fifteen years ago the tide was away from Canada and toward the United States. Today the tide is flowing Canadeward from every land under heaven, including the United States.

Fifteen years ago Canada was a country where in the opinions of her own people and the world at large there was "nothing doing." Today there is "more doing" in Canada in the way of opportunity, progress and material development than in any other land on earth.

Canada mourned for a generation the loss of her children driven by adversity to make homes and produce wealth under another flag. Canada rejoices today that her children make their homes on her soil and produce their wealth within her confines. Canada laughs last, therefore Canada laughs best.

## CONSISTENCY.

"The security is not good enough" is the banner under which the Ottawa Opposition marches to war against the proposal to loan the G. T. P. ten million dollars and start the construction gangs on the work again.

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presented in a play-house in Berlin. Du Maurier may sweep the jingo element of Britain from the course of reason by a wave of hostility to Germany. Du Maurier has been given to understand that the thinking element of Germany is not to be swept into antagonism to Britain.

Civil incendiaries and military zealots will fill Britain with the yarn that the Berlin hisses were inspired by the Court as a means of allaying British suspicion of German designs. Unless Britain is prepared to believe the German people the incarnation of malice and faithlessness the yarn will meet with small credence.

Every obligation of international courtesy and racial fairness demands that the hisses in the Berlin theatre be taken as the sincere expression of the attitude of thinking Germany toward the question of war with England. The Germany that hissed Du Maurier's play declared to the world that it did not want war with Britain and would not even tolerate the portrayal of war between Britain and Germany on the boards of a theatre.

The audience that hissed Du Maurier's an audience whose opinions count for something in Germany. It was made up of men who understand what war between German and Britain would mean, immediately and remotely, directly and indirectly. It is due to Germany to believe that the faces of her thinking people are set in friendship toward Britain.

British people owe it to themselves and to an honorable nation to accept the hisses of the Berlin audience as assurance that Germany no more wants war with Britain than Britain wants war with Germany. In Berlin as in London the men who shape their opinions by the hammer of reason know that war between Britain and Germany would be a holocaust for whichever won. And knowing that they are no more anxious to invite the cataclysm.

Misguided patriotism may have led Du Maurier to put "An Englishman's Home" on the stage of Britain. Treasonable avarice alone could have prompted its reproduction on the stage of Berlin. In London it may have been designed to jar the complacency of Britain into preparedness for defence. In Berlin it can only have been designed to sell information, friendship for pieces of silver. Berlin deserves the thanks of passion for hissing the appeal to passion off the stage. If Britain would censor it off her stage she too would merit the gratitude of all peoples.

A BARGAIN IS A BARGAIN. A year or so ago Edmonton was negotiating with a certain railway company regarding an entrance to the city. The city demanded an agreement regarding the construction of overhead bridges on certain streets which for the time being were to be closed by the railway. The company's solicitor fairly assured the city that he would make no difference what kind of an agreement was made, "the city could not tie the hands of the railway commission."

It is worth while perusing the following item in the Montreal Star as to what the commission does to cities that have made covenants and want to break them.

Ottawa, Ont., April 7.—The railway commission, just before adjournment of this morning's sitting, took up the St. Catharines street, Montreal, bridge case, the Canadian Pacific railway and the Canadian Pacific railway being joined as parties to the case.

Mr. J. L. Archambault for the city said a new bridge would cost \$60,000 and would involve a deviation from the original plan.

"The city built the bridge and guaranteed its maintenance," said Judge Mabey, "why should we relieve it?"

Mr. Archambault said that the company had a scheme to reconstruct its tracks involved in the application.

"All the board has to do is to see that the bridge is in a safe condition," said the chairman, "because the city has let the street railway on the bridge is none of our business."

Mr. Meredith for the street railway, said the company under its agreement had a right to cross the bridge with any kind of cars.

"The situation is that the bridge is in a very dangerous condition and the city has to maintain it. If the company were to build the bridge would be after it. It must be understood that municipalities as well as companies must live up to their covenants."

Assistant Surveyor Howard wanted to know on what lines the repairs were to be made.

"On the lines of your agreement," said Judge Mabey.

"But conditions have changed vastly since then," answered Mr. Howard.

The board then ordered the city to put the bridge in a proper state of repair or rebuild it forthwith to ensure the public safety. The order does not go beyond the provisions of the original agreement. The work will be done inside of four months and meanwhile the present supports must be strengthened without delay.

lay. The cost will be borne by the city alone.

Smooth-tongued solicitors for favor-seeking railway companies may assure municipalities that the railway commission is an oligarchy whose business in life is to coerce railway companies into conceding what the public want regardless of what agreements the public may have made with the companies. But the railway commission declare to municipality and company alike that their business in life is not to break covenants but to enforce them.

There may be times when a covenant-breaking commission would confer benefit on a municipality by relieving it from the consequences of a bad bargain with a railway company.

There are times without number when a covenant-breaking commission would confer benefit on a railway company by exorcising it from the fulfilment of its undertakings with a municipality.

The times when railway companies would be benefited by relief from their undertakings with municipalities are infinitely more in number and consequence than the times when the public interests would be served by the relief of municipalities from their undertakings with railway companies.

The municipalities are the winners through the activity of a railway commission whose business is to uphold agreements between them and railway companies. The municipalities must be the losers through the performance of a commission whose business it would be to set aside the solemn covenants between municipalities and railway companies.

A municipality which expects a railway company to be held to the letter and spirit of its covenant must be willing itself to discharge its obligations to the railway company without exception, variation or delay. A bargain is a bargain whoever makes it, and it ought to hold and must hold with both sides or with neither. The railway commission declare explicitly that they are not bargain-breakers for anybody.

It is reported that the Car intends to lead a fleet through the Dardanelles. Perhaps he is unwilling to trust the ships to anybody else, recalling incidents that need not be specified.

Leithbridge has a "Beautiful Society." The name refers of course to the municipal ideals of the association, not to the personal claims or characteristics of its members.

A BRIDGE OVER MILL CREEK. Strathcona, Plaiddealer—Citizens of Clover Bar and the east end of Edmonton are agitating strongly for a high level bridge over the Saskatchewan at the foot of River street. Such a bridge would make the proposed high level bridge a surplusage.

White avenue an expensive luxury for many years to come. A moderate estimate of cost is \$75,000 and the great object would be to recover the Clover Bar trade. With an east end high level bridge over the Saskatchewan, or even a medium bridge there, no Clover Bar farmer would ever think of patronizing any bridge over Mill Creek. The raising of the present bridge over Mill Creek at the south boundary of Rutherford Park, sixteen feet and the reduction of the grade approaches to six and seven per cent., at a cost of \$5,000 as estimated by the city engineer is in our opinion the limit of expenditure warranted there at the present time. It would make the best road to either city from the east end and south of Strathcona up to the city as the city's finances will allow the vasty great expenditure involved in a high level bridge at the foot of White avenue.

The erection of such a bridge now would only hasten the building of a bridge over the Saskatchewan in the east end of Edmonton that would drive the last dollar's worth of trade that Strathcona realizes from Clover Bar. The Plaiddealer is as anxious as anyone for the prosperity of Strathcona but there is no use closing our eyes to the fact that Clover Bar is closer to the Capital city than to the University city and that the most elaborate transportation facilities Strathcona may give

to the farmers of that settlement can be surpassed by Edmonton with a little more expenditure. We can overcome the hills but we cannot overcome the extra distance nor for some time to come the attraction which the larger city has for the trade. Strathcona's credit is required for more promising investments of capital than a high level bridge over Mill Creek at the present time.

## THOUSANDS FROM THE STATES.

At Portal Alone Nearly 5,000 People Passed Through in March.

Moose Jaw, April 12.—Returns for the month of March at Portal show that 4,783 people and 726 cars of settlers' effects passed through that point for Canada west during that period. It is interesting to note that during the year closing March 31, the number of settlers passing the same point was 19,099, and cars of effects numbered 1,759. So that the month of March stands out prominently as furnishing the greatest movement of the year. April so far promises to be even greater than March.

## CAUSE OF LAND RUHS.

In Edmonton Saturday Was the Opening of Half-Breed Reserve.

Ottawa, April 11.—In view of the fact that the Roman Catholic half-breed colony of St. Paul de Metis, for which a reservation to the north of upper Thelon lake was brought about by Father Lacombe in 1886, has proved a failure, all the unoccupied lands of the reserve will be thrown open to ordinary settlement. The board of management of the colony will be permitted to select four sections of land in settlement of the claim of \$68,000 opening and maintenance expenses.

## Spanish Fleet to be Reconstructed.

Madrid, April 13.—The cabinet has decided that the Spanish fleet shall be reconstructed. The fleet will be given the contracts.

Earthquake in Eastern Mediterranean. Albany, N.Y., April 12.—It is announced that the seismograph at the state museum recorded a distant earthquake on April 10th, beginning at 2:06 p.m. and continuing till 2:30. It is believed to be in the eastern Mediterranean.

## EDMONTON BRANCH, - T. M. TURNBULL, Manager.

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## EDISON HAD TO PAY \$450,000.

A Phonograph Company Recovered Damages for Breach of Contract.

Newark, April 12.—Thomas A. Edison has settled for \$450,000 the suit for breach of contract brought against him by the New York Phonograph Company. In addition, his counsel have signed agreements to settle approximately seven hundred suits brought by the New York company against dealers in that state. The amount involved in the settlement of these and the principal suit is approximately \$2,000,000. The settlement was reached after an all night conference in this city, preliminary to which there were negotiations of several weeks duration during which the wires were kept busy between Orange, N.J., and Mr. Edison's winter home in Florida.

## CHURCH RAISES MONEY.

Wiped Off a Mortgage of \$5,400 at One Sweep Yesterday.

Hamilton, Ont., April 12.—It was announced at Christ Church Cathedral last evening that the congregation at the morning service gave \$5,000 towards reducing the mortgage debt of \$5,400. The balance was more than made up by the evening collection. Up to two years ago the church was mortgaged to the extent of \$18,000, and the paying off of that amount in two years is credited to the work of Canon H. P. Aimon Abbott, the young and popular rector. In June next the cathedral will be dedicated to the service of God for all time to come.

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