THE WEST

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UNION LABEL

WEDNESDAY, July 24, 1907.

Mr. Borden's Tour

R. L. Borden has the opportunity of his life.

He has many times given promise of genius as a statesman, but what is required of him for a while now is that he prove himself a politician. Through the circumstances surrounding the government, the federal field is wide open to him, if he will take advantage of it. Six months ago Conservative success was a forlorn hope, especially after the Dominion convention was abandoned, but today chances are good for an even break if Mr. Borden rises to the occasion, which we believe he will do.

There is no reason why the Conservative leader cannot make a triumphal tour from coast to coast. The great issue west is for autonomy rights, and this Mr. Borden can guarantee. He will go straight through from Ontario to British Columbia, and with the people practically up in arms on the better terms question, Mr. Borden should be able to fix things in the coast provinces and on through Alberta, bringing a political chinook that will thaw out all opposition to him. No other issue can displace the land question in Saskatchewan, and here is where Mr. Borden may reach the crest of the wave.

There is no reason while after this trip it cannot be said that his tour is the trail of the conqueror. Manitoba and Ontario can be depended on to make good, and if Quebec goes solid for Laurier, so much the worse for that province, for she will soon be the old maid among the sister provinces. The maritime provinces cannot get into a worse position all round, and even if the situation does not improve down by the sea, Mr. Borden has a good chance to make Sir Wilfrid

"Feel like one who treads alone
some banquet hall, deserted;
"Whose lights are fled, whose
garlands dead,
And all but he departed."

Only Fair

Throughout the whold discussion on the merits of the cent an acre tax The West has been fair in criticising the arguments of the government and their newspapers.

In a recent issue we ignored the Arcola Star in the discussion, because the editor is to shortly receive a district court clerkship, and he is not, therefore, in a position to call down men who voted Liberal before he was old enough to mark a ballot, because they took exception to the direct tax imposed by the government that appealed to the farmers telling them that if they wanted to avoid direct taxation they must return Mr. Scott.

We are prepared to let the farmers of the province judge whether the following comment from the Arcola Star regarding our position is justified:

This misconception has been fanned into a flame of opposition by a campaign of misinformation carried on by the opposition press, such as the Regina West and Standard, presumably independent papers. Their object has not been to enlighten the farmers and others as to the purposes of the act, but to arouse into a flame of opposition the inborn antagonism of all people against all taxes, just or unjust.

The question of taxation is an old one and a system of taxation that will please all people is a remote probability. Liberals and Conservatives alike hate paying taxes with an inborn hatred, and when Mr. Tait says that Liberals object he is stating a truism that is in full accordance with well known Liberal traditions, for a Liberal who will not kick against taxes is no "grit."

The latter part of this wrath is aimed at a farmer who wrote as follows to The Star:

Kisby, July 13th.

"Editor, Moose Mt. Star,

"Sir,—Your issue of July 5th with statement headed, "There is no room for a Kick," you state instances are known where parties belonging to the Opposition, which means Conservative, has raised discord against the government of Saskatchewan in placing the supplementary revenue tax upon the people.

"Allow me to state that your opinion concerning the opposition is wrongly placed.

"As secretary-treasurer of L.I. district No. 4-C-2, I have had many complaints from both political parties in the district condemning the action of the government in placing the supplementary revenue tax upon the people of the province of Saskatchewan.

"I can give you names of strong supporters of the Liberal government who have held positions of trust at elections and who are strongly against the tax.

"I must also state that the council of L.I.D., No. 4-C-2-, comprising both political parties, has by resolution condemned it.

"With reference to your last clause concerning the farmers who reside in rural school districts for kicking is a slur against us as farmers, as we have a right to kick against a tax placed upon our land in rural school districts and not upon towns and villages.

Yours,
Wm. F. TAIT."

The Star deals with this letter at some length, and the principal argument used is that the farmers in the rural districts are getting back much more than they pay in. It was very clearly shown at the recent meeting of the executive of the Local Improvement Districts Association before which Mr. Scott appeared, that in districts, (and there are many of them), where the cent an acre tax is not paid, the government takes the amount out of the Local improvement fund, thus depriving the districts of the money raised for road improvement. It is only fair for papers which defend the government to say whether they consider this a grievance to the farmers, or a benefit to them.

Government papers say that the farmers can send their children to the high school free of charge, but that is only putting the children in the town on an equal basis with the children from the country after the farmers have paid their taxes for the support of the high school, while the ratepayers of the town are exempt from taxation for high school purposes.

The least the government can do, and the people will force that much out of them, is to either exempt the rural districts, or tax the villages, towns and cities.

The University

During the audience which the executive of the Local Improvement Districts Association recently had with Premier Scott, he remarked with regard to the portion of the cent an acre tax for the university that he understood from Mr. Calder that this money would not be required for some time to come.

This statement did not necessarily imply that the university bill will not be put in operation as soon as anticipated, but there is every reason why the government should be in a position to state what assistance the government is to get from the Dominion by way of a land endowment. If the governments of Alberta and Saskatchewan were to act together in this matter the position of both provinces would no doubt be materially strengthened. The lands question seriously affects the university problem and the public mind will not be at ease until we know where we stand respecting this matter.

If Mr. Borden will pledge the Conservative party to restore to us our lands, as he is being urged to do, the university question will be simplified and there will be no doubt as to the future of that institution. However, the plain duty of the local government is to make the best arrangements they can at Ottawa so that in any case the university will be well provided for by way of a land endowment.

"Meaningless Words"

From a London cable it appears that even though Premier McBride got the words "final and unalterable" struck out of the amendments to the B.N.A. act while they were before the British Commons, Sir Wilfrid Laurier persuaded the Earl of Elgin, the Colonial Secretary, to restore the words by way of amendment when the bill reached the Lords, and the dispatch says the bill was "amended as already cabled by adding to the schedule including all the resolutions of the Ottawa conference, the words "final and unalterable," in this schedule, but not in the bill itself."

In commenting on the omission of the words referred to when the bill was before the Imperial parliament, the Winnipeg Free Press said:

"It is reported that the House of Lords may restore these words. They should never have been in the bill. They are meaningless words. Parliament cannot enact anything finally and unalterably."

That Sir Wilfrid thought the words "meaningless" when they were first inserted, and that there was some reason, even if technical, for their being used, is apparent, especially in view of terms smuggled into the Autonomy Act, but this impression was confirmed when the Canadian premier exerts every effort, and with some success, to have the words restored by the House of Lords after the representative body thought, as the Free Press does, as to the finality of the terms of the bill.

There is no doubt that Laurier is the arch-enemy of Provincial Rights, but while he is very glossy from the stage, some of his work is quite coarse. He will find however, as the Free Press says, that "parliament cannot enact anything that is final and unalterable," especially when it so seriously conflicts with provincial rights.

The Knock-out Blow.

The blow which knocked out Corbett was a revelation to the prize fighters. From the earliest days of the ring the knock-out blow was aimed for the jaw, the temple or the jugular vein. Stomach punches were thrown in to worry and weary the fighter, but if a scientific man had told one of the old fighters that the most vulnerable spot was the region of the stomach, he'd have laughed at him for an ignoramus. Dr. Pierce is bringing home to the public a parallel fact; that the stomach is the most vulnerable organ out of the prize ring as well as in it. We protect our heads, throats, feet and lungs, but the stomach we are utterly indifferent to, until disease finds the solar plexus and knocks us out. Make your stomach sound and strong by the use of Doctor Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery, and you protect yourself in your most vulnerable spot. "Golden Medical Discovery" cures "weak stomach," indigestion, or dyspepsia, torpid liver, bad, thin and impure blood and other diseases of the organs of digestion and nutrition.

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Snubbed

There is just enough animal instinct in Herbert Vanderhoof to hit back when he is knocked. It was this characteristic which led him to ignore Regina entirely when writing on municipal ownership in Canada, and he mentioned every other city between the Great Lakes and the Rockies.

Regina has not handed Vanderhoof any bouquets, in fact he got several lemons from the papers of this city, and they were probably coming to to him. However, municipal trading will go on in Regina just as successfully as if we tipped Van to tell us all about it.

It is a satisfaction to know that any review of municipal ownership in western Canada is very incomplete if the municipal schemes of Regina are not included. Our power and light plant, water and sewerage systems are a success, and we refuse to part with a franchise for either gas or street railway. We have a larger asset, less debt, lighter tax rate and more paved streets, than any other city in western Canada. We are just in that position where no Vanderhoof can snub us.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Hon. Thomas Greenway has disposed of his famous cattle herd, and it is now stated that he will move to British Columbia. What he should do is to come out here and take up a second homestead, or get a pre-emption later under the new lands act. Mr. Greenway denounced the bill in the house because it offered inducements that would depopulate Manitoba, and now he picks up and starts west himself. He no doubt felt it coming on when he attacked Mr. Oliver's bill.

FOR COAL ONLY

Fernie, B.C., July 19.—All station agents on the Crow's Nest line have received instructions not to supply any more cars to sawmills on account of the car shortage. The Michael mines were closed down yesterday for want of cars.

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