

The West

THE WEST COMPANY, LIMITED
1773 Ross Street, Regina, Sask.

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The West is published every Wednesday.
Subscription price: One Dollar (\$1.00) per annum to all parts of Canada and the British Empire. To United States and other foreign countries, One Dollar and Fifty Cents (\$1.50) per annum. All subscriptions payable in advance. Arrears charged at Fifty Cents per year extra.

Advertising rates furnished on application.
Address all communications to the Company.



WEDNESDAY, DEC. 23, 1908.

Christmas

Once more has come the Christmas season with its message of peace on earth and good will to men. Once more do we commemorate the birth of the Son of God, who dwelt among men that they might be saved.

On Friday the Christian world is again reminded of the greatest sacrifice the world has on record. Jesus Christ made the sacrifice that all men might have life everlasting. Take Christ and His life from the Bible story and what remains? Were it not for the hope of the life hereafter made possible through the Redeemer's death, what does this life hold out to man? Is not the present life, the preparatory stage in God's incomprehensible scheme? Were it not so what is man more than the other creatures? Man's future is made glorious through the sacrifice of God's own Son who gave his life that we may live.

The story is old but ever new and the star which led the shepherds to Bethlehem is shining as brightly today for those who will see, as it ever was. The message of Christ is a personal message and those who hear and heed are in deed and word transformed. The Christian religion is not a religion of ministers and old women, but a religion whose principles are applicable in every walk of life. The rich the poor, the high the low, may lay their burdens on Him who has promised that they who come Him will not be cast out.

Something Expected

The farmers of Saskatchewan are waiting patiently to see some of the railway policy of the Scott government carried out. Prior to the elections people in every part of the province were promised railways. In fact a map was prepared showing what lines were to be built. This looked good on paper and no doubt captured a goodly number of votes, but we venture to say that since the election the Scott government has not done one single thing towards getting any railway built to relieve the poor settlers who have homes miles from present railways. We believed at the time that the railway cry was only an election dodge. It was very thin, but some of the people can be fooled some of the time. The map artist missed putting in a mark showing a railway line that would suit the constituency of Maple Creek and then when the Scott candidate drew the attention of the government to this, why the Premier just wrote him a letter for publication in which a railway to suit the case was promised. At that time it was a case of promise any old thing in order to get votes. Why the Scott press attempted to lead the people to believe that the Scott government would have the Hudson's Bay Railroad built right away if they were returned to power. Premier Scott attempted to deceive the people on the same subject and then had the audacity to campaign for the Laurier administration and appealed for votes on a somewhat slightly altered story.

As the Scott railway policy was a sham, so are many of the other planks which were held up as parts of their platform. It is time that the people were demanding that some thing be done. Outside of dabbling in elections, expending money and perhaps writing a few letters, what have the present members of the Scott government

done since the recent election. We venture the statement that their first thought in every move made was the effect it would have on the Liberal party. The good of the people is only a secondary consideration with every one of them. The people expected something more than promises and will be undeceived sooner or later.

Editorial Notes

Hon. J. A. Calder and Hon. W. R. Motherwell may now enjoy their Christmas turkey. Not so with King Walter for his round table will not be complete until the Knight of Saskatchewan City returns.

The loss of life and property through the use of bad coal oil is assuming immense proportions and yet the Ottawa government does not seem to be taking any steps to ascertain who is supplying the bad fluid.

The grain growers from the three prairie provinces are still waiting for a statement from the three premiers on the subjects of government ownership of the grain elevators.

There is no doubt but that Walter Scott as a Liberal politician of the Sifton school, has been a success in the eyes of those he imitates. And now Sifton wants him at Ottawa to further his interests in the wider sphere.

Press Comment

(Toronto World)

The Conservatives of Saskatchewan have asked for a national convention. It is not a new thing for this demand to come from the west. Why should it not be sounded by Ontario? An opposition should be on the alert for new issues. It should be quick to note the grievances of the people and to promise redress. Above all it should be national in its outlook and appeal.

But this convention must be a representative convention. Delegates should be chosen by the rank and file and from the rank and file as far as possible. The poor showing made by the Conservatives of this province at the Dominion elections compared with Sir James Whitney's magnificent victory, is not without meaning if those who ought to know can only grasp it. More democratic methods must obtain in selecting the candidates for parliament. Democratic methods must characterize the selection of the delegates to this national convention. To be a success the convention must spring from the people and voice the demands of the people.

(Winnipeg Tribune)

It is highly significant to see the Toronto Globe, the chief organ of the Laurier government, devoting a column or two of its editorial space to a laudation of the national transcontinental railway, which it designates as "the greatest railway in the world," and it is equally significant to find the editorial carefully telegraphed to all the other organs, as if the guff that the Globe talks would not keep for an extra day or

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til it could reach the other organs by mail. The whole business smacked of fake. It has been pretty well understood for months that all was not smooth sailing with the G.T.P., that the financial waters were troubled, and that the company would be knocking at the doors of parliament the coming session for "better terms" and further assistance from the government. With the presumption in view the significance of the Globe's articles, lauding the scheme as "the greatest railway on earth" will be easily comprehended. That is the way these things are done. A campaign among the organs is commenced away in advance of the raid. The local Sifton folder was expected to follow suit tomorrow or very soon. The people have to be bunched away, and the old regulation methods of going through their pockets may just as well be adhered to. They have worked well in the past; why should they not prove successful again? The Grand Trunk is understood to have done all in its power to maintain the government in power at the last election, and as one good turn deserves another, why should not the people be lifted in order to reward the company for its great service in helping maintain in office such a heaven sent aggregation of rulers.

(Saskatoon Capital)

Sir Frederick Borden, a jolly old soul, jollied the wise old men of London at a Canadian Club banquet a few evenings ago.

He is the most jovial old jollier that ever crossed the pond. For a minister of war he is singularly light hearted. In fact, he seems to be the kind of man who will approach any subject in or out of his department, and do it in such a merry way that his hearers are little short of bewitched by the gleam of his smile. For example he placed the London Times across his knee, and laughingly spanked it, for presuming to have views as to the tariff in Canada. After he had, with many a bon mot and rollickingquip, trounced the Times, he declared that Canada should frame her own tariff regulations. He wagged his forefinger, his figure shook like a "mound of jelly," and he said, said he: "So you see that is all there is about it."

Sir Frederick is such a hilarious old rogue, that those wise men of London must have nearly fallen off their chairs convulsed with merriment, for who could withstand Canada's war lord's quips and jests? The jolly old duck jollied them for fair, and that moving song "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow" was sung to a fare-thee-well.

Sir Frederick Borden is the loveliest old gentleman that ever trotted down the pike. He is so entertaining and so good. He had many dear friends. One in particular lives in Calgary. Sir Frederick is fond of the good things of life. He relishes spending money—other people's money. Year after year he spends millions and millions and millions, with the result that the members of the Canadian headquarters staff are unrivalled for the richness and radiance of uniform and equipment.

Sir Frederick has another dear friend in Canada—Judge Cassels. The latter is inquisitive, now and then. Whether Sir Fred can jolly him remains to be seen.

(Mail and Empire.)

Two young men in Hamilton have been imprisoned for perjury. The accused are not of the criminal type. They belong to respectable families, and have hitherto been well conducted. They swore falsely to save themselves from a small penalty, and to protect a friend. When charged with the offence they had no answer to make. To prison for a long term they were sent. The case is of a painful character. It shows how easily in the passage from a comparatively trivial wrong to a great crime.

In addition it emphasizes the fact so frequently commented on by the bench that perjury is very prevalent. By perjury we do not mean a rela-

tion of incidents differing from that which is believed to be true by other witnesses and other observers. Nor do we mean an honest contradiction of allegations or opinions. If all evidence which differs from that of the witnesses for the other side is perjury there is no such thing as truthful testimony. The actual perjury is that of the type which must have been practiced on one side or the other in the Owen Sound Hijour case. The false swearing is said to be so general that the difficulties in the administration of justice are multiplied.

How can a jury decide the facts if some witness holds them back or deliberately misstates them? How can a judge adjudicate properly if the truth is not laid before him? Too many people think they are licensed to give in a court whatever view of the case may suit them. Too many fail to appreciate the sacredness of the oath. In some cases it is difficult to reach the perjurers. In others the law does not seem to bother about the evil. The fact that a witness has perjured himself may be conceded, but no action is taken with reference to the crime.

It is difficult to avoid the conclusion that if this thing were to stop the officers of the law will have to be more active. Instead of passing over instances of obvious perjury, they must arrest and try persons who are guilty. A few cases such as that at Hamilton will bring about a decided improvement in the tone of the country on the subject of truth in the witness box. When it is felt that there is real punishment for perjury, the temptation to commit crime will be less powerful.

Several deals in horse flesh have taken place lately. Mr. Wm. Doego disposed of a fine team of young horses to Mr. John Young of Strassburg for a good figure. Mr. B. J. Anderson has also sold a nice young team of pintos to Mr. Norton of Martinton. Mr. R. Loyde sold a mare and colt recently.

Sales, auction, bankrupt, and stock taking seem to be the order of the day, and furnish items of interesting talk among the farmers of the community.

Beautiful weather, hardly severe enough yet to be called winter and not enough snow for sleighing.

Some of our readers have been looking anxiously for an account as to who was the winner of the suit of clothes from C. H. Gordon of Regina, for the best drawing of a portrait of the merchant by a boy or girl, 15 years and under, but so far have been disappointed.

Christmas

Say it's gettin' 'round to Christmas. The crops is in, an' all, We're nearly into winter, We're almost out of fall.

I'm awful fond of Christmas, I tell you it is great When the puddin's in the kettle An' the turkey's on yer plate.

It's awful hard awaitin' An' spec'ly that last night When we're waitin' 'round for Christmas Day would just get light.

There ain't no time like Christmas. Per fun an' food an' joy, An' there's none appreciate it— 'Cept, perhaps, it is a boy.

—James P. Haverson, in the Christmas Canadian Magazine.

Otto Mellicke, H. Morrison, Paul Schwager and J. Stenbow returned from their hunting expedition Wednesday, bringing with them two more fine elk. The party were successful in bagging three more, but had such a difficult time getting the carcasses through the small timber that they gave the other three to the Grahmans. A large crowd gazed admiringly at the animals as they were being unloaded from the train, and many resolutions were made to make a similar trip next season. Besides a good supply of game, each party brought home a nice bunch of whiskeys, they have been in the bush nearly three weeks without the change of a shave—Dunsmuir Enterprise.

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