## THE EDMONTON BULLETIN

SEMI-WEEKLY.

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C. F. HAYES,
Business Manager.


THURSDAY, AUGUST 18, 1910.

## MANITOBA, A TORY GIBRALTAR IN NAME ONLY.

The impression is widely held in Canada that the Roblin government is deeply entrenched in the province of Manitoba. This assumption is neither unreasonable nor unnatural from a superficial survey of the composition of the legislature which, as a result of the last general election in that province, shows twenty-eight government and thirteen opposition members. A closer analysis should produce a radically different belief. Any examination of the figures leading up to the bald fact that the government outnumbers the opposition by two to one in point of actual members—no matter how cursory that inspection may be—discloses the fraud and demonstrates just how great a travesty on the principle of representation by population is the result.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier in a recent utterance in Winnipeg declared that there were lucky and unlucky governments. The Roblin government is not numbered among the unlucky. This government has won four general elections in that province, each of them by such large majorities that it has experienced no difficulty in carrying through its legislative programmes. This succession of victories has created the belief that Manitoba has been transformed into a Tory stronghold. But this belief is not founded on facts. What the results do show is a skilful, even if conscienceless, political management which, by the aid of effective redistributions of seats, has enabled them to retain power and in addition to give the impression to the other provinces of the Dominion that Manitoba is overwhelmingly Conservative.

The real test of the relative strength of the policies of the opposing parties is the popular vote. The actual records show the Manitoba Conservative government, in not one of its four victories, secured 51 per cent. of the vote actually cast. In the last election the Conservative government secured only 49.21 per cent. of the total vote, and the Liberal opposition 47.58 per cent., and yet twenty-eight Conservatives were elected, while the Liberals only with thirteen seats. If the representation in the legislature were in keeping with the popular vote there would be twenty-one Conservatives and nineteen Liberals in the new House.

A still further analysis reveals the astounding fact that each Conservative vote in Manitoba is worth two Liberal votes. The total vote polled by the Conservatives in the last election was 38,202, and the total vote polled by the Liberals 35,797. By a simple process of division it will be seen that to elect one Liberal member it required 2,748 votes, while to elect a supporter of the government it required only 1,364 votes. The injustice of this is obvious, and this condition does not apply only to the last election.

In the general election of 1899 the Conservatives were returned even though they polled a minority of the votes throughout the province. These are the figures:

| | Vote. | Percentage of total vote. |
|---|---|---|
| Conservative | 23,135 | 49.21 |
| Liberal | 23,218 | 49.51 |
| Independent | 601 | 1.29 |
| | 47,014 | |

In the next general election the Roblin government was again returned, this time by the largest majority it has ever obtained. The fact that a skilful redistribution of seats took place immediately prior to the election was undoubtedly a factor, and the government secured thirty-one out of the forty seats. What were the figures this time? Here they are:

| | Vote. | Percentage of vote cast. |
|---|---|---|
| Conservative | 26,939 | 50.59 |
| Liberal | 23,740 | 44.58 |
| Independent | 2,562 | 4.83 |
| | 53,242 | |

Before the general election in 1907 there was a second redistribution which increased the number of seats to forty-one, added something to the advantageous arrangement of the constituencies; and again the government won by a substantial majority on the barest possible plurality in the popular vote. The vote was:

| | Vote. | Percentage of total vote. |
|---|---|---|
| Conservative | 40,917 | 50.65 |
| Liberal | 37,889 | 47.90 |
| Labor | 945 | 1.55 |
| | 61,154 | |

The recent election was almost identical with that of 1907; the percentage of the party votes was substantially the same; and the result in the legislature was practically identical.

Are these figures such as to warrant the conviction that Manitoba is a Tory Gibraltar? They convincingly show rather the house of cards the Roblin political building is, although apparently a substantial structure.

## EXPOSURE MIGHT REMEDY MATTERS.

A Montreal family were poisoned, some of them perhaps fatally, last week, through eating canned corn. The frequency of incidents of this kind give some ground for the suspicion that canners are not as careful as they might be and should be in the preparation of their products. Perhaps the most effective way of assuring caution on their part would be to give the newspapers immunity for publishing the name of the firm which put up the poisonous food. Under the present wonder-working maze of incomprehensibilities known as the libel laws, a paper which did so might find itself lawed out of existence. That it told the truth would make not a particle of difference under some circumstances. There are truths which a newspapers of the country that a can out violation of the statutes made and provided. In many cases this is right enough, but an exemption might fairly be made where there is reason to suppose that publication would save human life. If exception were made in the case indicated the strongest possible inducement would be placed upon canners to see that every precaution was taken that the output of their establishments was properly put up. The announcement through the newspaper is not allowed to tell without of corn put up in a certain factory had poisoned a family would cause a sudden slump in the sales of the concern. The fear of receiving such unenviable advertising would put the canner on his vigilance, would induce him to employ only the most reliable hands, to equip his establishment in the best possible manner, and to have the operations at every stage superintended by the most competent and trustworthy men he could hire. It is true, of course, that in ordinary circumstances people do not have to eat canned foods unless they prefer them, and the argument may be advanced that those who do so should be left to take chances as to the consequences. But there are some circumstances in which there is little or no choice, in which canned goods must be relied upon whatever the preferences of the consumer. The development of the canning industry has in many places and in many ways depleted the trade in fresh foods, or prevented it developing as it would otherwise have developed. The fact that canned goods of all kinds can be bought in any store tends to put the local butcher and the local dealers in other kinds of fresh food-stuffs out of business. In many small towns, for example, and many summer resorts which are populated only or mainly during the hot season, it is impossible for the butcher and the dealer in fresh produce to live in competition with the products of the canning factory in sale at the general store. But if the canned goods were not there the local dealers could carry on business on a living basis. People in such communities are plainly deprived of any choice and obliged to rely on the canning factories for a large part of their food-stuffs. Taking it generally, too, the canners promote the sale of their goods by representing them as being altogether wholesome and free from any poisonous or injurious elements. They should be prepared to back up that claim with something substantial, even if necessary to stake the success of their business on their word, for their word is taken at face value and is intended to be so taken. Were they selling articles of clothing or implements, the case would be different. But the man who assures his fellows that they may safely eat what he offers for sale ought to suffer some real and proportionate penalty when through negligence or haste food-stuffs are turned out of his factory which are not only injurious but poisonous. The frequency of press despatches telling of poisoning from canned goods, warrants a strong suspicion that some canners are more anxious to turn out a large number of cans than to make the quality of their output ever and always what it ought to be, or even such as may be eaten with safety. If the suspicion be well founded the guilty ones would be none too harshly dealt with if the public were informed as to who they are. Certainly, the knowledge that the public would be so informed whenever the occasion arose should teach them to mend their ways. And the liability of wide and immediate exposure should have good results in awakening vigilance and caution on the part of all who have to do with the preparation of articles which are entering daily more largely into the food supply of the nation.

## THE PREMIER AND THE HALF-BREEDS.

Toronto Globe—The half-breeds of the West are a picturesque and otherwise interesting element of the population, from which they will before long entirely disappear. Some of them, like the late Premier Norquay, of Manitoba, were the children of Scottish employees of the Hudson Bay company, but the great majority were of French parentage. They were in the days of the company's regime dependent on it for a living, or office work. Some of them rose to good positions in that wonderful and ubiquitous service, and their names figure frequently and prominently in the narratives that make up the company's history. Louis Riel, who was personally instrumental in raising two half-breed rebellions, was himself a French half-breed.

It was unfortunate, because unnecessary, that the half-breeds were not more tactfully, not to say liberally or generously, treated by the Dominion government when the Hudson Bay territory was taken over after its purchase by Canada. The first mistake made was sending up a civil governor prematurely, the conveyance of the territory being still incomplete. It would have been safe enough to leave the maintenance of order in the hands of the company, to which both the half-breeds and the Indians were loyal. A second and worse one was sending up surveyors to lay out the land in lots, with little regard for the prescriptive rights, the territorial prejudices, and the racial feelings of the French halfbreeds. The third and worst of all was to endeavor, both on the Red River and on the Saskatchewan, to settle with these primitive people on too parsimonious a basis.

These disturbances have long since passed into history. Riel's first rebellion took place forty years since, and his second one a quarter of a century ago. As a comparatively young member of the opposition of the latter period the present premier pleaded eloquently in the House of Commons for the disturbed and deluded Metis. Had his appeals and arguments been effective then there would have been no second rebellion, and much expenditure and not a little bloodshed would have been avoided. It is quite evident that the simple-minded and despised people with whose cause he so chivalrously identified himself have not forgotten his services, about which many of them know nothing now except by tradition. They came long distances and in surprising numbers to Edmonton to do him honor, and in all probability Sir Wilfrid will remember this incident with pleasure after he has forgotten delegations that at present seem to be more prominent, if not more important.

## THE ASSASSIN.

The common house fly is an assassin. The scientist with his microscope has established the case against him beyond the shadow of a reasonable doubt. We must reverse the notion that he is a harmless insect buzzing on the sunny pane and believe him an industrious distributor of all manner of malicious disease. His buzz, which we were once taught to think cheerful, is really a dirge for his victims. Instead of innocently "tickling baby's nose" he is distributing the bacilli of typhoid fever and other diseases accumulated in all sorts of places.

The mischief comes from his cosmopolitan taste. He will go anywhere, eat anything and maul through and over everything he encounters. He has no sense of discernment—unless it be an inverted one. What makes this more dangerous, he is a great traveller. He is never content, knows no permanent place of residence and always seems to be seeking something he never finds. Whether he is born in the pig-pen or the parlor does nothing to determine the place of his abode. He will be in both, and many other places, unless accident cuts him off in the flower of his youth.

That is how it comes about that he plunges into the cream jug to quench a thirst aroused by picking the bones of a dead horse; that as he wallows through the softened butter he leaves a trail of misplaced matter collected in the stables and outhouses; that when he parades across the new cut cake he sheds seasoning of many kinds upon it, each of a more revolting sort than the others.

In the course of this Gipsy-like career he necessarily accumulates disease germs as well as filth. For them indeed he seems to have a penchant. Whether he suffers from typhoid fever we know not, but it is known that the typhoid germ is found inside his body after death. But he is not partial to the typhus bacilli, and takes on whatever kind comes along. Smallpox, croup, measles or consumption, are all the same to him. Any germ that wants a lift to a fresh pasture has only to attach itself to him and sooner or later he will land it where it can carry out its appointed end of afflicting humanity. In time he becomes a kind of aviating menagerie, laden with specimens of all the disease germs to be found in the locality, and he leaves samples of them with everyone he calls upon.

This month of August is the one when this assassin gets in his most deadly work. His tribe are most numerous during this month and the opportunities for accumulating filth and filth-begotten germs are more plentiful. But though the work is done in August the results sometimes do not appear until later. Typhoid, for example, in the spreading of which he is known to be an industrious agency, takes four weeks to develop. The typhoid of September is sown as it were by the flies of October. This is why the typhoid cases are more frequent in the month when the flies begin to disappear. And that is why the fault of the typhoid epidemic of late summer is not more generally blamed upon the fly. He is not on the scene when the scourge appears.

Locally, the Medical Health Officer has brought down a new health by-law which was passed by the city council, one idea of which is to rob the fly of his best source of disease supply—the unsanitary pail. But though medical authorities do what they will they cannot cope with the assassin without the assistance of the public. It is in the last resort between the individual and the fly. If the public generally take up the fight the ranks of the assassins can be depleated and the survivors' power for mischief curtailed. If the householders and the housekeepers set about it vigorously to destroy the breeding places of flies, to keep the pests out of the houses, and to remove or cover the sources from which they secure the disease germs they carry there should be a gratifying decrease in the sickness and death-rate of this and the two following months as compared to the previous records.

## THE NORTHERN REGION.

Vancouver World—No doubt Hon. Frank Oliver will make a report upon his far northern trip for the benefit of the Canadian public who are eager to gain some general idea, from an entirely reliable source, of the prospective value of the great country through which the minister of the interior passed. He travelled some thousands of miles before he reached Dawson and his route was through a country of which little is known to the people of the Dominion, but for which much is claimed by the comparatively few who have visited it. Mr. Oliver as a shrewd observer and one whose long acquaintance with new regions has fitted him to express an opinion on such a matter will probably enlighten us as to some, at least, of its potentialities.

Of the rarer metals there is good reason to believe there are considerable deposits and it has been asserted that, especially in the Mackenzie basin, gold and silver exist in quantities that will make the region as attractive as the Klondike. Already on the southern fringe of this great district other deposits that will be of great value to commerce have been discovered. According to a statement by an exploring party from the Peace river, asphalt crops out everywhere. Along the Athabasca it occurs in great high mounds, and Saskatchewan people are using it now in its raw state to roof their log homes with. In the vicinity of Fort McMurray alone it is estimated that there are twenty-eight cubic miles of asphalt to be had for the trouble of lifting it from the ground. Salt can be picked up in places in chunks like large stones. When Neil Campion, the members of his party say, was boring for oil at Fort McMurray he went through 260 feet of salt in two veins. He has now bored down to a depth of over a thousand feet, and the prospects of striking oil are excellent.

It is unlikely that there will be any large influx into that region until transportation facilities are supplied, but if there is half the latent wealth here that there is said to be it will not be long before railways are built. As it is at present the quick trip made by Mr. Oliver shows that there is not much difficulty in getting over the country, if prospectors are prepared to submit to the privations which are always attendant on being far away from civilization.

## IN LIGHTER VEIN.

Washington Star—Your thermometer is wholly incorrect. It registers ten degrees less than the actual temperature.

That's why I like it. I dread these fearfully candid friends.

—

Buffalo Express—Brassie has an awful nerve.

What did he do?

Waited in an umbrella store till the rain was over.

—

Boston Transcript—How did Tom manage to get so much of his uncle's estate?

He married his lawyers's only daughter.

—

Washington Herald—Ferdy loves me desperately, that's clear

How now.

He lets father win from him at poker and mother trim him shamefully at bridge.

—

Everybody's—A passerby was amazed at seeing an Irishman poking a dollar bill through a crack in a board walk.

What under the sun are you doing that for? he asked.

Why, y' see, sir, replied the Irishman without looking up from his work, a minute ago Oi dropped a nickel through this crack, an' now Oi'm puttin' a dollar through so's to make it wort' me wolle to pull up th' walk an' get th' nickel.

—

Washington Star—The great poets have done so much to make life easier! said the earnest young woman.

That's right, replied Mr. Cumrox, if it weren't for the great poets we'd be stumped many a time for something to write in an autograph album.

—

Detroit Free Press—Has he asked your parents for your hand yet?

My, no. That's an old-fashioned custom that's no longer observed. My father may consider himself lucky if we decide to send him an invitation to our wedding.

Pittsburg Dispatch—Passenger—What would you call that girl in the car who is too light for a brunette and too dark for a blonde?

Conductor—Half-fair.

—

Washington Star—Those people in the next flat seem to have a regular program of popular songs every evening," said the visitor.

Yes, replied the man who is gradually getting a tremble and a vacant stare.

By the way what time is it?

Let me see. It was half-past She's My Daisy a little while ago; it must be nearly a quarter to Put on Your Old Grey Bonnet. Don't hurry. It'll be at least an hour before the piano strikes Farewell, Farewell, My Own True Love.

—

Washington Star—Don't you think the hats women wear are outlandish?

I don't care anything about their outlandishness, said Mr. Meekton. They can be as big and curious as they like so long as they don't have to be buttoned up the back.

—

Stray Stories—Mr. Grimes, said the rector to the vestryman, we had better take up the collection before the sermon this morning.

Indeed.

Yes. I am going to preach on the subject of economy.

—

Life—He—I dreamt last night that your mother was ill.

She—Brute! I heard you laugh in your sleep!

—

Tit-Bits—A minister being sent to officiate one Sunday at a country parish was accommodated at night in the manse in a very diminutive apartment, instead of the usual best bedroom appropriated to strangers.

Is this the bedroom? he said, starting back in amazement.

'Deed, aye, sir; this is the prophet's chamber.

It must be for the minor prophets, then, said the discomfited parson.

## U.S. MILLIONS ARE TO GO INTO TURKEY

**New York Capitalists to Invest $100,000,000 in Great Railway Enterprise—To Open the Kurdistan Oil and Mineral Fields.**

New York Aug. 13.—A group of New York capitalists have practically completed plans for the railroad development of Asiatic Turkey and stand ready to embark from $60,000,000 to $100,000,000 in the enterprise, which is designed to open up to modern development the rich mineral and oil fields of Kurdistan and the ancient Tigris and Euphrates valleys.

The project, which has been simmering for several years, began to take shape last year, when the Ottoman-American Development Company was organized under New Jersey laws with a nominal capitalization of $500,000, but because of the many difficulties inseparable from breaking into a country as jealously watched by Europe as Turkey, the progress made has been kept quiet.

It is now learned that representatives of the New York syndicate will call before the month is out to close up details which are still under negotiation. A convention has already been drawn up and passed upon favorably by the present Turkish cabinet, giving the company concessions for railroads covering about 1,200 miles with mineral and oil rights, and when the Turkish parliament meets on Nov. 18 there is every assurance that the acts of the government officials will be approved.

The conditions on which the concessions have been granted compel the rapid construction of the road, and identified with the syndicate are some of the foremost railroad construction and supply interests in the country.

Beyond the lines mapped out in the convention as approved by the Ottoman ministry the syndicate representatives were not willing to go in a discussion of their plan, but the terms of the concession give the Ottoman corporation, which will be formed to build and operate the lines, preference in the way of concessions for extensions, and it is believed that if the mineral developments in the Kurdistan mountains prove as valuable as indicated in the preliminary surveys, the American capital sent abroad will run to several times the $60,000,000 which the syndicate is prepared to spend on the first construction.

## BURIED IN FRONT YARD.

**A Wealthy Female Ranch Owner Thought to Have Been Murdered.**

Castor, Calif., Aug. 15—In a shallow grave, sunk in the sand of her front yard a detective has found the body of Mrs. Friede Schultz Castine, a wealthy ranch owner. Telegrams have been to ports and border cities between Galveston and San Francisco to arrest the woman's brother-in-law, Otta A. S. Schultz, who left here Saturday after saying he was bound for Germany. Mrs. Castine was last seen Friday when she came here from her ranch, four miles east to receive a remittance of $6,000 from a relative in San Francisco.

## MUCH TYPHOID IN CALGARY.

**About Seventy-five Patients Said To Be Undergoing Treatment.**

Calgary, Aug. 15.—There appears to be considerable of an epidemic of typhoid fever in Calgary at the present time, it being estimated that there are about seventy-five suffering from the disease.

There are thirty-seven typhoid patients in the General hospital; twenty-seven in the Holy Cross and the number in the other hospitals in the city and being treated at their homes is estimated at from twelve to fifteen.


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20 lb. Sack B.C. Sugar ..... $1.20
20 lb. Pail Syrup ..... $1.00


## A HEAD-ON COLLISION OF GORGE ROUTE CARS

**Two Trolley Cars Come Together Just Above the Niagara Whirlpool—Nine Persons Injured—Failure of Brake to Work Causes Accident.**

Niagara Falls, N.Y., Aug. 15.—In a head-on collision between two trolley cars on the Gorge route this evening nine persons were injured, one seriously. The collision occurred at Swiftdrift at the point in the gorge where the river breaks into the swift rapids above the whirlpool.

The ledge upon which the tracks rest is narrow and on the river side there is a sheer drop of twenty feet into churning waters. Both cars were shattered by the terrific force of the collision and left the rails. The accident was due to the failure to work of the brake on one of the cars.

**Hail Storm Near Davidson.**

Regind, Aug. 15—At five o'clock last evening an electrical storm accompanied by a hail shower of considerable proportions, swept Davidson district. The area covered is quite large. The full extent of the damage is not definitely known but it cannot fail to be heavy.


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Mason & Risch Grand Upright, regular $600 ..... $350
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THE CONFER
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Great Assembly of
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themselves and in the uni
them; yet they seldom ma
in religious knowledge or
rather sink into ignoran
tuity and spiritual death
tory of the nations cle
strates — But the church