THE WEST

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UNION LABEL

WEDNESDAY, February 27, 1907.

MR. CALDER'S DENIAL

In the legislature on Monday Mr. Calder took occasion to deny that he had in a speech at the previous session depreciated the agricultural resources lying north of Prince Albert.

It will be remembered that when Mr. Calder was delivering his budget address he endeavored to show that the contention of Mr. Haultain with respect to the value of the public lands was wrong and that a large portion of those lands especially north of Prince Albert "were unfit for any purpose whatever, and they could not sell it for a song."

Nearly a year has passed away away since Mr. Calder made this statement, and now he asks the House and the country to accept his denial in this matter.

In the proceedings of the House last year we reported Mr. Calder as follows in the speech referred to:

"For himself, Mr. Calder, considered that the compensation was perfectly adequate. It was a well known fact he said that after a line forty miles north of Prince Albert is reached, the land is unfit for any purpose whatever. Should the province decide to turn this land into money they could not sell it for a song. This was a matter which he thought should be taken into serious consideration in considering the adequacy of the grant in lieu of lands."

This report was wired to the Prince Albert Times and was published in many other papers, and Mr. Calder had not denied the report up to Monday last. He accepted the report as authentic while the House was in session last year, and he could have refuted it if it were a mere imputation.

Mr. Calder certainly used this language and despite his denial now, it is in the compiled report of the session in the House library and will go down in history.

TALE OF WOE

Mr. Haultain rightly characterised the speech from the throne as a tale of woe, without any proposed remedy for the ills referred to.

The hardships of the fuel famine in the west this winter are known throughout Canada, but it is useless to harp on this unless the government is ready with some means of relief.

When the surrender of our lands was made by Mr. Scott, the province also surrendered the right to effect immediate and adequate relief under such conditions as a coal famine without first going to the Dominion government, and the best they can do then would be to buy back what they had previously given away.?

The government finds that it is embarrassing to have to admit the truth of Mr. Haultain's arguments with regard to provincial rights and yet they cannot suggest a remedy for the many difficulties that confront this province at present, without doing this.

As the years go by the people of this country will learn to realise that the loss of our lands was a blunder for which we must ever pay the price.

FARMERS ARE A POWER

The monster conventions held by the grain growers' associations of Manitoba and Saskatchewan following as they did the vigorous fight in the prosecution of members of the grain trade, demonstrate beyond all doubt that the farmers are an organised body of immense strength numerically and of strong purpose.

That the grain growers have a sound business organisation is apparent from the conduct of the convention and the manner in which they applied themselves to the issues before them. The general tone was calm, and owing to the conditions prevailing, extreme views were not unexpected, but the result of two days deliberation show how temperate was the judgment of the delegates in expressing themselves on the questions under discussion. There is no doubt that the grain trade now realises that they must respect fair regulation of the grain industry and they must look upon the farmers organisation with a spirit of "Live and let live."

The attitude which the convention took with regard to the Motherwell-Partridge incident was after all commendable, and it will no doubt serve as a lasting and valuable lesson. Mr. Partridge deserves a great deal of credit for allowing the matter to be settled outside the convention. This ciples outside the convention. This regrettable incident very nearly threatened the existence of the organisation, and there is no doubt there would have been trouble if the subject had been opened up.

The attitude of the delegates with regard to this and other matters show how firmly they are attached to the principles for which their organisation was founded. Politicians must realise that if the grain growers ever conclude that they are not getting a fair deal in the legislature and decide to elect their own candidates they will control the government of this province.

That is most apparent from their persistency with regard to their principles, and consistency demands that their views as set forth in resolutions must find some expression in legislation. A body such as theirs will morally affect political parties whose success in this province will to some extent depend on their respect for the wishes of the United grain growers.

THE LABOR PROBLEM

The Weyburn board of trade has made a timely and wise suggestion to the provincial government respecting the harvest excursions over the Soo line from the United States and Mr. Haultain called the government's attention to the matter in the legislature on Monday.

This would not only give a very decided impetus to immigration but would help solve the harvest labor problem, which threatens to be a very serious question this year. It is apparent that with the railway construction projected that labor in the Canadian west will reach an unprecedented demand and with the prosperous conditions in the east there is little hope of getting the assistance from Ontario which we have been accustomed to. The old country immigrant is hardly capable of meeting harvest requirements the first year and there does not seem at present to be a very hopeful aspect to the outlook. It is predicted from the experience of the railway who have difficulties in arranging for men that this labor question is going to be a most serious matter during the coming summer. Of course it sounds early for the government to be asked to look into this matter with a view to combatting any difficulties as suggested, but it takes some time to organise a scheme of this nature and it is too late to meet a crisis when it has gone as far as the coal situation went before steps were taken in a remedial way.

The Weyburn people are to be commended on their initiative in this matter and the government should interest themselves in the labor question for the coming season at an early date. The bringing in of American harvesters is a feasible project as the harvest over there is early enough to permit the organisation of an enormous army of invaders during our harvest season.

PRESS COMMENTS

(Toronto Telegram)

British Columbia seems to have in Hon. Richard McBride a man who is not afraid to stand up and fight the Laurier ascendency.

Ontario must realise that Hon. J. P. Whitney, with all his virtues, is amenable to the Ottawa strategists who hope to restore the Conservatives to power by pandering to Quebec. The Whitney government is also too much afraid of the French-Canadian vote in this provinve to tackle Sir Wilfrid Laurier as he should be tackled.

There is as much, if not more, reason at this time to raise a provincial rights cry against the federal tyranny of a Laurier as there was when Oliver Mowat raised the provincial rights cry against the federal tyranny of John A. Macdonald.

Outside of Quebec Sir Wilfrid Laurier has become the heaviest encumbrance, the greatest weakness of his own government. He has escaped uncriticised and unscathed from a record of small tyrannies and petty persecutions that would have destroyed any other Canadian premier. A premier from Ontario would have never dared to treat a politician of Quebec origin as Sir Wilfrid Laurier treated F. W. G. Haultain in Saskatchewan. The Conservatives at Ottawa and in the Queen's park are reduced to a state of helpless, trembling silence in the presence of the Laurier myth. It is good to see on guard in British Columbia a premier who is a man to stand up and fight back when his province and his party are struck with the heavy hand of the Ottawa oppressor.

'WOMEN, WINE AND GRAFT'

Member of Commons threatens to tell Private Affairs of Other Members if Attacks keep up

Ottawa, Feb. 20.—The political pot is boiling over, though Sir Wilfrid Laurier looked unconcerned over the Fowler incident yesterday, the most disgraceful occurence in the Canadian parliament in its history.

What Mr. Fowler said was this: If he were attacked as to his private life; and he held this term to include his land transaction in the northwest, as brought out in the insurance investigation, he would retaliate against ministers.

Here are his words: "We will give you the true side of the Hymen case, too," and later on: "If matters in connection with my private business are to be discussed in this House, I shall take an opportunity to discuss the private character of members of this administration and members on the government side; and when I speak of the indisposition of an hon. member, which keeps him out of this House, what it was and how it was brought about, I shall discuss the characters of the hon. members opposite, whether they are ministers or private members, and their connection with women, wine and graft."

And further on: "If you are going to begin that kind of thing I do not proposed to be singled out for such kinds of attack. There are gentlemen opposite living in very thin glass houses. I have taken a little trouble and pains to gather together some data with respect to some of them; and if I am attacked I do not propose to allow any such insinuations as were made by the member for Yale and Cariboo (Ross) to pass without retaliating."

And then: "Let them attack me as quickly as they like. I am prepared to defend myself, and I am prepared along with that defence to carry war into the enemy's camp, and give them, not one Roland, but twenty Rolands for their one Oliver"

And for a wind up: "If I am attacked I shall defend myself, and not only defend myself but lead an attack."

THE MEANING

This means as the Ottawa Journal of tonight and the Montreal Star of tonight point out First, that Mr. man is open to attack and that the true story of his absence is known to Mr. Fowler, and that it is because of something disgraceful in his private life; next, that other ministers and others on the government side are in the same box; but that—and here is the most remarkable and most unusual parliamentary situation—that he (Mr. Fowler) will only disclose those things if he is attacked. He cooly tells, or rather in great heat tells the House he knows them, but the truth will only come out if he is further attacked.

Now this is the one thing that

(Continued on page 5.)

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