

James Hamilton Ross, a Western Public Man

(Continued from yesterday's issue.)
THE END OF THE NORTHWEST COUNCIL.

The session of 1887 was the last of the council. It may be noted that it was at this session that Mr. F. W. G. Haultain, the present premier, took his seat as a legislator, having been elected as the representative of Macleod. The actual legislation effected was but a continuation of the line already indicated. There was a grain blockade "owing to the absence of railway facilities" in consequence of which "the settlers, with their granaries full, have been precluded from obtaining as profitable a market as they might otherwise have done," and representations were made to the C. P. R., on the subject, resulting in a promise that it should not occur again. But it was Mr. Ross who obtained a committee to draft a memorial to the Dominion government respecting the future formation of the constitution of the territories, and his proposal (as usual) was that the committee should consist of the elected members of the council. This was agreed to except that Hayter Reed's name was added. Mr. Ross had an audacious manner of ignoring the official and nominated members of the council, a little circumstance that is an indication of a guiding principle of his political action, always in the Northwest and now in the Yukon, viz., an implicit faith in the people and in those that the people select to represent them. Thus ends the Northwest council. It did good work in that it laid the foundations for all the territorial legislation that exists at the present day and of all the men who impressed that legislation most none has left so deep and lasting a record as James Hamilton Ross.

The first session of the first legislature of the Northwest territories assembled in October, 1888, with Mr. Joseph Royal as lieutenant governor. Mr. Dewdney became minister of the interior and Indian commissioner and Mr. Forget went to the Indian department. The assembly consisted of 21 elected members, the lieutenant governor had no longer a seat in the house but selected therefrom four members to form an advisory council as "financial matters." Dr. Wilson, member for Edmonton, was elected speaker and Mr. Haultain was the principal of the four members to form the advisory council. So far therefore as there was a premier he may be said to have already occupied that position, a tribute to his ability when it is remembered he had not in the council but one session. Mr. Ross continued to represent Moose Jaw. Even the great measure of autonomy granted did not work to the satisfaction of the newly constituted assembly. It was felt that the lieutenant governor did not allow his advisory council that control of financial matters which it was thought they should have; and as control of expenditure was the question that was nearest Mr. Haultain and his colleagues resented.

THE BATTLE FOR RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT.
A crisis had been reached and the battle for responsible government went on with considerable vigor. Mr. Ross took an active part in the fray and by obtaining a return showing the way the printing contracts were manipulated added fuel to the fire. It was Mr. Cayley that set the ball rolling that culminated in the crisis by asking Mr. Haultain if he had told the lieutenant governor that his council desired to have a voice in preparing the estimates. Mr. Haultain replied that he had done so but that his honor refused to adopt such a course, and shortly afterwards the resignation took place. The lieutenant governor appointed another advisory council of which Dr. Brett and Mr. Betts (who afterwards became speaker) were the principal members. The new council, however, did not improve matters. They tried the impossible task of carrying on the affairs of the country against the wishes of the majority of the assembly. At last there was a deadlock because the assembly refused to consider the estimates. Dr. Brett and his colleagues at once resigned, but Governor Royal refused this time to accept the resignations, shielding himself by a construction of the law which really meant that the assembly had nothing to do with the business. This emphasized the crisis and a vote of no-confidence in the council was passed and a resolution agreed to calling upon the lieutenant governor to accept the resignations of his advisers. There was no other course left his honor but to do so. An executive attempt to form another advisory council was made by Mr. Frost and the Assembly was proposed without a council having been formed. During this session Mr. Ross obtained sanction to a motion calling upon the authorities to inquire into some charges that had been publicly, but as it turned out, falsely, made against Commissioner Haultain and he also backed Mr. Haultain in fruitless efforts against the granting of legislative powers to the territories as "wrong in principle and productive of evil in practice."

The loss of the constitutional fight was heard at the very opening of the session of 1890. A motion was made to thank the lieutenant governor for his official speech and by an amendment by Mr.

Haultain to consider the speech and draft a reply. His honor had succeeded in inducing an advisory council to retain office and act despite the lack of support by the assembly. Haultain, Ross, Turfitt and Oliver were not the men to be thwarted by any such nonsense as that, and when at last the reply to the speech was ready it was to use a vulgar, expressive phrase, "a regular corn-cracker." The document told the lieutenant governor that the assembly refused to elect his advisors on any standing committee, would refuse leave to them to introduce motions and generally to use the forms of the house to prevent them doing anything at all. And the assembly was faithful to its threat.

MR. ROSS AS SPEAKER OF THE ASSEMBLY.
The next session, that of 1891-2 was the first session of the second legislative assembly and its first act was to choose Mr. Ross for speaker on the motion of Mr. Haultain. For some years therefore Mr. Ross took part in a passive part in the legislation that was effected. He had the satisfaction of seeing, however, that the struggle of the previous years had been crowned with victory. The Federal government now passed an act giving the Northwest assembly absolute control of expenditure, within those limits defined by the matters with which the assembly was competent to deal. The act also provided for the appointment by the lieutenant governor of an advisory council and as it is obvious the confidence of the assembly it will be seen that a responsible government had virtually been obtained. (It may be here stated in anticipation that this was generally accomplished in 1891, by an act which rendered it necessary on taking office to be re-elected to the same.) An executive council was selected of which Mr. Haultain was the principal member. Mr. Ross made an excellent speaker. His constant cheeriness, equal temper, frank and impartiality, made him a favorite with every member of the assembly and increased his already widespread popularity. All went merrily as marriage bells until 24th August, 1892, when Mr. Haultain's government met with sudden defeat. The motion to go into committee of supply met by a motion of no-confidence on account of the conduct of the executive towards the district of Saskatchewan, "and in other respects." This was carried by a majority of one and was so repeated when the vote was put in another form. The following day Mr. Haultain and his colleagues resigned and on the 29th of August a new executive was formed with Mr. Cayley at its head. On the 10th Speaker Ross resigned his position in the chair and his reasons may be best given in his own words, spoken from the floor of the house. He said: "In resigning the chair of the house I desire to make the following statement. I was elected speaker of a house to which a large majority of those who for two years previously had been struggling for responsible government had been returned, as one of the party which had been engaged in that struggle and had been successful at the late general election. I reasonably expected that any advisory council or committee which might be formed would be composed of those and those only who had belonged to that party. Being in perfect accord with the majority of the house as to the course that would be pursued in regard to responsible control of our affairs, and to that item of expenditure, the roads, bridges and district vote, with which nearly every electoral district is more directly concerned, I was satisfied that the general rights of the territories, as well as the particular interests of my own district, would be fully protected. In view of the defeat of the executive, advocating the principles which I had struggled for longer than any other member of this house, and the success of a party, evidently, indeed necessarily, opposed to those principles, I feel that in duty to myself and to my constituents, I must place myself in such a position as to be able by voice and vote to advocate those principles and protect the interests of those who elected me to this house. I now resign the position of speaker of this house."

TROUBLESOME TIMES IN THE LEGISLATURE.
A new speaker was then proposed, but as the votes for and against were equal the clerk declared no election had been held. The members dispersed and next day the assembly was prorogued by proclamation. The full significance of this action on the part of Mr. Ross will never be forgotten. It at once drew to him the attention and confidence of the people as showing him to be a man who did not allow his private interests to interfere with his public duties. He was elected to the speakership at the first session of the legislature, and could from his position have held aloof from the trouble that divided the house. He was not a rich man and the emoluments of his office were a consideration. Farther than this, his stepping down from the speaker's chair to the floor of the house brought about a "tie" in the respective strength of the parties, and his action made imminent a dissolution and new election when he might have lost his seat. None of

these things weighed with Mr. Ross. It was his conduct in a striking action which perhaps better than any other revealed his chivalrous courage and lack of self-seeking. A bitter and difficult fight was on, the result problematical. Indeed only an unlooked for event—the death of Mr. Reaman and Yorkton's choosing as his successor Mr. Innesinger, a Haultain supporter—gave the Haultain party eventually the advantage. There is no doubt that the act powerfully appealed to Mr. Haultain and had a bearing when the latter withdrew the combined attempts of Congress to keep Ross out of the executive. For the rest, it made Mr. Ross the darling of the public.

The assembly met again in the following December and immediately re-elected Mr. Ross to the speakership. The election was unanimous. The new government under Mr. Cayley did not live long. An ordinance dealing with the executive had been disallowed upon which Mr. Cayley and his colleagues resigned on 7th December, and Mr. Haultain again formed a government. The opponents of Mr. Haultain's government evidently thought it better for them to have Mr. Ross silent in the chair than to be subjected to his vigorous onslaughts from the floor of the house in debate. They were very good boys for the rest of the life of the assembly.

Why Women Say "No."
It has been remarked that when a woman says "no" it should not be taken for a negative. There may be an element of truth in this statement, or there may not. I, as a girl who thinks that she knows what she is writing about, would say that it all depends upon the character of the woman who utters the little word. If she is a poor weak sort of a creature who is certain of nothing, and who likes to hear the same thing over and over again, much after the fashion of a young mother listening to her first baby's initial utterances, she will undoubtedly say "no" when she all the time really means the very opposite.

I have known a few instances, however, in which women who knew their own minds perfectly have been impelled to say an emphatic negative when receiving an offer of marriage from a man whom they loved passionately while conscious all the time that they would eventually say a cooling affirmative. It was this way. The man proposing were, so to speak, on trial at the bar. They were suspected of offering marriage out of pity, or out of pique, or from a sense of justice.

A woman is frequently made the recipient of an offer on these grounds and the trick of saying "no" when the question is first put is the one and only way of discovering whether the man sincerely means what he says.

A man will perhaps go to one girl and ask her to be his wife, and when he is given an unfavorable answer he will blurt out, "You think I am not free to say this, that I am morally bound to go to Miss — and make her the offer I am now making you? Allow me to say that I have done so, and that she has declined me. I anticipated your true and honorable heart, and while certain of my real relationship with Miss — I did the one thing that I felt you would say that I ought to have done."

The instinct of many of us women will clearly tell us when a man is making an offer that is not genuine, but sometimes we dare not trust to our instinct, we hope against hope, and play our fish with evasive answers until we see that he really means what he says from the bottom of his heart.

that the deadly poison was nothing more terrible than milk. When a girl has been courting for an unusually long period and has at last received the long-expected proposal she will feign astonishment and will give a qualified "no." This is only her banter, and she will follow it up by laughingly explaining that she punished him because—by his delay—he punished her! Shyness or a different position in life are common causes for such delays on the part of many men.

As a rule it may be taken for granted that no woman says "no" without reason for doing so. The knowledge that there are nowadays not enough men to go round has not become public property for nothing. Many a woman accepts a man who is far beneath her ideal for the simple reason that she is aware that if he fails her she can earn her own living. And a marriage of any sort precludes the possibility of her dying as an old maid.

One more instance: two sisters recently fell in love with the same man who was a close friend of their brother's. The man proposed to the younger sister, and she said "no," because she knew that her sister wanted him. Yet when, in course of time, the man made the offer of marriage to the elder sister she likewise said "no" for the identical reason—that she knew her sister wanted him. The girls' love for each other has up to the present kept the man a bachelor.

The balance of Mr. Ross' career as a public man is well known, his record in the Yukon being particularly familiar. Throughout his political life he has shown the same unwavering loyalty to the people that has been exhibited since his arrival in Dawson and which constitutes the basis upon which his thousands of admirers in the Yukon are urging his election to the Dominion house of commons.

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EXPLAINS THINGS

Atlantic Liner Official Talks of Terms

English Papers Misunderstand the Agreement With Cunard Line.

London, Oct. 2.—As usual the English press completely misunderstands the gist of the latest developments in the shipping combination, attributes it to motives which do not exist, and, coupled with a weird secret agreement that was never contemplated. From the highest sources the Associated Press learns that the statement of Gerald Balfour, president of the board of trade at Sheffield, except wherein it concerned the financial arrangements with the Cunard line did not in the slightest degree alter the conditions that previously existed.

"From the commencement," said one of those chiefly interested in the Anglo-American combination, "we have intended that vessels which were British when the combine was begun should remain British. Any sane business man reading our agreement with Harlan & Wolff could arrive at no other conclusion. Taking into account the cost of building and the rates of wages in the shipping business prevailing in the United States, it was a policy so obvious that it is hard to understand how it could be misinterpreted. The trouble all along has been with English papers which insist on believing or pretending to believe that the combine was a matter of politics instead of being purely a commercial agreement in which English capital is vastly concerned."

"The absurd suggestion that Morgans get a quid pro quo is another instance of persistent ignorance of the situation. Mr. Balfour told all that was to be told, and merely explained what have always been the plans of the combine in a way that would allay this unfounded agitation in England. All that is behind this consists in the motives which prompted us to give the public a specific understanding. We gave an account of the rumors that several members of parliament interested in shipping were preparing a bill to prevent vessels from using the British flag unless owned by British capital. That would have embarrassed the government and would have been a more stringent ship law than exists in the United States. To prevent a misunderstanding, we gave our word that British prestige shall be maintained. Our word was taken as sufficient and in return we take the present government's word that they will not sanction any such legislation as I have mentioned. In both cases the guarantee is perhaps rather sentimental. But the Morgans may be expected to last as long as a government elected by one party in the United Kingdom.

"So far as the combine is concerned, Mr. Balfour's announcement contains no change of policy. We have given nothing we intended to withhold and the government has conferred no more material favors on the combine.

"Regarding the Cunard line, I do not agree with the opinion in English shipping circles that the increase of its subsidy and the loan of money signify the pauperization of that company. From a political point of view it was necessary for the government to take some steps to soothe the ruffled feelings of a section of its constituents. Hence the additional subsidy. As to the loan, there are still many laymen and some naval officers who believe that mercantile cruisers faster than those possessed by other nations increase the naval strength of the country. Anyway, 24 to 25-knot cruisers, all British, will be ready to be turned over to the government in case of war. It will help the Britishers to sleep quieter."

A day's reflection appears to have convinced many people that the government has treated the Cunard Steamship Company too generously and considerable objection is crystallizing around the question whether the government has not acted overhastily in thus departing from its traditional policy with regard to subsidies. The strongest objection is made to providing money with which to build new steamers. It is argued that so doing will form a difficult precedent, as other shipping companies are certain to demand similar privileges, which it will be hard to refuse. It is feared also that the American aid other governments will retaliate by increasing their subsidies.

The government will probably be briskly criticized when parliament re-assembles, especially for deciding such a momentous question before the parliamentary committee which is now considering the matter of subsidies, has made its report. It is understood that the negotiations were conducted by Gerald W. Balfour, president of the board of trade; the Earl of Selbourne, first lord of the admiralty and the colonial office; and according to the Daily Chronicle this morning, the agreement with J. Pierpont Morgan was only accepted since the heads of the Atlantic shipping combine foregathered in New York city.

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Klondike River Has Jammed and Passengers are Crossing on the Ice.

The current of the Yukon is moving full more languidly this morning, and between very narrow banks of shore ice. There is a jam across the Klondike just at the bridge, and from the mouth of that river, clear over to steamboat along the current is scarcely perceptible. The passengers to and from Klondike city were all using the ice today in preference to paying bridge tolls.

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