

# The Albertan

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Editor and Manager.

## THE WEATHER

Some persons complain of the cold weather which has been ushered in with the new year, but there is no reason for complaint, for no weather is so seasonable, so really invigorating, so much needed as that which we are getting at the present time. The thermometer is telling a strange story these days and a tale which may be somewhat alarming to people abroad, but it does not alarm any person residing in Alberta. This is the kind of a climate which produces good hardy men, and we must expect good hardy weather sometimes.

There is this consolation about conditions here, we do not feel at all injured with the thermometer 20 below, but if the people of Toronto, New York or London had a night with the mercury that far below they would not survive until morning broke.

The weather for the last few days may be described as strenuous but it is by no means uncomfortable, and that is the main thing. It is a good thing for all concerned, good for people, good for business, good for all.

## TAKE THEM ALL IN

The city of Calgary is preparing for a Greater Calgary, but with that incompleteness characteristic of the city council of 1906, arrangements are being made for an extension only on one side.

That is a great mistake. That is an unpardonable mistake. The time is coming when Riverside will be a very thickly settled portion of this district. If Riverside does not become a part of Calgary at an early date it will be an independent town and at no distant date an important town. If this question of affiliation is postponed the opportunity may be lost. Greater Calgary should include all the suburbs in the vicinity of this city.

## OWN THE RAILWAYS

The commonwealth of Australia comes along with a fitting and eloquent rebuke to the man who says that it is impossible for a country to make railways pay. Australia is a large country, sparsely settled, with many serious problems for railways.

Despite these facts the commonwealth have made state railways pay well. The charges there are not extreme. In fact, they are somewhat less than in this country. And the commonwealth paid all charges, interests and everything else and there was a little over two million dollars handed to the state.

If Australia can succeed so admirably and make much out of railways so can Canada.

## THE QUESTION OF TITLES

The manner of decorations with which James Bryce is to come to America, when he arrives as ambassador for Great Britain is causing the good people of the United States a great amount of concern. It is causing no anxiety in Great Britain for the people there do not worry about titles and that sort of things. There is a common knighthood is not very seriously regarded. They are too common.

But in the United States a knighthood means something. It ranks above a colonelship, and even above an Hon. No people in the world are quite so much dazzled by rank and honors and tin pot titles as the people across the line.

It was announced that Mr. Bryce had declined a peerage out of compliment to the people of United States. It is quite improbable that that report is true, for two reasons, one being that Mr. Bryce is going to Washington to represent the people of Great Britain rather than the people of any other country, and further Mr. Bryce has been in America long enough to know that his acceptance of a peerage would not be an offence to the American people, but a pleasure to the American people.

And here in Canada, which is about as democratic as most countries, we have our titles, and we have people who are scheming to get a knighthood or something of that kind. If knighthoods were conferred on the same principle as the Nobel prize they would be worth while. But they are not conferred that way, for the people who frequently get them are either not adorned by them or do not adorn the title.

It is said that Chief Justice Fitzpatrick is to be the next person to be knighted in Canada. Why is he to be knighted? He is a good sample of the person who is knighted in Canada. He is neither worse nor better than the ordinary knight but he has done nothing to entitle him

to be singled out from his fellows in the way of special adornment. It would be better if Canadians could get over this rather vulgar habit of chasing after titles, but it is hardly likely that they ever will.

## THE PRICE OF LIGHT

The city should lower the price of power and light at once. The light proposition is paying at the present rates and paying very handsomely. The object of the establishment of the electric light plant was not to make money out of it, but to furnish the product to the consumer at the lowest possible cost.

Why then does not the city bring down the price of light to the cost price?

And in considering another reduction the city should charge up to the city a higher price for arc lights. Under present regulations the city is paying \$80 a year for a 1200 candle power light. At that rate the city is paying a little less than nine cents a month for a 16 candle power light. And these lights burn much longer than the lights in a private house.

The city should raise the price of the arc lights up to at least \$100 a light per year.

If the city is not paying the price that should be paid it means that the other light users, not the city, must make up the difference. That being the case, the city by undercharging itself for light is robbing the other consumers.

There should be a rearrangement of light prices at once and the city should remedy this defect at the same time.

## A GRAVE MISTAKE

The tie up of municipal matters caused by the abolition of the commission is much more serious than at first anticipated. The amended by-laws provide that the first meeting of the new city council will be held on the SECOND Monday in the new year. As there is no commission and no person with any authority to do anything at all, there is practically an interregnum of half a month. At this time, when activity means everything in municipal affairs, the aldermen of last year threw away one half a month.

With the abolition of the commission by-law the office of controller is abolished. The aldermen who were so keen about destroying the commission gave all the credit of the satisfactory administration of the finances of the city to the controller and said that the office should be retained and then immediately abolished it. That is another example of the way that they did things in the council of last year.

The city is without a commission and it is without a controller. The council passed resolutions that no goods should be ordered except by the controller, and has not repealed these motions. The conditions of affairs at present then is that no person can order supplies except the controller, and there is no such office as the controller.

So the next two weeks at the city council is a period of interdictum. During that time there is to be nothing doing. Despite what happens there can be no buying and no selling. The old council has created a vacuum.

A more ill considered act than that which at one swoop deprived the city of the best form of administration that it ever had and put the city out of business for the first two weeks of the present year was never brought before the council.

## RAILWAY ACCIDENTS

Whatever statistics, which have not yet been collected, will show the fact seems to be that this is the season for horrible accidents, and accidents which are without parallel. We have them in Canada, they are chasing rapidly on the heels of one another in the United States and they are happening with alarming frequency in Great Britain where we have almost learned to believe that they never have any accidents.

The cause of this epidemic in railway accidents is that the world is too busy. Every person is too much in a hurry. There is too much to do. Too many people want things and want them right away. There are too many enterprises being undertaken, and the railways have got behind and they are making every effort to catch up. And in their efforts to catch up they are taking too many chances, with the inevitable result.

The world is prosperous, remarkably prosperous. Despite the fact that famine is raging in two continents the activity in the world was never approached before. Though the time of depression is long since due, it has not been seen. Every industry is thriving. When activity eases up a little, or railways catch up with the activity, or learn that in some cases haste is not desirable, then we may have a slackening in railway accidents.

## EDITORIAL NOTES

After proceedings at the revival services last night we begin to believe we are getting into king class.

It is announced that the king has decided to cut out one of the three seasons for giving titles to Cana-

dians, which is very good as far as it goes.

The Greater Calgary advocated by the recent council is an expansion just upon one side, which is not an expansion at all, but a monstrosity.

If Calgary can do without a council, or a commission, or any kind of municipal administration from now until January 14, Calgary should be able to get along without these things very nicely altogether.

The city council of 1906 unanimously expressed its satisfaction at the institution and execution of a controller, and proceeded at once to abolish the office. That is the way they did things in the city council.

If the Ottawa hockey team had played those two in and out Winnipeg games in Calgary you couldn't have heard anything but the hammer of the knockers who would be saying things about everybody.

In Edmonton the advertising fakir selling advertisements for some bill of fare and that kind of thing is treated the same as every other transient trader and charged a license as he should be charged. Why not in Calgary?

The people of Toronto have an unusual way of doing things at election time. They showed their disapproval of the administration of municipal affairs by re-electing a mayor whom they did not want, and by defeating three important by-laws which they did want.

Being a firm believer in the efficacy of prayer, we confidently expect that the earnest supplications at the revival meetings for the editors of Calgary will result in decided reform in the editorial policy of the Calgary Herald.

Rev. Mr. Hunter clinches things by saying that the records do not show that Jesus Christ ever went to the theatres, therefore the theatres must be base and low. By the same reasoning it may be pointed out that Jesus Christ never came to Alberta. Therefore a conclusion that could not very well be arrived at.

## THE WORST OF ALL

"Last night at the Knox Church when the evangelists called upon the audience to mention persons who were in dire need of prayer a prominent citizen called upon the assembly to pray for the EDITORS OF THE CALGARY PAPERS first of all. Upwards of a dozen petitions followed.

## The Worst of All

Who are the persons predestined to woe, to be lost in the bottomless pit, I'll give you three guesses and bet you a dime, You will never discover who's IT is.

It is not the gambler, the thief or the crook, It is not the indolent man, Who, risking exposure and other sad things, Makes love where he will; when he can.

It is not the murderer, it is not the thing, Who has reason to fear he will hang, It is not the hog who lies drunk in the street, No! No! It's the NEWSPAPER MAN.

F. DODSWORTH

## NEW YEAR REFLECTIONS

Ninety-eight seven, Once again We've journeyed round the sun, And onward now through space we spin, Till day and night are done.

Our planets path through allows long its orbit justly keeps, And winter merges into spring, Each equinox complete.

So each succeeding year renews, The providence of man, 'Till father time lays down his scythe, And death renounce his claim.

To live through anxious straining years This hope to man was given, On earth or on some higher sphere We'll seek to found our heaven.

E. B. CLARKE.

## A COLD WEATHER SONG

From the Atlanta Constitution. Col' win' blowin' 'fum de north en de south— What you gwine ter do, Oh, what you gwine ter do? Taters mighty hot en sweet, en gwine ter yo' mouth, What you gwine ter do, believe?

De Lawd sen' col' Ter friz yo' soul, Kase you make a mighty growlin' w'en you hear de thunder roll, But de light shine bright, So, what you gwine ter do, believe? Col' win' blowin' 'fum de east en de west—

What you gwine ter do, Oh, what you gwine ter do? Does you love religion or a 'posum supper bes? What you gwine ter do, believe?

De Lawd sen' col' Ter friz up yo' soul, Kase you 'tarrigate de summer w'en you hear de thunder roll, But de torch dose trim, En you reach de 'posum limb, So, what you gwine ter do, believe?

## MAN WITH THREE LIVES

Curious Study in Abnormal Psychology Afforded by Englishman.

From the Journal of Psychology. No stranger of treble personality could be imagined than an insane person from the life of an Englishman, which is recorded on the authority of two American medical men.

The narrator of the facts is Dr. Edward B. Angell, of Rochester. They concern the adventures of a young man now twenty-six years of age, who left his home in Essex, England, twelve years ago for the United States. Within this period he has had a life largely

mysterious. Only a small portion of his actual experiences are known beyond the way. He has led apparently two kinds of consciousness—one amid the hard human realities another in the airy realms of fancy. And in these dual forms of existence fact and fiction have become so closely interwoven that the man's history presents to the scientific mind a wonderful study in psychology. Dr. Angell describes it as "a case of double consciousness," in which memory fabricated the second or illusive existence without any vicious or deceitful design of the man himself.

A frank, open-hearted Englishman publicly married last Christmas Day, as Horace Robbins, a young woman of Rochester. On the morrow he was taken ill. On January 9 he left home, and disappeared mysteriously. His bride had no tidings until, on January 19, there came a letter from him, dated at the Memorial hospital, in Sayre, Pa., saying he had been ill and under the care of Dr. Fox. His medical attendant at Rochester, Dr. Vary, hurried to Sayre, where he found there was no Memorial hospital and no Dr. Fox. Twelve hours later he discovered Robbins a neighbor in town.

Everything he had written to his wife was without foundation, and he would not now account for his days' wandering. Nor had he any recollection that he had written the letter to her, though when she came he recognized her, and "was much concerned that he had written falsehoods."

Dr. Vary and his wife brought him home and nursed him for a fortnight. He was like a day dreamer, a man hypnotized, occasionally writing business letters and then having spells of delusions, but by February 4 he appeared normal and well.

Then he gave the story of his life—the first of a contradictory series, which the doctor styles "a modern collection of 'Cantabrigia Tales'." His home was in Musselburg, Scotland; his father an army officer, who shot himself through grief; he himself the sole survivor, emigrated to Canada, enlisted in the Canadian contingent for the Boer war, and afterward returned via England to the Dominion. Subsequently coming back to England he awoke one morning in an Edinburgh hospital, and when cured went to New York for his wedding, but lost all his wedding presents.

This tale held good till his aunt, Miss C., arrived from England and gave some glimpses of his real history. His name was not Robbins, but Horace Rawlins. He left England in 1894 and went to Manitoba, where he both met Robbins dying and leaving him his property. Then he assumed the name Robbins, and henceforth he lived Robbins, life, with different adventures.

But this story, on inquiry turned out to be a flight of fancy, his friend Robbins being a myth, but he mixed the fiction up with several matters, such as his wedding, etc., that were undoubtedly true.

As time wore on and medical attention improved his health physically and restored normal mentality he committed to writing his final tale, a long narrative, with the proviso, "I cannot vouch for all the statements, so I write them knowing they may be either fact or fancy."

His name, he says, is Horace Rawlins; he was born on March 25, 1879, at Finching Field, Essex, and his mother, sisters, reside at Cedar road, Hampton Wick, Middlesex. The neurologist, Dr. Angell, who narrates the case, says: "Dr. Vary and myself are satisfied his tales are but creations of an unstable imagination in a man of opinion that his conscience when in this state, so akin to Typhoid, registers fact and fiction alike. Our belief is absolute in his honesty of purpose and frankness of mind. There is no trace of guile in word or act."

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