THE WEST

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THE MANAGER,
THE WEST COMPANY, LIMITED
REGINA, SASK.

UNION LABEL

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1908

What Is Left?

Will there be anything left to the people of this country if the present administration is kept in power?

This is a question the people might well ask. Our lands given in large blocks to the speculators for nominal prices, our timber lands given to government friends for a song, and even the fish in some of the waters have been given to those who boost the government. However, the air is ours yet, and we may hope that the free use of this will not be denied us.

The Minister of Marine announces in reply to a question in the House that the following fishing grants have been made:

"To Coffey and Merritt exclusive right of fishing in Cumberland and Namew Lakes and Whitney's Narrows. The area of Cumberland Lake is 166 square miles while that of Namew is 66. The price paid is $200 a year. The same concern has exclusive privileges in Cedar Lake (285 square miles) Moose (552 square miles); Cormorane Lake (141 square miles); and at Atikaneg Lake (90 square miles) all for $100 a year.

F. W. Markey of Montreal has obtained exclusive privileges in the great Nelson River and all its tributaries from West river to its mouth in Hudson Bay; also of the Bay or estuary of Nelson from Cape Tatnam to Owl river, a distance of more than 100 miles extending 3 miles from shore; also on the Hays and Pigeon rivers in Keewatin, two very large tidal streams emptying into Hudson Bay; also the whole of Great Slave Lake, which has an area of 10719 square miles, and is larger than Lake Erie or Ontario. For all this he pays $10 a year and his lease runs for 21 years from 1904.

J. K. Mackenzie of Selkirk, has obtained exclusive fishing rights on the whole of Lake Athabasca, 2,842 square miles, and also of Lesser Slave Lake, 480 square miles. His lease runs till 1913 and he pays $10 per annum.

Arch. MacNee, whose regular business is connected with the government newspaper in Windsor Ont., has been granted the exclusive right of fishing around James Bay from North Bluff to Moer's Island, a distance of more than 100 miles by the shore line. His right runs out 3 miles from the shore and includes the tidal waters of a large number of streams discharging into James Bay. Mr. MacNee will enjoy these exclusive rights until the year 1924, and will pay $10 a year."

VOTE FOR THE BY-LAWS.

Partisan Civil Servants

The Liberal government at Ottawa deem it no disgrace to the country to have the army of civil servants employed doing active political work for the Liberal party. And what do you think of the justification some of the ministers of the crown offer for their course. Hon. Mr. Pugsley was brazen enough to stand up in parliament on Monday and state that the Liberal government had not interfered when Conservative employees took part in elections. Mr. Pugsley does not seem to look upon civil servants as being servants of the people, but as servants of the party.

Is it any wonder then that when countenanced by the ministers, this horde of government employees devote so much time to party advancement when they should be doing the country's work?

If the Conservative governments in years gone by were lax enough to permit civil servants to meddle in party politics, is that any justification for the Liberal party which made such profuse promises of purity?

VOTE FOR THE BY-LAWS.

Editorial Notes

Voting takes place tomorrow on the City by-laws and we would urge on every citizen who has a vote, the necessity of recording his vote. The city needs this money badly and no doubt the debentures which these by-laws authorise selling will be speedily disposed of. Turn out and vote for all the by-laws.

John Millar has no doubt by this time found out that his wiser course would have been to have asserted himself as a true friend of the grain growers of the west, while a member of the Grain Commission. The opportunity of his life time came, but he did not grasp it, and the grain growers of the west are asking why.

The Phoenix, a Liberal paper published at Saskatooni in its issue last Saturday asserts its strong opposition to government owned elevators and government owned railways. Here's its reason for opposing government owned railways and will indicate the depth of the logic it employs:

"But consider what the conditions would be if all our railroads were under government control. The vote (of employees) would be so large that in any case where it cared to assert itself it would swing most any election. We do not want government owned railroads."

VOTE FOR THE BY-LAWS.

Press Comments

(Estevan Observer)

J. T. Brown has not spoken yet regarding his traitorous conduct to his constituency. Were Mr. Brown the honorable and straightforward man we once thought him to be, he would have at least resigned his seat as Provincial Rights member for Souris in the local house before going over to the party that he himself strongly denounced as coercionists and betrayers of the rights of the people of western Canada. It is not yet too late for him to resign, and he should do so at once. By his continued silence, J. T. Brown has branded himself as little better than a political mountebank.

(Moose Jaw News)

Truly, the Scott government seems to be the victim of all the ills to which administrations are heir. At its best it is a weak cripple, leaning upon the arm of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, who, from its birth, has manifested the strongest interest in its welfare, such as could only come from a father. But the indulgent father has many other sick ones in the household to whom he must give attention; moreover his residence is 1,500 miles distant. For immediate protection the government hides in the shadow of its head, Premier Scott. As a means of protection a shadow is almost the last resort; but as is well known that a drowning man will grasp at a straw, it is not surprising that the Scott government should seek refuge in a shadow. Lest they should think the simile overdrawn we ask: Is it not true that the government has refused to meet the legislature before the premier returns from his wanderings on the shores of the Mediterranean? The statement cannot be denied. Thus it is that the government seeks refuge in the shadow of the Hon. Walter Scott.

(Toronto Weekly Sun)

It is to be hoped that the session will not pass without a complete explanation of the financial situation, actual and prospective. Have we been speculating, as some are beginning to fear, on visions of the future? Is a demand for increased taxation pending? There are men, and men of influence, who, as we saw the other day, avow their desire for a great raising of the tariff in order that their gain, already ample, may be increased. Imperialist and militarist schemes, requiring a great increase in expenditure seems to be still afloat. It appears not yet to be certain that the "All-Red-Line" project is dead. Profitable and highly probable the All-Red line might be to speculators engaged in the construction. The farmer would pay for its construction without profiting a single cent. To the farmer, what does "the command of all the seas" mean? It means only a perpetual state of jealous tension among nations and of liability to war, by which we would gain nothing, and, as a taxpayer, would lose a great deal. A repudiation by the government of any intention to commit the country to ventures of this kind would be a welcome part of the financial explanation.

It is to be hoped that Mr. Fielding will be careful in drawing the bill creating a system of old-age pensions which he is going to bring in. There is obvious risk in the creation of a great body of stipendiaries drawing on the state and who are armed with votes. The army pension list of the United States, which monstrous as it is, still goes on increasing while nobody dares say a word, is a warning not to be overlooked. Age is not an invariable criterion of need or of infirmity. To these points, however, as well as to the cases of immigration and emigration, Mr. Fielding will, no doubt, attend. It is the general policy which calls for consideration. It must be remembered that there can be no going back.—A Bystander.

(Saskatoon Capital)

Senator Tom Davis has brought in a bill to give the railway commission power to own and operate telephones and telegraphs. Some of T. O.'s constituents must be looking for jobs as "operators." Many of them have already had much experience so far as the "polls" are concerned.

(Battleford Herald)

Recently we had occasion to criticize Attorney General Turgeon for running around to conventions and neglecting to see that arrangements were made to hold district court here on the appointed date. He sent a letter of explanation stating that the fault lay with the Dominion government and that nothing could be done by the provincial government until a district judge was appointed. We published this explanation in good faith but now we find that on Fev. 3rd, His Honor, the Administrator, by and with the advice of the executive council, authorizes Judge Forbes, of Prince Albert, to hold district court in Battleford. It is up to the attorney general to give another explanation why the court was not held at the appointed time to the great inconvenience of those who had business ready to be brought forward before the judge.

Mrs. Swaisland Passes Away

The death of Mrs. W. J. Swaisland took place at Cupar on Wednesday, Feb. 19th, after an illness of six weeks. Deceased was well known in Regina as Dottie Johnstone, being the eldest daughter of Hon. Justice Johnstone.

She had been married to Mr. Swaisland, manager of the Union Bank at Cupar and formerly of the staff of the Regina branch, for little more than a year, the wedding having taken place in December 1906.

The deceased lady had a host of friends in Regina to whom the news of her death came as a severe shock.

The funeral was held from the residence of Judge Johnstone, Victoria avenue on Saturday afternoon to the Regina cemetery, a service being held also at St. Paul's church, Rev. G. C. Hill officiating.

The West joins the many friends in extending sympathy to Mr. Swaisland as well as to Judge and Mrs. Johnstone and family.

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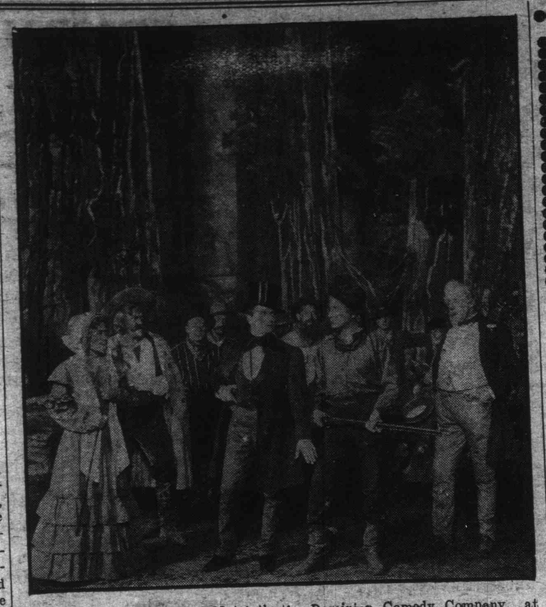

Scene from "A Run-a-Way Match," the Dominion Comedy Company, at the City Hall, one night, Thursday, Feb. 27th.

A Company of Merit

After proving their ability in the serious drama of a few weeks ago, the Dominion Comedy Co., will doubtless be greeted with a large audience, anxious to witness the production of a well known comedy by this capable company. The press and public of the east are loud in their praises of "A Run-a-Way Match," which is the play that will be presented on Thursday evening. A very beautiful scenic investure is used for this production and the dressing of the piece is said to be very fine. A feature of this production, will be the pleasing vaudeville specialities, which will be introduced between the acts, thus allowing no tedious waits whatever. Among the new members of the company are Cecil Summers, a comedian of note; Miss Lillian Coles and Miss Pearl Summers, two charming soubrettes. These artists have been especially engaged for the programme between the acts.

VOTE FOR THE BY-LAWS.

Ottawa, Feb. 22.—Mr. Boyer, Vaudreuille, will submit a resolution declaring that it is expedient to amend the post office act by providing that the cost of carrying the mails in country districts by stage drivers be paid in proportion to the number of miles to be gone over by them; thatno tender be accepted at a lower figure than that previously fixed by the government; that the scale be calculated with consideration of the different conditions of roads, establishing a difference between roads running over mountains and those across level prairie, and also in cases where mail carrier carries or does not carry passengers.

Ottawa, Feb. 22.—Hon. G. P. Graham, Minister of Railways, has given notice of a resolution which has brought forth the changes it is proposed to make in the railway commission.

That it is expedient to amend the Railway Act as respects the constitution of the Board of Railway Commissioners for Canada and to provide for the appointment of an assistant chief commissioner at a salary of $9,000 per annum, and two additional commissioners at a salary of $8,000 per annum each. This will mean that the commission after the passage of this act will consist of six members. It will probably be divided into divisions having different duties to perform.

VOTE FOR THE BY-LAWS

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