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DUNCAN MARSHALL,
Manager.

MONDAY, JULY 7, 1907.

A "PREMATURE" CURSE?

The Mail and Empire thinks the "land shark" is a "premature curse." Generally speaking, this is about right, but if the Mail intends it as a sly prod at Mr. Foster and his friends we disagree, and on behalf of those gentlemen raise respectful protest.

There was nothing "premature" about the operations of these gentlemen. They were invariably timed to the psychological moment. Here was no ruining of prospects by hasty or precipitate action. In some manner, by some means and for some reason, the act seemed always suited to the occasion, and it neither preceded the occasion nor delayed too long. When the time was ripe, the "curse" was there with the goods and ready to cart away the money.

In fact, so well timed were the several operations of which we have knowledge that, despite the assurances of Mr. Foster, it is difficult to believe these were not parts of one comprehensive scheme, shrewdly planned, admirably adjusted, and splendidly executed. So far from appearing as isolated and unrelated transactions in the legitimate business life of a Trust Company, they have all the earmarks of being merely incidents in the outworking of an elaborate system of speculation, by which Mr. Foster and his friends were to enrich themselves by rickshaws, credit, and in some instances at the actual expense of the Company under his management.

There is a singleness of purpose and a similarity of method visible in these transactions hardly to be reconciled with the notion that they were not of common origin, or were not predestined to a certain end. Remembering that this purpose was not that for which the Trust Company was formed, and that the method was not that by which such concerns are usually conducted, it is difficult, even in the most charitable mood, to believe that these were unrelated and unforeseen incidents, tending in the same direction and by the same route purely by accident.

Otherwise the "curse" was attended by the most phenomenal luck, for of all the enterprises they undertook none is recorded as a failure, and in every one it was the Union Trust which came to their relief. Are we to suppose that this good Samaritan, whose course Mr. Foster guided, came that road so frequently without purpose or pre-arrangement? To suppose so is to claim for the oft-distressed adventurers the most wonderful of luck. For the rescuer always arrived in time and always rescued most divinely. It was worth while to be distressed for the sake of being rescued by Mr. Foster and the Union Trust.

For example, what was "premature" about the Montague land transactions? Mr. Montague fortunately discovered the land after the Trust Company had secured money to lend. This surely was not "premature," but most timely. And the "commissions" Mr. Foster raked in for buying the land—were these actions "premature"? On the contrary they seem to have been admirably timed—timed to the moment the Union Trust was paying for the land and extracted from the price.

What was "premature" in the C.P.R. land deal? Was the purchase premature? It was turned over in a month at an advance of \$1 per acre. Most timely. Was the application for the relief "premature"? The syndicate had already become liable to Mackenzie & Mann for \$50,000 and had \$50,000 still due. It was high time they did something. Was Mr. Foster's syndicate "premature"? They made 50 cents per acre on the deal. Quite timely, it would seem. Was it

"premature" to take back from the Union Trust and Dr. Oronhyatekha \$33,750 of bonus stock in the Great and West Land Co.? The stock was just handed over "the best that was going" becoming valuable. Otherwise the Union Trust might still have it.

What was "premature" about the British Columbia lumber mill deal?—and that in his own special sphere was Mr. Foster ahead of time with thought, training and speech-making his double-barrelled agreement for ing. Thereafter the Honorable Mr. F. Knight of Sunnyside was elected a vice-president. This is the same

\$55,000 rake-off. Was the Okanagan property offered prematurely? Apparently not, for what cost \$40,000 was unloaded on the Union Trust Company for \$175,000.

The "curse" have many things to answer for, but of the charge of being a "premature" curse, they must be acquitted. They were always on time, but never ahead of it, and their work bears the imprint of a deep design, broadly conceived and masterfully executed.

A GROWING EXHIBITION.

The second Alberta Provincial Fair passes into history as an unequalled success. The weather throughout could not have been improved; the exhibits were generally more numerous and quite as fairly representative as last year; the program of races and attractions was up to the average; and the crowds broke the records. In short, there were all the indications that the rapid all-round growth which has characterized Edmonton's big fair since its inception still continues. So may it be. The Provincial Fair should be provincial in every sense. It should be regarded by the people of all Alberta as Alberta's Fair and should attract visitors from every corner of the Province. The people from Lethbridge and Cardston on the south to Peace River on the north, and from the mountains on the west to the Saskatchewan boundary, should feel that they have a personal and vital interest in the annual Exhibition held at Edmonton, and should be represented in the attendance.

This can only be accomplished by steadily developing the Fair along the two lines of yielding profit and pleasure to the visitor. First of all, the Fair should provide an exhibition of agricultural products and natural resources of the Province. All that nature has provided in the way of resources, and all that men have been able to produce from our wonderful soil, should be on exhibition, for the information alike of strangers and Albertans, who may well be pardoned if they are not familiar with all the variety of resources and products of so vast a region.

And the Fair must be a place of entertainment; a place where something may be seen that is worth travelling to see, and that is not ordinarily seen elsewhere in the Province. The Fair should be, as it is, the big racing event of the Province. If should be also the "Olympian games" of Alberta; the occasion of tournaments of lacrosse, baseball, football, etc., with a good programme of athletic contests. The "attractions" should be the best procurable for the funds available.

If these lines are faithfully followed the Fair will continue to grow both in usefulness and in pleasure; will come to be more and more recognized as Alberta's annual holiday, and will be attended by thousands where now hundreds attend. The Directors of the Exhibition have done well; they deserve both thanks for what they have accomplished and the best wishes for the future.

THE SPEECHES OF GEORGE W.

The speeches—or at least some of them—of Mr. George W. Fowler, M.P., are being published, disinfected, with footnotes, additions and the other usual frills and are to be circulated as campaign pamphlets by the Conservatives—provided they can evade the law against the circulation of indecent literature. To this proposal the Liberals should certainly have no objection, if their wishes were consulted. They could scarcely wish for more than that the Opposition should adopt as their rule of conduct the standard set up by Mr. Fowler and should promulgate his speeches as the reason for their party existence and the embodiment of their political aspirations.

But we fear that this volume will not do justice to George—that it will not do justice to the man who will be a kind of expurgated edition and will conceal rather than reveal the real speech-making triumphs of the member for Kings and Albert. For George has a record as a speech-maker. He has made good speeches and many of them, speeches that were worth while—for George. But we do not expect to find them in the forthcoming

For example, George delivered an oration to Sir Thomas Shaughnessy and that valiant knight forthwith West Land Co.? The stock was just handed over "the best that was going" becoming valuable. Otherwise the Union Trust might still have it.

What was "premature" about the British Columbia lumber mill deal?—and that in his own special sphere was Mr. Foster ahead of time with thought, training and speech-making his double-barrelled agreement for ing. Thereafter the Honorable Mr. F. Knight of Sunnyside was elected a vice-president. This is the same

George the talker. Mr. Fowler had only to "seek" the opportunity, knowing that Mr. Foster would "find" the funds; he had only to knock and the vault was opened unto him; only to ask and he received, from the funds of the Union Trust. He called upon one named Peter, whose surname was Ryan, delivered him an address and Peter presented him with two agreements for sale of the same piece of property—one for \$55,000 more than the other. And when the deal was completed Peter, still under the spell, "divied" up the dough.

Truly, George has had his oratorical victories but they were not in the House of Commons. Victories there are of the "empty" kind—judged from the Fowler viewpoint. They are not money-makers. For such fruitless conquests he has little taste. He talks to a purpose, the purpose is the material welfare of Mr. Fowler, and he naturally talks where and when the purpose may be gained. Were the Conservatives in power we then might have more of the real eloquence of George W. embalmied in Hansard, as he pleaded to introduce the methods of "the cult" into the business of the country. But with the stony-hearted Grits on the treasury benches, there is no hope; wherefore the country is deprived the privilege of reading and paying for the finest specimens of his genius, which now are revealed alone to corporation dignitaries and financial rulers.

For this reason we do not anticipate that the forth-coming volume will in any fair degree represent the oratorical abilities of Mr. Fowler to his fellow-countrymen. The pathos that shamed the icy heart of Sir Thomas Shaughnessy; the irresistible flood of moral suns that swept the ex-minister of finance from his bearings and waited the Union Trust funds; the two agreements of sale from Mr. Ryan; these will not be found in the pamphlets to be generously distributed by the organizers of the Opposition. Yet these lacking the pamphlet must be "fifteen and cruelly unworthy the character it seeks to display—like a history of Jesse James with the murders and bank robberies left out.

IS THERE A FRUIT COMBINE?

A despatch of considerable interest to Albertans reads as follows:

As a consequence, a great deal of the Vancouver, July 3.—Growers of strawberries in the lower Fraser River valley who undertook to make the price of their product in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba this summer, went up against an icy market as a consequence, a great deal of the fruit shipped to the prairies never found a buyer and was spoiled.

"As a result of this unsuccessful attempt of the growers to make their market," remarked a Vancouver jobber to-day, "was the throwing of a great quantity of berries into Vancouver during the last ten days. At times the market has been glutted, although good prices have been realized for good fruit. At present the jobbing price runs from \$1.50 to \$2 per crate, according to quality. I think that from their experience this year in the Northwest, the growers will realize that they cannot make the market with perishable goods which always because of their very inability to pay, must sell for the best price obtainable under the market conditions."

The despatch appears to size up one end of the business correctly at one rate—that of the prairie market. British Columbia strawberries this year have simply been forbidden fruit to the would-be purchasers of Alberta. The people of this province are quite as prosperous as those of any other section of the Dominion, but any unprejudiced man must admit that strawberries at \$4 per crate are a trifle high for preserving purposes.

If the despatch reflects the other end of the business as faithfully it does the prairie market conditions there is a field here for another combine hunt. It is asserted as a simple matter of fact that the growers tried "to make the price" of the berries in the prairie provinces. As to whether they tried to make it "unduly" high or not might be a fruitful subject for inquiry by a committee of the House of Commons.

INDEPENDENCE, LUBRICATION, PROPHECY AND OMISSION.

The Conservatives of Alberta held a convention at Red Deer last week. Mr. F. Knight of Sunnyside was elected a vice-president. This is the same

Mr. Knight who ran as an "independent" candidate in the Sturgeon constituency in the provincial elections two years ago. The masquerade being concluded the mask is removed. Hereafter it will not be necessary for Mr. Knight to provide us with information as to the measure of his independence.

Arrangements were made to increase the gang on the "machine" for the next federal election. The federal constituencies were grouped and special organizers are to be sent into each group to lubricate the bearings, with oily words or other friction destroyer. Mr. Walsh of Calgary prophesied that the Conservatives would win four out of the seven seats. This is the same Mr. Walsh who prophesied two years ago that they would win twenty out of the twenty-five provincial seats. He also forecast a phenomenal win for the Conservative candidate in Gleichen six months ago. Mr. Walsh's prophecies have a habit of turning out wrong and to.

A resolution was not passed expressing confidence in the Alberta Opposition.

ON THE SIDE.

"Don't curse Cobalt," pleads the Toronto Telegram. The request is too late.

The water mains are supplying a pretty solid argument for a filtration system these days.

Mr. Borden inquires: "Is aught unforgotten to him who acquires a great fortune?" Not if he supports Mr. Borden.

A French automobilist travelled over a mile a minute. The despatch fails to mention how many people he travelled over.

"Deals delayed owing to scarcity of money" is the significant heading the Hamilton, Ont., Herald publishes over the column of real estate transfers.

A Toronto K. C. declares that Toronto boys are the worst on earth. On behalf of the budding manhood of the rising West we protest against the vain boasting of this erudite critic from the Hub of Conventionality.

The Czar mentions as a pretext for dissolving the Duma the fact that "a considerable section" of the second chamber has not acted up to our expectations." In other words the first chamber considerably more than acted up to his expectations.

Winnipeg Telegram: "Gradually irrigation has become a predominating force in the reaches of the prairie west of the great lakes." In spite of the efforts of the Telegram's friends to confine its benefits to one district and its profits to the C.P.R.

Winnipeg Telegram: "The interest displayed in the second annual road race of The Telegram illustrates the love of the west for those contests which require skill and endurance." Yes, but the interest displayed wasn't a patch to that manifested in the race of Colin H. Campbell to rescue the Telegram from the clutches of the bucket-shop man.

Vancouver Province: "The greatest need British Columbia has to-day is the development of its agricultural resources; and it is time that the great machinery employed for settling the Northwest should be utilized here." And it never can be utilized there while a penalty is placed on the head of the man who wants to convert an area of wild land into a farm.

Ex-Mayor Laird of the Saskatchewan Conservative Association, delivered himself of this recently: "Whether the Conservative party will consider it to be in the interests of the country to place independent candidates in the field remains to be seen. It is a matter of party policy which I do not care to discuss at this stage." That line of policy did not work altogether successfully last time.

Cleveland Plain Dealer: Guest to homesome-looking man in the corner— "Awful stupid affair, don't you think?" "No doubt of it." "No man would ever dream of giving a mixed-up thing of this sort." "That's what I told my wife." "Have I met your wife?" "Very likely. She's the woman that's giving the party."

A physician declares that people eat too much. Another of the evils of prosperity.

We surely had fair weather.

The Winnipeg Telegram refers to Prince Albert as the "Queen City" of the west. This is surely mixing things up.

Mr. R. L. Borden will be admitted to the Ontario bar—a different institution, however, from the Kingston hostelry which Premier Whitney patronized one Sunday morning.

Mr. R. L. Borden, M.P., has had a birthday, which recalls the fact that he was born at Grand Pre, N.S., the early home of Evangeline. Like Longfellow's heroine Mr. Borden too, is an exile.

There is more joy in the columns of the Conservative press over one sitting member who is re-nominated than over the selection of ninety and nine aspirants for honors in Grit constituencies.

Toronto Star: A contemporary asks wistfully why Mr. Foster can't state his opinions in a less acrid manner. For the same reason, perhaps, that a circus band can't go in for those fine pianissimo effects.

The Toronto News nominates W. L. Mackenzie-King for a portfolio in the Federal cabinet. Mr. King should beware. The News also nominated Mr. Haultain for premier of Saskatchewan to say nothing of tendering its assistance to Richard Bedford Bennett in Alberta.

From Judge: A pretty girl was introduced to Paderewski, at the close of one of his concerts. She wished to be affable, but was frightened half to death. After a moment she asked eagerly, "Of whom do you take music lessons?"

The Winnipeg Telegram sees a "consistency about the politics of Mr. Balfour which is sometimes irritating to the plain man." The "plain man" of the Unionist party is doubtless meant.

Calgary Herald: "The Edmonton Bulletin spends from a column to a column and a half daily making 'digests' of the Royal Insurance Commission proceedings, making them 'editorials' at that. If anyone read 'these past mortems' the preparation of them might have some justification." If the Herald thinks so "one" reads the articles it should have no objection to their publication. Its censoriousness only a consciousness that the public are taking a very real and lively interest in the performances of the "Fosterian cult."

ITALY OWNS ALL 'PHONES.

Seventy-Four Companies Sell Out to Government—Salaries to be Higher.

Rome, July 5.—All of the telephone systems in Italy, heretofore owned by 74 different companies, today passed into the control of the government and will be administered by the postmaster general. All of the principal urban exchanges have been purchased outright for about \$3,000,000. The present staff will be retained for a year pending the definite settlement of the new regime. Salaries will be higher than those paid by private corporations, which have led to much complaint, and to the meagerness of which has been attributed the deficiencies in the service. Prices of service will not be reduced at present, although a reduction will likely be made later on. The present rate in Rome is not unusually high, being only about \$34 a year for the ordinary subscriber. It is believed that numerous improvements in service will be effected by the government within a short time, as was the case in railroad service during the two years of state management.

President of Deaf Association, Norfolk, Va., July 5.—George Lo-ditz, of Colorado Springs, has been elected president of the National Association of Deaf.

Express Companies in Court. Kansas City, Mo., July 5.—Judge John C. Pollock, in the United States Circuit Court here today, revoked his mandatory order recently issued, compelling express companies to carry c.o.d. liquor packages and denied a petition for a temporary injunction against the Wells-Fargo Express Company and the Pacific Express Company, asked for by the Harvest King Distilling Company, forcing the express companies to accept its shipments. Judge Pollock held that there is no common law duty resting on the express companies to engage in a c.o.d. liquor business.



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ANOTHER VICTORY FOR TAILEND

Edmonton Loses Another Calgary—Figures The Time 5-1

(From Saturday's Bulletin)

'Tis the same old story to the doings at baseball park last night. The Chinooks came by the victory honestly. They outplayed opponents in nearly every particular. There was one notable exception, and that was in the line department. Crisp out his opponent and with better port behind him would have Calgary a great old rattle money. Crisp was touched a total of eight times, including a triple and a trio of doubt he also struck out ten men in issued two passes. He hit game of his life in many and the visitors had no time make the runaway game of it.

The Legislators fell down in hitting. On at least four of there were openings for a set the much-needed. This was particularly noticed the eighth and ninth, especially the final chapter, when with corners occupied such general liable batters as Bennett, Grim Ford could not poke one out outfield, even when the fly was the only one who could do thing with Barnstead. He was always master in the air, and although only seven strikes came his way he never allowed losers to touch his hits. The two in a row on two occasions they went to waste in the attempt. Janss backed him up, only allowing one strike and in the field Rodoy covered self with glory. In all he had difficult chances and he never a miss. In the eighth he was on Grimes' hot one that he a run toward second, but he over and made the throw in time to catch the batter. At the umpire allowed the out, but a very close decision. Sykes a premier batter, having two strikes (both doubles) to his credit chances. He is a great hit will be in the game regularly field when not on the mound. Priest did the umpiring usual success. He did the act with Grimes in the ninth was the same crop of b on the balls and strikes with ton getting somewhat away. But his work did not lose the the Legislators. The losers hit and were to the bad in a fielding.

The meeting was opened Chandler and O'Neil swung lessly on the outcome of the ing out, Harper to Luss. second they did better. O' swung twice to no purpose, followed by McClellan who lit out to the fence, just nicely territory and made the trip on it. Then Sykes doubled same territory and the shortest home trip. Rodoy obliged a strike-out and Janss, was a hit by a great running of Blexrud. They went out in the third and fourth. In the they happened along or two though neither one of them weing to the Chinooks. This the trick was turned in Han Sykes' roller go under him. sacrifice enabled Sykes to tie second sack. Then Janss hit and Blexrud got the ball to the about as rapidly as Methuselah have done the job in the lat of his eight-hundredth year, reaching home. Barnstead next up and he struck out, he dropped the ball and when he it down to second to catch Harper let it get away from Janss tore for third and Baplicated Harper's error. Then Janss completed the circuit i With two runs in and two out dler flew out to Wessler. Cr did them one, two, three, sixth, but in the seventh they ed another. McClellan arri a hit by pitcher, and finished home trip on Sykes' two-bas to the left-field fence. Syk down to third on the second. Barnstead's best was a high right which Bennett got on t The fifth tally was lagged eighth with one going. They gleed nicely over second and O'Neil ripped off a two-bag Blexrud. The fielder was also getting the ball in and Tay down in the run column. O' hit safely, just out of reach, sending O'Neil to third. McClellan's out. Harper t O'Donnell copped second. Sy next up and with a couple "sneakers" to his credit ahead; looked a certainty, also a run. The burly pitcher was not the occasion and struck out looked dangerous again in B Rodoy got on when Luss i hold the throw from Harper. s attempt at a sacrifice Rodoy at second, Barnstead to Baker. Chandler hit ove second, but fast fielding held second and with two desper for struck out.

Edmonton started off on the foot, getting on base in the first, but the hit that was wanted to arrive. In the second they a Wessler to second with only a and again no hit was in the. They went down in order in the In the fourth Blexrud reched on a run, but still no hit happened one-two-three, business was in the fifth. In the sixth w