

"Strong-Headed Tongue-Waggers"

Hon. Frank Oliver, "the man from Edmonton," and Minister of Interior in the Laurier Cabinet, is nothing if not picturesque. Likewise his paper, the Edmonton "Bulletin." Both have a reputation for lurid language. Mr. Oliver during the debate upon the Naval Bill and the closure measure has earned the reputation of an inveterate blocker and obstructor. He repeatedly declared his emphatic opposition to closure.

Yet here is what Mr. Oliver's official mouthpiece, the Edmonton "Bulletin," had to say on May 11, 1911, on the question of obstruction:

"A group of strong-headed tongue-waggers have it in their power to hold up the course of business as long as they please, and to block indefinitely the passage of any measure, however large the number of their fellows favourable to it, and however warmly the public approve of it. The performance is purely a physical one, and leather lungs are the only qualification necessary, save a callous indifference to the rights of the too tolerant majority in the House and out of it."

The Most Influential Liberal Paper in the West, the "Manitoba Free Press" Favored Closure

IN 1911.

"If a challenge for a trial of strength is made, the Government should meet it and fight it out to a finish, if it takes all summer and next winter too. The inevitable victory, when it comes, should carry with it the closure which will take our Parliament out of the freak class and make it an assembly that can act as well as talk. The Canadian is the only British Parliament of the first rank which has not the closure. It is high time that it lost this undesirable distinction."

IN 1913.

"The ground which the Liberals are holding in regard to the question of naval policy is strong ground. Equally strong will be their ground in fighting against the imposition of the closure. There is no justification for a resort to the closure at this time."