The West

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UNION LABEL

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 22, 1909.

Profit in Hogs.

The farmers who had hogs to sell this year found a good margin of profit in them. The trouble is that the west did not raise enough hogs. Here is the way the Manitoba Free Press puts it:

Hogs sold at nine cents per pound live weight off the cars, Winnipeg, last Saturday. This remarkable fact is the result of some other facts which are worth while recalling at this time. While hogs were marketed at Winnipeg to the value of one and a half million dollars, the west imported hog products such as lard, bacon, etc., to the value of two and three quarter millions. Yet in this year when imports of hog products were so large, the number of hogs marketed at Winnipeg increased from 81,000 to 145,000. This latter figure only represents one-third of the annual packing capacity of the Winnipeg abbattoirs as at present operated. Thus the farmers of the west only raised about one hog for every three required, while the plants for the packing of all that were required stood partially idle and the dealers were forced to import hog products to meet the deficiency. In the face of these figures receipts of hogs this year are falling below those of last year, so that imports into an agricultural community of this staple of the farm will be mush higher than last year.

For years past a large proportion of our farmers when urged to raise more stock have refused to do so on the ground of an unsatisfactory live stock market. In view of the above figures and the further fact that the price of hogs at Winnipeg has not dropped below five cents in the past four years, while the average price for the years 1906, 07 and 08 was 6½ cents, it looks as though the whole live stock market would bear reviewing on the part of those who were formally dissatisfied. Some very easy money is represented in nine cent hogs, and why should the bulk of it go to the farmers south of the line who cannot raise as good hogs as we can?

Oriental Labor.

The Vancouver Sunset gives the following views on the Oriental Laber question, as it effects B. C.:

A dispatch from Ottawa saying that the G.T.P. intends asking the Dominion government for assistance in securing Oriental labor for building the mountain section of the G.T.P. surely cannot be true. It seems increditable that the G.T.P. does not know the temper of British Columbia on this question. Their move can only be interpreted as one seeking an excuse for indefinite delay in completing the G.T.P. to Prince Rupert.

British Columbia does not want the G.T.P. with an Oriental problem. Onderdonk left such a legacy when he built the mountain section of the C.P.R. with Chinese labor. If the G.T.P. wants to earn the everlasting hatred of British Columbia it has but to follow the example set by Onderdonk. British Columbia is willing to forego the advantages of the construction of the G.T.P. rather than inherit another Asiatic problem.

The claim is set up that white labor cannot be got. What is the matter up north? What is wrong with the conditions of labor there? Sinister stories have been going about for a year past. What is the truth of the matter? Railway construction is going on all over America and in other parts of Canada. But it is only from British Columbia that a demand far Oriental labor comes because of the scarcity of labor. Why is it? The natural conditions in British Columbia are not onerous—the climate is good and there is no complaint against the scenery. Then what is the matter that white men do not want to work up there? It seems to me that a rigid investigation in needed up north. Let us have the truth of the matter. If the conditions are such that white men will not accept them, they must be improved. If the G.T.P. is preparing the way for a demand for Oriental labor, by creating conditions which white labor will not tolerate the G.T.P. will have to be brought up with a round turn.

One thing the G.T.P. and the Dominion government must bear in mind is that British Columbia will not tolerate the construction of the G.T.P. by Oriental labor. Public opinion has not changed on this question since the last Dominion elections and it should have been abundantly indicated to the government at that time what public opinion is in British Columbia.

A Timely Tip.

The director of the United States census is taking every precaution to render effectual President Taft's declared determination to prevent political activity on the part of supervisors and enumerators. These officials are prohibited from holding office or membership in any political committee during their term of office as supervisors, and from taking any active part in politics, by public addresses, solicitation of votes, or otherwise. The director declares that this order shall be strictly enforced, and requests that each supervisor inform him immediately whether he holds office or membership in any political committee, and, if, so, just what position, and whether the supervisor is willing to resign such position and refrain from political activity during his term of office. If the answer is in the affirmative the director expects the supervisor to send a copy of his resignation from any such position with a statement that the resignation has been accepted.

If the Scott government would adopt a similar plan with respect to the preparation of the voters' lists it would be a splendid idea and would give the people much more confidence in them.

Editorial Notes.

The controversy between the friends of Dr. Cook and those of Commander Peary, goes merrily on, and the world is now beginning to doubt the statements of both.

The net returns to the province of Ontario so far from sales, ore, etc., of the Gillies limit in that province has been $234,534.72. Saskatchewan gets nothing for its mineral or timber lands for it has none.

According to press reports the government at Regina is making concessions to the people of a certain ereed in the province with respect to text books to be used. If it is their right, why call it a concession; if it is not their right, why give it?

Press Comment.

(Lumsden News-Record)

No wonder harvest and threshing help is scarce at Lumsden. Notices are posted on cars conveying Ontario harvest hands to the west that no help is required in the Lumsden district, that farmers pay only $2 per day, and helpers must sleep in barns, wash in stables, and numerous other complaints. This work may have originated in the mind of some railway passenger agent, or a dissatisfied Ontario man looking for work at $4 or $5 a day. Whether the wages offered by farmers about Lumsden is the same as in the other parts we cannot say. We do know that $3 a day is being paid for harvesters.

Down in Ontario, especially around Exeter, we understand, prices are so low for every kind of work, that offers of $2 a day in the west is considered enormous. We have seen letters from Exeter way offering to do work at a hundred per cent. less than what was considered fair prices in this neighborhood. Living is more expensive here than in Exeter in every way.

But whoever is posting such false information abroad that Lumsden farmers are not paying as high rates for harvest help as other districts, should be speedily jerked up.

Hon. Mr. Motherwell intimated recently that farmers in the west would be compelled to operate smaller farms and employ permanent hired help the year round if they expected to make a success at harvest time.

Calgary Herald.)

The railway crop report for the province shows that most of the grain has been safely harvested, and the grain inspector at this point says there is only a small portion of it which falls as low as number 3 the two higher grades being the rule.

In Saskatchewan the government estimate is that there will be close upon two hundred million bushels, the average yield per acre of the different cereals being about as follows: Wheat 22; oats 47; barley 34.

A significant remark was made last night by James J. Hill before the bankers association of the United States in which he warned them against the approaching scarcity of wheat in the United States. He prophecies that within ten years the Americans will be a wheat importing nation. This will be the golden opportunity of farmers on the Canadian prairies. If the long haul to the seaboard can be done away with as well as the transportation by vessels afterwards, the corresponding reduction should naturally belong to the bank account of the producers. The ten years given by the railway man should allow the Canadian west time to be fairly well settled. This will mean that the exported grain from these provinces will have grown to an amount which is almost impossible to imagine.

In the meantime the farmers are doing very nicely thank you, and as a consequence the whole of the country is feeling the benefit.

(Mail and Empire)

Furious is the quarrell between Discoverer Cook and Discoverer Peary on the subject of the capture of the Pole. Peary declares that Cook was never near the most northerly point, and adds that his story is a "gold brick." Cook does not reply in kind, but his friends do. One of them, Capt. Osborne, of the Arctic club, says Peary is a "colossal faker," and insinuates that Peary has come in possession of Cook's data and observations. Another publishes scientific comments upon Peary's pretentions. Prof. Parker of Columbia University is cited as saying that no man's claim to have reached the Pole can be accepted without verification.

There must, says Prof. Parker, be scientific proof of the presence of the alleged discoverer at the Pole before a claim can be accepted. It will be remembered that Peary's friends objected to Cook's story on the ground that it was without proof by white men, there being with Cook when he found the Pole, two Eskimos. Now it is charged that Peary himself had no white men with him, but merely three or four Eskimos. Thus it appears that Peary himself is confounded, to some extent, by the course that has been pursued in his own interests. Further objection was taken to the Cook claim for the reason that its author represented himself as travelling 15 miles a day in the very far north. Peary now reports that he made 25 miles in ten hours on two occasions, and 20 miles on another. Thus the impossible in the case of Cook is actually accomplished in the case of Peary. An additional comment made in Peary's behalf with regard to the trip of Cook was to the effect that the latter really saw nothing at the pole but ice. This is all that Peary now claims to have discovered. The explorer reached a point on the ice very far north and concluded that that place was the Pole. While it is not fair to say that neither of these disputatious gentlemen was at the Pole, it may be observed without any injustice that each seems to discount the story of the other, and in fact, to make it look improbable. Meanwhile one lecture bureau has offered Cook $250,000 for a tour, and Peary, we may be sure, will be captured by another organization for platform purposes.

With the rival claims before us, the stereotyped and padded details of journeys over the ice, of the feeding of the dogs, and the hiring of the Eskimos, of the capturing of bears, and the occasional frost bites, become from the scientific standpoint irrelevant. The prime question is not how did the claimants travel, but "Did they get there?" This must be settled, not by what they say themselves, but by a jury of scientific men after a thorough examination of all the alleged facts. For such a test we must wait before we can agree that the Stars and Stripes are really floating on the top of the earth, or that the Pole has been reached.

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Notable Gathering.

Hamilton, Ont., Sept. 16.—At a banquet of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association held here tonight the guests included Lord Strathcona, Lieut.-Gov. Gibson, Hon. G. P. Graham, Hon. Wm. Patterson, Hon. W. L. M. King, Mayor McLaren, and several hundred prominent manufacturers from the east and west. The new president, J. Hendrie, of Vancouver, gave Lord Strathcona a most hearty greeting, and said that the association was honored to have as its guest a man who had done more, perhaps than any other man living, for the development of the great western provinces, promoting settlement, and linking them with steel bands to the other provinces. As to their request for a tariff commissioner, Hendrie said that the manufacturers did not desire perfection at the expense of the rest of the community. A conservative commission would confer great benefits in waiting. His own province on the Pacific coast would see immense increases in traffic investment. They were ready both for imperial defence and imperial commerce.

Lieut.-Gov. Gibson, whose toast was first drunk, said he occupied a position extremely protectionist. He referred humorously to the regulation of the Ontario government's Niagara power policy. He said men who bought power from the falls were looked upon as absolute scoundrels.

Toast master R. Hobson, in proposing the toast to Lord Strathcona said the latter was the grand old man of the British Empire.

Lord Strathcona was enthusiastically received. He carried his arm in a sling, as a result of the accident at Vancouver, but otherwise looked well and hearty. He said the work of the association since inauguration had been devoted to development of their great heritage. The visit which the association had paid to Great Britain had been of the greatest value, as comparatively few of the 40,000,000 of her subjects, realized Canada's opportunities. He looked upon that evening as the greatest epoch in his life.

Happiness is the feeling that we experience when we are too busy to be miserable.—Tom Masson.

Minard's Liniment Cures Dandruff.

DOCTORS say *consumption* can be cured. Nature alone won't do it, it needs help.

SCOTT'S EMULSION is the best help, but its use must be continued in summer as well as winter.

Take it in a little cold milk or water. Get a small bottle now. All Druggists

THE STANDARD OF THE WORLD

GEN. FRENCH ON R.N.W.M.P.

The Man Who Organised the Western Force Surrenders to the Newspapermen—Some Early Experiences — Troops Marched to the Rockies.

Winnipeg, Sept. 16.—When Major-General Sir George French, K.C.M.G., C.M.G., stepped off the Pacific express last night, at the C.P.R. depot, he was faced by a large sized squad of reporters with pencils at the present.

"I am afraid you must think I am the Great General French," he said

The newspaper men intimated they were sure of it. "But I am not Sir John French who so brilliantly commanded the cavalry in South Africa" he explained.

The note book laden assemblage admitted that they were aware of this, but suggested that there were two great General Frenches in the eyes of the British Empire, and that the man who created the Royal North-West Mounted Police was especially interesting to Western Canadians.

Like all men who have done big things, Sir George was loath to talk but the enemy having strategically surrounded him, the gallant officer did what he had never done on the field, surrendered and consented to say a word or two.

"The Royal North West Mounted Police were founded in 1873-4 and I endeavored to model them largely on the Royal Irish Constabulary, a number of that force joining the new command." Sir George said. "I had previously organized the permanent Canadian artillery and some of this regiment enlisted in the R.N.W.M.P. This nucleus and a number of strapping sons of Ontario farmers formed a magnificent material to mould into a disciplined force."

Sir George said the founding of the R.N.W.M.P. was hastened by a terrible outrage that occurred on the confines of Canada's far-lying territories. Some white desperadoes from over the border came and slaughtered thirty-two Canadian Indians and it was felt that only a semi-military body could maintain order in that sparcely populated district.

When Sir George came to the command of the district in 1874, he and his troops marched from Fargo, N. D., to the Rockies. Some of his men met him at Fort Dufferin, among them being those of Lower Fort Garry.

The duties of the police in the early days were chiefly concerned with preventing the introduction of alcoholic liquors into the North-West Territories. The police were responsible for the country between Winnipeg and the Rockies, and the boundary and "as far north as you please" as the general put it. When the little force was making its long journey from Fargo to the Foothills, the British and American boundary commission were deciding on the boundary line between Canada and the United States.

Sir George commanded the R.N.W.M.P. for three years being succeeded by Col. McLeod.

He said he was constantly meeting with old R.N.W.M.P. men in prominent positions, and instanced Col. Irwin, governor of Stony Mountain penitentiary, who was among the gallant first 300 who first made the red coat respected in the far northwest.

Asked for the most thrilling incident he could remember in connection with the early work of the police, Sir George said that once two constables went into a camp of hostile and warlike Indians, and took two of their chiefs prisoners. The red men were so impressed that their warlike intentions evaporated.

But Sir George explained that the Indians, for the most part, had provided little trouble. They quickly learned that bad behavior was inevitably punished and good conduct met its reward. The police and the Indians had practically from the first been on excellent terms.

Sir George retired after forty-two years in the service of his country, about seven years ago. He spent 14 years of his life in Canada and the same period in Australia. Prior to the organization of the police he repelled the Fenian raids of 1866 and 1870.

During the South African war he was in command of the forces in Australia, but though he despatched men and horses to the front, was unable, much to his disappointment, to get there himself.

Sir George declared that a large proportion of the Australian population practically lived on horseback, and they made splendid cavalry. Asked for his opinion of the Canadian from a military point of view, he said there were some of the finest men in the Empire to be found in the Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry districts of Ontario, to name some of those he was particularly acquainted with.

Sir George now resides in London, and he was asked what he thought of the German naval scare. He said a very serious view of the situation had been taken in the best informed circles a short time ago, and that the immense naval preparations of Germany had caused great anxiety in Britain, but he thought this had been allayed by the Imperial Defence conference, which had made it patent to the world that the empire meant to stand together.

Sir George arrived at Quebec on Sept. 2, and has since visited, Montreal, Toronto and Ottawa. He is accompaning his daughter, Mrs. Young, and two granddaughters, who are proceeding to Australia, as far as Banff. It is three years since the distinguished soldier was in Winnipeg.

The Man in the Shack.

He is swarthy and brown from the glow of the sun
And the world does not dream of the work he has done,
For the world has its heroes of pomp and parade
Who are honored because of the waste they have made,
But this man drives the desert and wilderness back
By his brain and his brawn, does the Man in the Shack.

Where the prairie stretched hare in the summer's hot glow
Or was weary and drear in the shroud of the snow,
He has builded his shack; he has pitted his toil
'Gainst the silence and space that would make him their spoil,
And our civilization is wearing a track
To the line that is set by the Man in the Shack.

He is rough, he is crude—but the world where he lives
Is but rough and but crude in the life that it gives
With the wind sweeping down with a fury that jars
And the night with its lonely array of the stars—
Yet he does not make moan over what he may lack,
But looks out on his conquest—the Man in the Shack.

Aye, the Builder, the Doer, the Winner of Ways!
He is shaping a realm with the toil of the days,
And no hero of old had a sturdier heart
Or more nobly performed what he saw as his part;
And the future he bears on his sinewy back—
Here's a hail and a health to the Man in the Shack!

—Wilbur D. Nesbit, in September "Canada-West Monthly."

Prevent Prairie Fires.

The department of agriculture has issued the following for publication:

The strenuous work of seed time and the anxiety and uncertainty of summer are past and fine crops are being harvested under the best weather conditions. The risks of damage from gophers, insects, rust, hail and frost are past and it seems almost as if the farmer might safely figure on the amount of his prospective bank account as a sure thing, but there is many a slip between the cup and the lip. At no time is there more danger of losing the entire crop than now when the prairie grass is dry as tinder and a dropped match a cigar stub or a spark from an engine may be the means of starting a blaze, that fanned by the winds may sweep away in a few seconds not only the result of the year's work but houses and barns also. Be prepared, lose no time in getting fire breaks plowed, and have water barrels and beaters ready. The best time to fight a fire is when it is small. Do not hesitate, but turn out promptly when a fire is noticed or suspected. Those most interested, the people, are the fire brigade, the L.I.D. Councillors or the Mounted Police constables and the officially appointed fire guardians being their leaders, all of whom have authority to insist on any man under sixty years of age giving assistance as shown in section 11 of the Prairie Fires Ordinance here quoted:

"Any fire guardian may order any grown up person under sixty years of age (other than postmasters, railway station agents, members of the medical profession, telegraph operators, conductors, engineers, brakemen, firemen or trainmen) residing or then within ten miles of a prairie fire or within fifteen miles of a bush fire to proceed at once to the locality of such fire and assist in extinguishing it; and any person neglecting or refusing without lawful excuse to obey any such order shall be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction thereof to a penalty not exceeding $5.00."

The most effective firebreaks are probably those consisting of parallel strips of plowing about fifty feet apart between which the growth may be burned. Furrows might, with advantage be opened across fields as a start for plowing, thus furnishing additional checks. Beaters may be made by tieing gunny sacks by the middle to the ends of suitable sticks for handles and these when dipped in water, carried in barrels or buckets along the line of fire, are very effective.

While threshing is in progress great care should be exercised as every season we hear of outfits being burned with the crops they are working in. Already this season extensive fires have occurred near Dundurn amd other points.

Catholics Alert.

Toronto, Sept. 15.—The efforts of various Protestant bodies to proselytize the Ruthenians scattered through the west has attracted the attention of the Catholic Extension Society, and as a result of an investigation during the visit of Fathers Roche and Canning, telegraphic authority has been sent to Father Sabourne at Sifton, Man., to immediately commence the erection of ten churches in Galician settlements and draw on the society for the same. The society is earnestly seeking to supply native priests to those and other people of foreign tongues, as being in closer sympathy with their flocks, and especially preserve the Eastern rule of the Catholic church to which the Ruthenians are strongly attached. The Catholic Register scores the language published in the periodical published under the auspices of the Presbyterian church as being a disgrace to common decency, stating that if proper action were taken, it could be shut out of the mails. "It is the most villianous, lying and indecent publication that has appeared in recent years in any language," is the Registers' dictum. The Register also attacks the Manitoba government normal school for Ruthenians as nasty low down prose.

WANTS RATES APPROVED

Ottawa, Sept. 17.—The Express Traffic Association of Canada is applying to the railway commission for approval of the international tariffs. It is composed of all the express companies in Canada. The matter will come up on Thursday, along with further investigation into the railway tariff on lumber. The Canadian Lumbermen's Association ask for a repeal of the existing rates.

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