

## The West

THE WEST COMPANY, LIMITED  
1772 Rose Street, Regina, Sask.

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The West is published every Wednesday.  
Subscription price: One Dollar (\$1.00) per annum to all parts of Canada and the British Empire. To United States and other foreign countries, One Dollar and Fifty Cents (\$1.50) per annum. All subscriptions payable in advance. Arrears charged at Fifty Cents per year extra.

Advertising rates furnished on application.  
Address all communications to the Company.



WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1908.

### Grafter's Work

There seems to be ways and ways for the grafter to get his money from the people of Canada through the Ottawa government. In contrasting the two methods of disposing of townships, the Mail and Empire says:

The Grand Trunk Pacific runs through northern Ontario and along its lines towns and villages are expected to spring up. By the Whitney government the sites for the new towns are being prepared. Recently the town at the junction of the Grand Trunk and the Temiskaming was laid out. When the plot had been surveyed, the government had the lots sold at auction, and the result was that the public revenue was materially benefited. Some of the lots sold for \$100; others brought more; and as high as \$1000 was paid for especially favorable locations.

It is interesting to contrast the Conservative policy on the subject of townships with that prevailing at Ottawa. The Grand Trunk Pacific also runs through the western provinces, where the land is controlled by the Dominion government. Instead of surveying the town plots, the Ottawa politicians sold them en bloc to an organization known as the Grand Trunk Pacific Township Syndicate. All that was charged for 13,000 acres selected wherever towns might be expected to grow was \$3 an acre. Thus for \$39,000 the syndicate secured control of a very large block of land. The lots are now being offered for sale at from \$50 to \$400 each, according to location, and it is calculated that the net revenue from the sale of the property will be \$8,000,000. This money less the \$39,000, and whatever is expended in advertising, will be profit for the politicians who are in the syndicate.

Under the Conservative plan the land goes to the user, and the money to the public treasury. Under the Laurier policy of graft the land goes to the middleman, and the profit is diverted from the treasury to the pockets of the politician. During the late election there were many people who did not really believe that the Laurier system was so bad as it is. The schemes of plunder were so daring that it was difficult to suppose that they were actually carried through. But here we have a sample and with it the contrast which honest anti-graft administration furnishes.

### At What Cost?

The Minister of Agriculture, Hon. W. R. Motherwell, has found an abiding place in Humboldt, and the machine delivered him the votes. What about the cost? Is it honorable for him to accept the seat considering the manner in which it was won? From what has come out in the campaign, influence was brought to bear on another aspirant for the Liberal nomination, to get him to retire so as to make the road easier for Mr. Motherwell. It has been stated that this gentleman was fixed with money. It is also stated that the Liberals of Humboldt wanted a local Liberal and at first rebelled at the plan of having Mr. Motherwell for their representative, and consequently something had to be done to smooth matters over. The strong local Liberal, after being satisfied, had to find a way to square himself and an alleged fake telegram calling him east was fixed up and the plot was carried out in some rough manner. Somebody squealed later on and the facts as given out do not reflect

much credit on the Liberal leaders in Humboldt and Mr. Motherwell's managers. Is it reasonable to suppose that Mr. Motherwell did not know of the plan adopted to secure for him the convention? Does it look as if he resented the action taken? Let us put a charitable construction on Mr. Motherwell's action and accept what we presume is his plea, that of ignorance. But, now he must know the facts, as a man of honor will be really accept and continue to hold the doubtful honor of being the representative of Humboldt?

What has his election cost? His election is evidently a result of quietus money, fraud, deception and other dishonest acts. Surely the conscience of that pure souled man must revolt at an election won at such a cost.

### Editorial Notes

Where did the money come from to square Wright and the other Liberal kickers in Humboldt?

If T. O. Davis don't watch out Doc Neeley will have him skinned a mile for political scheming.

After all that Humboldt deal was not right and it will surely not bring much credit to the Liberal party.

Just watch Walter Scott justify his mysterious action in calling a session of the legislature at this time of the year.

Evidently Mr. Calder has succeeded in convincing the Galicians that the Supplementary Revenue Tax was just what they wanted.

So right is downed again! Motherwell, or someone else righted Wright in Humboldt, and the W-right man did not get nominated.

Dr. Neeley will surely be marked for rapid preferment by the Liberal politicians at Ottawa when they hear of his political deals.

The majority candidates for this city have opened committee rooms. We believe this is the first time in the history of the city that such has been done in a civic contest.

What is Laurier going to do with those who have been robbing Canada by way of the Marine Department? No move has yet been made to make those on the patronage list restore the sums they took in excessive prices.

### Press Comment

(Victoria Colonist)

The despatches announcing that the work of framing a constitution for a confederated South Africa is proceeding satisfactorily, although there are several open questions yet to be dealt with over which some difficulty may arise, notably that of the capital, that of the franchise and that of the status of the native population.

"I can truthfully say that I believe that, but for the use of your Emulsion I would long since have been in my grave. I was past work—could not walk up-hill without coughing very hard."

THIS, and much more was written by Mr. G. W. Howerton, Clark's Gap, W. Va. We would like to send you a full copy of his letter, or you might write him direct. His case was really marvelous, but is only one of the many proofs that

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tion. Of all the experiments in nation building of which there is any record, that now in progress in South Africa is the most interesting and in some respects the most difficult. The empire is fortunate in having a man like Sir Louis Botha to impress his views upon the Boer population. In Canada we had to be satisfied with some compromises because of the existence of two distinct elements in the population, but the French were and are now chiefly confined to one part of the country and they are numerically in the minority. Moreover their relations towards the British government had been of the most friendly kind for more than a century. In South Africa, the Boers must, we imagine, be considerably more numerous than the English. They are not confined to any part of the country, and only a few years ago they were engaged in hostilities with the British. There is no good reason why as great success should not attend union in South Africa as in Canada, and it is to be remembered that jealous as the Boers are as to their language, there is not the same difference in point of laws and religion as between the French and English population of Canada. So far an excellent spirit has prevailed among those who are promoting the union. It seemed to many people that the British government was hasty in granting the Boers self-government, and doubtless there are those who will be of the opinion that the project of union is being unduly hastened. But there is no use in trying to turn back the hands of the great human events. For better or worse Britain is committed to self-government for South Africa in as wide a sense of the term as it prevails in Canada, Australia or New Zealand.

Many of the official actions of the Scott government resemble those of a thief in the night. The observation is prompted by a sudden calling of the legislature. The proclamation was issued on Monday, the house will meet a week from today. Ten days' notice is assuredly short. It is almost unprecedented, and very probably will cause some members great inconvenience. What business is there to be transacted? The opposition knows nothing except the rural municipalities bill. Can it be that Premier Scott has suddenly remembered his promise to enact speedily this legislation? And yet it may be that the long expected railway policy will be announced. Who knows?

If Premier Scott's record in office affords grounds for arriving at this conclusion on this particular matter, then one need have little hesitation in saying that party advantage prompted the sudden call. The house must adjourn about the twenty-first of the month. What matters of importance can then be determined in the short interval of eleven days? If important legislation is under consideration then the summons should have been issued some time ago, at least the convenience of the members should have received some consideration.

An air of mystery pervades the whole situation. The public is on the tip-toe of expectation and is prepared for any eventuality. Nor will it matter great at developments; for the future course of the Scott government can hardly be more tortuous than the past.

(Moose Jaw News.)

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(Bystander in Toronto Sun)

We cannot take up a paper without seeing that the general suspicion of "graft" in our public service is too well founded. In England, meantime, the public service remains above suspicion. But then in England the example of purity is set by the chiefs and generally by public men. If in England things were done by leaders which are done here, we should probably by this time be reading in English papers the counterparts of the things which we are now reading in our own.

### GENERAL NEWS

A petition has been filed to unseat Hon. Clifford Sifton, member of parliament for the constituency of Brandon.

### NEW POLICE DIVISION

Saskatoon, Dec. 3.—Although not officially announced, it is understood that Saskatoon is to become a R.N.W.M.P. subdivision under a resident commissioned officer. The force will be increased to six men, and it is probable that new barracks, stables, etc., will be erected. The rapid development of this district and the number of towns and villages springing up have been responsible for the above change. While the exact patrol has not been decided upon, it is understood that towns between Duck Lake and Davidson will be involved, Goose Lake and points west to Perdu, and eastward including Humboldt and Watrous.

### SIMPSON FOR VIRDEN

Virden, Man., Dec. 4.—A largely attended meeting of Conservatives of this constituency of Virden was held in the town hall yesterday to nominate a candidate to succeed the late J. H. Agnew, when H. Simpson was selected to contest the seat. W. B. Giles, the president of the association occupied the chair. The following were nominated: H. C. Simpson, H. H. Coulter and C. E. Ivens. On the first ballot H. C. Simpson received the highest number of votes. It was then moved by H. C. Coulter and seconded by C. E. Ivens that H. C. Simpson be the candidate. This was received with great cheering. The president declared H. C. Simpson, the candidate to contest the constituency of Virden. Mr. Simpson delivered an address asking for the support of all and expressing confidence that he will win out.

### EMPEROR ON THRONE

Peking, Dec. 3.—The strict mourning which has been observed in this city since the death of a fortnight ago of Emperor Kuang Hsu and the Dowager Empress of China was suspended long enough yesterday to permit the ascension to the dragon throne of the baby emperor, Pu Yi, who becomes ruler of the kingdom under the name of Hsuan Tung. The ceremonies were brief and impressive in the extreme. The functions began by the princes of the imperial army and the high officials of the empire bowing before the memorial tablets of their late majesties. After this they all followed in turn to Pu Yi. Pu Yi then offered a sacrifice before the tablets of the emperor and dowager empress. He was relieved of his dress of mourning and clad with much care in a diminutive imperial garment embroidered with the imperial dragon. Thus arrayed the toddling emperor ascended the throne amid a fanfare of drums, bells and fire crackers.

From the throne Pu Yi Kow followed his stepmother, the Dowager Empress, Yehonala. He then received the kowtows while still on the throne of all the princes and officials present. This over, he descended from the throne and was again clad in his little dress of mourning.

Mamma—Why, Elmer, haven't you a kiss for papa when you haven't seen him for two months?  
Elmer (aged 5)—No, mamma. Men don't kiss each other; it looks childish.—Exchange.

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