

THE WEST

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THE MANAGER.

The West Company, Ltd.,
Regina, Sask.

WEDNESDAY, July 10, 1907.

The Federal Outlook

In a recent issue, The West, in discussing the federal situation, asserted that we considered the only tenable position for the Conservatives of this province should be the party leaders decide to appeal to the country without a well defined policy and one that would enable us to be consistent with regard to the principles of provincial rights.

In taking the stand we did, we realised that there are always more or less men in any party who are prepared to follow the leaders through thick and thin, but we depended on the Conservatives of Saskatchewan who set aside party politics in the local field in 1905, to support any movement that had for its object the reorganisation of the party for federal purposes on progressive lines, and we are gratified that we have been backed up by the President of the Provincial Association; many prominent men in the party, and many leading newspapers, especially the Moose Jaw News.

The news in commenting on our statement says we used "bold words" and we admit that we did, but did so after waiting in vain for the leaders in the east to make an announcement that would in some measure satisfy the people of this province. When the eastern nominations began we felt that, it became the duty of the Conservative press of Saskatchewan to take a stand, not alone in the interests of the party, but in the interests of the province.

A federal party convention should have been held long ere this, but even if it is now too late to do this, we feel that if Mr. Borden will come west and make a declaration of policy on the lands question, pledging the party to restore to us our public domain, he will place the party in a position to go into the next federal campaign with a policy that will rectify the wrong perpetuated by the autonomy bill coercion.

Plain Speaking

The Regina West has joined the ranks of those journals, which though Conservative, do not intend to bow the knee to every little image which the party leaders set up, and because of that act invoke the faithful to consecrate themselves to its service. In its last issue it even went so far as to say that the movement to reorganise and regenerate the party having been forestalled "may result in the Conservatives in this province being forced into taking an independent stand in the forthcoming elections."

These are bold words, but no bolder than the exigencies of the situation warrant. Now is the time for intelligent Conservatives—Conservatives by conviction rather than by tradition—to voice their opinions. It is useless to mince matters. The party is in the slough of Despond; before it can become a useful instrument of government it must be dragged out, and that by men who not only have the courage of their conviction, but have sufficient discernment to read the signs on the political horizon.

The statement of The West that the movement to reorganise and regenerate the party has been forestalled seems to be too well founded. Apparently the Slanderbund is in con-

trol of the ship, and has nailed the black flag to the mast as a signal of the cause in which it will fight. But men who defend themselves from charges by counter threats of exposure are not the stamp of leaders. For even though their information be correct and the members of the government be as immoral as is claimed, the policy is purely negative. Nor has the public a warrant that the new order of things would be immeasurably superior to the present; for the records of investigations tell a tale which is not creditable to some who assume to play the part of Conservative leaders.

Is this a time for negative policies when the whole Dominion is throbbing with a new life? When the entire world seems to be stimulated by a new energy? Forward movements are the order of the day. This is no time to stand still. Our territories require people, our industries are pinched for capital. Even what is produced cannot be marketed. The transportation systems have collapsed before the strain. The country reeks with scandal. Some have even alleged that graft is a national sin, while as for immorality of the ministers of the crown, let unanswered challenges suffice.

This is the time for action; when leaders should take counsel together and call their entire party to their conferences. It is time for holding conventions that the leaders may, from the people themselves, learn what they want. Again we applaud the bold words of The West. Being the recognised organ of Provincial Conservatism its statement should have weight. May it continue in the course it has taken.—Moose Jaw News.

Impassable Roads

The roads from the north to the city are impassable. This state of affairs should not exist, but in the meantime traffic to Regina is tied up and business here is consequently suffering.

For weeks the farmers who would market their wheat in the city cannot do so by reason of the roads, and thus the grain is being drawn to other points where the market is a cent less. If there were a difference of five cents per bushel it would be all the same. Of course this was an unusually wet season and the sloughs are a foot higher than they were a month ago, but there does not appear to be any organised effort to remedy the conditions to the slightest extent.

The government has adopted the construction gang policy, but the department has not done anything so far. Part of the district affected is in Mr. Calder's constituency, but, unfortunately, he is at present absent in Europe, and it appears that nothing pertaining to this matter was arranged before he left.

The local improvement district ought to be able to do something, and if no one else will move in the matter, the business interests of the city demand that the board of trade take some steps to have an enquiry at least.

Ominous Cheers

That mighty cheer which shocked the dignity of the San Francisco court when Judge Dunn pronounced a five year sentence upon Mayor Schmidt is indicative of wide-spread public feeling daily growing stronger in the United States against the political grafter.

Canada was not slow to copy many of the worst features of public life in the country to the south of us, but we are not in a hurry to imitate the aroused public conscience which has revolted against the degradation of politics.

It is unfortunate that in this country we never get an opportunity to violate the dignity of a court room by applauding the passage of sentence upon political grafters, and it has got so now that we cannot even get an election protest to trial.

There is probably much to avoid in connection with politics in the

United States, but something which we would do well to imitate is the growing resentment of public opinion against grafting and grafters.

To the Rescue

The government has called the party newspapers to the rescue on the cent an acre tax, and it is quite noticeable that recently strenuous efforts are being made by the government press to do what the government failed to do, that is to show the farmers that the direct tax is in their interests, and that it is but bread cast upon the waters.

We notice, however, that the men who praise the tax do not have to pay it. Some of the newspapers that are in favor of it are practically in the hands of the government, and we know one case where the editor is expecting and not without hope, that very shortly he will be appointed clerk of one of the new district courts. We hope to congratulate him on the appointment, but the sight of office should not affect the opinion of the paper in such a serious matter as the tax referred to, for it is not very long ago that this very paper represented to the farmers that voting for the Scott government meant the death knell of direct taxation.

PRESS COMMENTS

(Heward Chronicle)

The Canadian Pacific Railway Company has decided not to pay school taxes in Heward. The announcement was made by the secretary-treasurer of the school district since the notice of assessment was sent out about two weeks ago. Their contention is that the lands in Heward are exempt from taxation as the lands assessed are part of the original grant given to the company by the terms of the company's charter.

What the school board will do in the matter is yet to be considered. The case is a little bit out of the ordinary in respect to C.P.R. lands. The lands in question originally belonged to the company, but there has been several turn-overs, and when the lands again reverted to the company, the lands have been assessed to the C.P.R. for three years now, and though they have never paid taxes this is the first intimation they have given that they dispute the assessment.

The C.P.R. have at various times fought the tax question through the courts with more or less success and at present are fighting for exemption in Alberta. For some years the C.P.R. was exempt from taxes, both school and otherwise, in lands in the west.

A small school section in Manitoba however, demanded school taxes from the C.P.R., and the case went from court to court until it reached the privy council, where a decision was given adverse to the C.P.R. The railway, however, has always maintained that the case was not decided upon its merits and that a decision was given on an irrelevant part of the case in question.

The supreme court of Canada has upheld the company's contention on three different cases of exemption. For the present we will await the court of revision for the school board's action, which, we hope may be for enforcing payment.

MIGHT BE COMPLICATIONS
Peace Delegates see Possibility of Trouble between Japan and United States
The Hague, July 8.—The sentiment of the delegates to the peace conference regarding the question that has arisen between the United States and Japan is that the situation is unfortunate for both countries, as the original incident causing tension between the two countries is liable to give results which may follow.

The question, the delegates think, is likely to create a hostile atmosphere, endangering the reciprocal commerce to which friendly relations had opened vast fields. Although sending of a fleet by the United States to the Pacific cannot be interpreted as a threat, it is generally admitted there that such action may give rise to a dangerous peculiar excitement, which the administration at Washington may not be able to control.

The Spanish representatives say that the United States has found a hard nut to crack. The Russians remark that the predictions of Count Witte, that the next war will be between Japan and the United States is approaching realization. The English, French and Japanese delegates believe that both governments at Washington and Tokio sincerely wish to realise an understanding, and will not be realised by jingoism. Some of the Germans here are of the opinion that the situation may lead to an American, German entente which while preventing the isolation of Germany would be the strongest compact against British supremacy that could be made.

Berlin, July 8.—Conviction of an ultimate conflict between Japan and the United States appears to be widespread in Germany. It is one of the subjects sure to be referred to where ever diplomatists, military and naval officials, and others accustomed to follow national politics meet. The newspapers agree that President

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Roosevelt is trying to satisfy the Japanese requests. They also agree that Japan asks nothing unreasonable. They recognise that the difficulty lies in the question of race, the economic antagonism of the Californians against the Japanese and the constitutional responsibility of federal coercion. It is believed by many of the leading statesmen that Japan is preparing to fight the United States for the mastery of the Pacific regardless of the San Francisco incidents.

Strategists of the admiralty regard a naval war between Japan and the United States as the most interesting problem of the day. Careful studies that have been worked out are unfavorable to the United States, because the American fleet though stronger than that of Japan, would have to seek a fight in Japanese home waters.

London, July 8.—The present tension between the United States and Japan is exciting the keenest interest among all the European diplomats. None of them, however, believe that it will reach the war stage because the heavy burden of debt that Japan is carrying as a result of her failure to obtain indemnity from Russia forbids her embarking on a similar costly enterprise in the next decade. It is recognised nevertheless that the United States is acquiring the empy of Japan as one of her national assets, which may prove a handicap in the event of trouble with any other power.

Great Britain finds herself in an embarrassing position, because she is obliged to stand between her colonies in the matter of anti-Japanese laws. There has been put into action a law regulating the entry of Asiatics, which applied to Indian subjects as well as to Japanese and Chinese and compels them to submit to an examination, and register with thumb prints, like criminals, which is exceedingly irritating to them. Australia threatens further legislation on the same lines, Alfred Deakin, the Australian premier, during his visit to England, repeatedly said in his speeches that the national question with which Australia must deal was the menace to the inflow of Japanese labor.

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HE'S NABBED
New York, July 5.—Cyan, the missing teller of the Trust Co., who disappeared nearly a hundred thousand company's funds, seven was arrested here today.

POOR LITTLE FELLOW
Kingston, July 5.—Will six-year old son of Chas. hold of a bottle of gun-chill-like lighter a match ed it to the powder, bottle to fragments and face and arms, terribly fellow will lose the sight. The house was set on flames were put out.

1000 MILES IN CANOE
Wolsely, July 5.—H. and F. Porter left today 'Appelle river in a canoe. It is estimated to cover over a thousand time they reach their. They intend making the sixteen days. They tall all the necessary supplies.

QUEBEC ELECTIONS.
Montreal, July 5.—The indication that the provincial elections will be held in the end of September. U-tivity is being displayed ural camp throughout the very unusual thing for a while the general tone of press also bears out the ural meetings are being with a good deal of re- less than three large con- "faithful" being ahead for the month of July.

HAIL AT SEDLEY
Sedley, Sask., July wind and rainstorm of lence struck Sedley last hail did much damage newly built granary wa- pieces, and a new wagon a fence and smashed on farm. At a ladies' aid A. Ferguson's all the bin- ing to the visiting ladies away and landed in wa- Several of them were la-

GUNBOAT ON LAKES.
Washington, July 4- department has received of the British govern- there will be no objection this of this government- que gunboat Don Juan de the Great Lakes, where used for cruising purpose- val militia.

TREE PROPOGATION.
Ottawa, July 7.—The government is engaged campaign of fire prop- tree preservation in the officials have been busy established farmers and tlers on the prairies to The movement is meeti- greatest success. By way an example to the individ- ernment has just complet- ing of over two million- own forest reserve lands- western provinces.

MANY DROWNED.
Vancouver, B.C., July patch from Kiteselas sta- Hudson Bay steamer "M- running on the Skeena- wrecked this afternoon in The vessel went to p- minutes. The island in p- dotted with passengers. of the accident is not kn- many passengers were d- is impossible to get de- sent.

FRENCH TREATY
Ottawa, July 4.—In with the denature of T- deputy minister of financ- meet Mr. Fielding in P- be mentioned that no tr- tions with any Europ- will be opened up, until is arranged with France, at present a treaty with

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