

The West

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Civic Government

Stanton, Va., a city which has a population of about 12,000 inhabitants, has a business manager. He was appointed last April and apparently proved a success.

The city retains the form of political organization required by law, and is governed from a legal standpoint by a mayor and city council, says the Washington Herald.

These officers, however, have delegated the purely business functions of local administration to the business manager, elected by them for a period of one year and directly responsible to them. He has saved money, according to his own statement, and given them an economical and efficient service.

For one thing, he was able to place contracts for granolithic paving at 71 cents a square yard, instead of the \$2 the council was paying prior to his appointment.

Perhaps Regina would make no mistake in following the example of Stanton.

Liberal Prosperity

"Five years more of prosperity," was the cry of the Liberals prior to the recent general elections. The laboring men were told that there would be work for all and at good wages. The organ of the Liberal party in Regina recently boasted of the prosperity of the country, and yet a few days after it comes out with an article warning the unemployed who were drifting to the larger centres in the province.

The Liberal party boasts of what its immigration policy has done for western Canada. Granting them all they deserve it looks as if there was bad judgment somewhere or else we would not have the warning issued from every large centre from Fort William to Victoria for men to keep away from these places. Why should the cities be burdened during the winter with the unemployed who have not lived in their confines for two months?

Where is the work which means prosperity? Why are there so many unemployed? Is this some of the work that Laurier wanted to finish? Did he want to starve out completely the working men? This question of the unemployed recurring every winter is one which the Department of the Interior ought to consider.

Preventing Discussion

It is intimated that the Laurier government will endeavor at the next session of parliament to introduce a bill amending the rules of debate in the House "with a view to expediting public business and preventing useless prolongations of debates." Dealing with this proposed feature the Toronto Mail and Empire says: "In the new House the opposition will be stronger than it was in the last one. It will enter upon its duties with an energy and determination not in the slightest degree weakened by the result of the elections. Its members go to the House to continue the fight against graft that was interrupted by the closing of the last session. The government is well aware that there is to be no truce in the fight between the opposition and the entrenched forces of graft. It has good reason to fear that the same aggressiveness as was shown by Mr. Borden and his followers in the last two sessions will, if kept up a session or two

longer prove the downfall of the graft system and its protectors. To the government the effect of the scandals brought to light in the two sessions was most damaging. In the minds of honest people throughout the country those revelations produced an indignation that would have swept the government from power had not the grafters spent enough of their ill gotten money upon corruptible voters to save the day. The anti-graft explorations of the opposition had to be restricted if the government was to have any security in office, or any secrecy in its dealings with the grafter element. Hence the proposal to introduce the closure, whereby debate can be choked off when it tends to become embarrassing. Along with the gag the government will doubtless use its former coercive measures. When original documents are called for, Mr. Oliver or Mr. Fielding will, no doubt, again have the brazenness to refuse to produce them. Sir Wilfrid Laurier may be expected to be at hand to maintain once more that it is really the custom to lay before the House not the genuine documents, but copies thereof. The plea will again be set up as before that to keep the documents from being stolen or destroyed it is necessary to withhold them from members. The finance minister can be relied upon to lay down at need the outrageous proposition that minorities have no rights, and that every member's rights as a representative of the people are only such as the grace of the majority permits. Upon the activity of the "blockers" too the government will depend. Of the brigade that obstructed the members of the public accounts committee several will not be in the new house. It will be the care of the government to see that they have capable successors. Knowing that the opposition means to keep on the trail of the marauders, the government can be trusted to use every expedient to cover up the latter's escape, and keep wrongdoing concealed.

The intimation that the gag is to be applied in the House forewarns the country, and should forearm all those whose duty it is to combat the graft evil. In particular it should impress upon Mr. Justice Cassels a sense of the importance of carrying his investigations to the very root to which the evil fruits he has discovered at Quebec draw their sustenance. Made at the present time on the morn of a general election, this threat has a gravity that cannot be ignored. If the government can gag the House, it is for Mr. Justice Cassels to show that the government cannot stay the rigor of his enquiry.

Editorial Notes

"Big Bill Motherwell

Tries Humboldt for a spell."

Just watch those Galicians in Saltcoats line up behind Thos. MacNutt on December 7th and march to the polls to vote for Jim Calder.

Where will W. W. Rutan of Prince Albert constituency, get off at if he is not allowed free scope to tell the people how the deferred election helped him to win.



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The citizens of Regina have a position to be filled and they want P. McArthur, Jr., to take it, and he does not seem very anxious. It is a case this time of the position seeking the man.

Tad Burrows ought to be compelled to start operations on some of his timber limits and give employment to some of the western army of unemployed who are flocking to the larger centres.

Press Comment

(Saturday Sunset, B.C.)

When Sir Thomas Shaughnessy said in Victoria the other day that his company would be glad to forego everything in the shape of a public grant if that were the general policy of the country towards all other railways, he expressed himself just as another prominent official of the C.P.R. did on a recent occasion to me. The time has surely gone by in Canada when railway subsidies should be given. When the C.P.R. was built it was the greatest railway experiment in the world. It was a condition of the Act of Confederation and whether it was good railroading or not, it had to be built in order to complete the organization of the Dominion. Many there were who declared that the railroad would only amount to a streak of rust across the prairies. They did not believe in nor foresee the possibilities of the country. But the resources of the west justified the construction of the road and the tremendous expenditure of public and private capital. The road is a success. The building of a railroad in Canada is no longer an experiment. Railways should no longer be regarded as struggling enterprises, embarking upon a hazardous undertaking and treated as public medics. Sir Thomas Shaughnessy probably appreciated that fact. He knows his own company's success makes it easily possible to secure all the capital necessary for new railways without public subsidies.

(Moose Jaw News.)

A short time ago the Regina Leader expressed the opinion that the failure of many of the Conservative candidates to secure election was due to the fact that they were nominated under orders from Regina. What does it think of Hon. W. B. Motherwell's nomination in Humboldt?

A more glaring piece of dictation by the bosses was never perpetrated in this province. Messrs. Calder and Motherwell had to secure nomination not only so, but nomination in safe constituencies. It seemed improbable that a door would be opened in the south, so to the north they looked for help.

But a few matters had to be "fixed." Ardent politicians like Hon. T. MacNutt and Dr. Neely, are not the kind of men to give place to others, unless their soaring ambition is considered and openings provided better than those they are asked to vacate. It is no secret that Dr. Neely has long considered the Dominion parliament as the field most suited to the display of his abilities; and he struggled with Mr. A. J. Adamson for the nomination. The latter person being under a cloud it was considered inadvisable that in his debilitated state he should seek re-election. No obstacle then opposed the desire of Dr. Neely. It was decided that he should stand for the Commons. Thus an opening was made for the Minister of Agriculture.

Another safe constituency being desired for the provincial treasurer the alluring temptation of nomination for a sure thing in the Commons was dangled before Hon. Thomas MacNutt. He received the offer as the work of destiny. Here was then Mr.

Calder's opportunity. Yesterday he received the nomination for Saltcoats. Do any say this was not dictation? Dictation is not now considered a pleasant term; perhaps it would be more acceptable to say "fixed."

(Victoria Colonist)

Premier Scott of Saskatchewan who has returned to his prairie home after contributing his efforts to a vain attempt to prevent the election of Conservative candidates in Kootenay and Yale-Cariboo, has been making some observations on the subject. He says that Mr. Borden's attitude in 1907 and as presented by the Conservative candidates in this province in respect to Japanese immigration, "certainly cannot be characterized as one of loyalty to British institutions." These are brave words, but they do not mean anything, except that Mr. Scott is angry at the defeat of the Liberal candidates. We have no desire to fight the election battle over again, but in the interest of truth it seems necessary to define what the attitude of the Conservative party in British Columbia upon the Oriental question is, and what the elections must be understood as demonstrating. It may be stated in a few words. The issue was not the Lemieux agreement nor the Japanese treaty. It was the attitude taken by the premier of Canada in respect to the Oriental question. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, with great frankness specifically stated his views on this question in his speech in the Russell theatre at Ottawa. He then sent a message to the people of British Columbia in which he said that our attitude towards the Oriental people is a mistake and that he did not share in our sentiments. To this the reply of the people of British Columbia has been given in the only way in which public opinion can be constitutionally expressed under British institutions.

A declaration of this kind seemed imperative because the Lemieux agreement is temporary only and as the postmaster general was sent to Tokio because of the strong feeling of the people of this province, it seemed right to the Conservative party to invite them to make an explicit declaration that their views have in no way changed.

When the hard feelings engendered by the contest have worn away, and the question of Oriental immigration again becomes acute, the decision of the electorate of British Columbia will have a potent influence in determining the line of action that shall be taken.

The Colonist feels that its position on this subject, which was similar to the position taken by the Conservative party in this province, will stand the closest investigation. It contended that the suggestion of the Colonial Office should have been adopted by the government of Canada and a provision similar to the Queensland protocol should have been appended to the Japanese treaty. It protested against the rights to restrict immigration into Canada being surrendered to a foreign power. It declined to join in the clamor for the abrogation of the treaty. It counselled toleration in the treatment of the Japanese. It approved of Mr. Lemieux's mission. It accepted the result of that mission as temporarily satisfactory and congratulated the minister upon it. Then when the election came on, believing that the opinion of the people should find expression, not as to the Lemieux agreement, but as to the attitude of the government as expressed by the premier, upon the bald question of Oriental immigration, it made that attitude the issue of the campaign, and the people have spoken in no uncertain terms. It may seem fitting to a charged politician to characterize this attitude as one of disloyalty to British institutions, but we venture to think that the sober judgment of all qualified persons will be that the people of this province have pursued a perfectly constitutional course, and one that is not only not prejudicial to the welfare of the empire, but will play an important part in the future consideration of an exceedingly difficult question.

(Toronto News.)

There is a refreshing coolness in the suggestion that all these revelations concerning Marine Department methods have been brought about by the reforming ardor of the government Ministerialist newspapers comment on the stern virtues of the government in appointing the civil service commission to inquire into the character of the administration, and Judge Cassels to "finish its work." There might be some credit due to Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his colleagues if that were a true picture of the facts. But the civil service commission was appointed for other reasons.

No one imagined that Mr. Courtney and his colleagues would turn their attention to the patronage list. Indeed they broke out in an unexpected place. The report of the civil service commission had a stupefying effect upon the Boys in Sixteen. Long and elaborate communications were heaped upon the heads of the commissioners for their interference. For several days Parliament Hill was a veritable Mount Ebal, a mountain of cursing. There was gnashing of teeth in the office of La Presse in Montreal and other Liberal papers throughout Canada were sternly indignant at the allegations made. Efforts were made to prove that Mr. Fyfe was in his dotage and that Mr. Courtney and Mr. Bazin did not know what they were talking about. For months after the commission presented its report there was no mention made of the regulation honorarium for the Dauntless Three. The government and its following were utterly demoralized by the report.

So angry were the ministers that they would not allow the commissioners to make further investigation. Instead they issued a new commission to Judge Cassels, limiting the scope of the enquiry as much as they dared, and trusting, perhaps, that he would not be too ardent. But the judge displayed so much vigor that he surprised the practical politicians. Whatever his bona fides covered in the methods of the marine department has been brought to light in spite of the administration, which has glorified the motto "Be Good to Our Friends."

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