

THE WEST

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8, 1908

A Wise Policy

What will go down in history as the outstanding features of the Roblin administration will be their railway and telephone legislation. The execution of government ownership of public utilities has been advanced by Mr. Roblin with vigor tempered with prudence. In the purchase of the Bell telephone system the government has no doubt taken a wise step and the creation of a commission to operate the system removes that utility from being used in any way as a part of a political machine. The personnel of the commission are the men who have been operating the system so successfully for the Bell company and they will not show less business ability when working for the people of Manitoba. The Roblin government is to be commended on the spirit in which they approached the telephone question and the manner in which they brought that great public utility under the ownership of the people.

The Saskatchewan government should follow the example of the sister province and in co-operation with the government of Alberta the question could easily be worked out, for the Bell people have but a small system as yet and if they were desirous of remaining in the Canadian west they would not have parted with their Manitoba business.

It is evident that the west is taking the lead in the matter of public ownership of the utilities in such a way as to discourage private enterprise where a monopoly is sought, and this is an indication as to the part which Canada west of the great Lakes will soon play in shaping Dominion legislation at Ottawa.

Are Satisfied

The friends of the government are gladdened through the exploitation of the interior department, and as far as the timber resources are concerned, the minister of the Interior has arranged new regulations whereby tenders will not be tampered with in the department. To effect this it is necessary to sell timber berths by auction, the same way as school lands are sold except that a register will be kept in the department showing to whom notices of the sale has been sent and anyone wishing their names enrolled on this register must send a request to the department.

The opposition in parliament have unearthed scandal after scandal in the Interior department and brought the matter home to the members of the House. Corruption has been rampant for many years and now that the timber resources have been privately exploited for five hundred miles north of Prince Albert, the government makes regulations which should have been made years ago. This will not stop the disclosures being made, but it may prevent new ones. One thing which the public may expect, however, is that when the Conservatives

take up the investigation of the Interior department preparatory to handing the lands over to the province, much of the blanketed timber limits now held by the government gets for speculation will revert to the Crown. This fact is realized by the friends of the government, and they are putting up a desperate fight for the return of the Laurier administration.

Another Session

There are indications at Ottawa that the government after arranging to hold the Dominion elections in June, has flunked owing to the general trade depression and the failure of Mr. Slifton to execute the all red project as an election issue.

In any case there will be no election now until the next crop reaches a stage when its success or failure is assured. After the bold steps taken by the government in bringing out their nominations, and in the face of their repeated statements that the country is prosperous, it is really amusing to note the way that they are back peddling. The bye-elections have indicated that in a general election the government would be swamped outside of Quebec, and that province will not go solid for Laurier if they have any idea that other provinces will give a turnover. Another session will not be a matter of choice, but if things do not brighten up for the government they will live out the days of the present term and then go to pieces.

No Money Yet

The financial stringency has not yet been relieved much in grain circles for wheat consigned to Fort William six weeks ago has not yet found a buyer. One case in particular which has come to our notice is that of a Moose Jaw farmer who shipped seven cars of No. 2 wheat, but he has not been able to sell and he is thus seriously embarrassed. The government was supposed to have provided some relief for the grain trade but when R. S. Lake asked about this matter in the House just before the Christmas adjournment, Sir Wilfrid asked that the matter "stand." In the meantime the farmers are tied up on every hand, because there is no market for either feed or contract wheat.

Consistency

Consistency! Has the government organ ever learned what that word means? It certainly does not imply that a paper can assume one principle today and an altogether different one tomorrow. Yet, that is what the coercion organ of this city glories in. A short time ago Premier Scott's paper referred to the lack of support which Mr. R. L. Borden was receiving from former friends and instanced the Montreal

Star, which since the last federal elections has hardly given the Conservatives an independent support. A few days ago the Star said that the bye-elections were not indicators of public opinion generally, and the Regina paper immediately took the ground that a statement like this from "Mr. Borden's chief organ" was a high tribute to the Laurier government.

What the Star says may be used as the expression of an independent paper, but it cannot be quoted as the voice of a paper supporting Mr. Borden.

The Leader is a pastmaster at misrepresentation.

Losing Ground

Certain Liberal papers throughout the country describe Centre York as "a former Tory hive" and argue that under the circumstances the Liberal candidate did well in the bye-election. As a matter of fact, however, Centre York was created by the redistribution of 1901 and it was made a safe constituency for Mr. Arch. Campbell. But Mr. Campbell ran badly in the last general election, and Dr. McLean, although a much stronger candidate, came out of the bye-election with a much smaller majority. It was the confident expectation of Liberals that his majority would have reached two or three hundred. This was a reasonable expectation and the fact that his majority was so small is a sign of the declining strength of the Laurier government in Ontario. There is to be added to the loss of strength in Centre York, the election of a Conservative in London, the reduction of the Liberal majority in North Wellington, and the increase of the Conservative majority in East Northumberland. In Nova Scotia, also, a seat has been captured by the opposition. Indeed the government seems to be holding its own only in Quebec.—Toronto News.

Worked as Expected

The result of the election court at Prince Albert after the lapse of time between the election and Judge Johnson's court. If his lordship had ruled that attendance of witnesses was not necessary after their votes were allowed by the court of revision Mr. Bradshaw would have been awarded the seat. The men whose votes were appealed, however, were nearly all workmen, and Mr. Turgeon's solicitor figured out that the working men cannot afford to defend their franchise under such circumstances. The lumber camps let hundreds of men out and they are scattered from the coast to Ontario points. To have kept them in Prince Albert would have taken thousands of dollars. The further postponement of the court through the unfortunate accident which befell Judge Johnstone increased Mr. Turgeon's majority still further, for several men stayed until Dec. 17th, who were then compelled to leave for the east to get the excursion rates. The working people of the province have no rights under the Scott government.

Balance of Trade

In connection with the financial stringency prevailing the country is hearing a great deal about the balance of trade being against Canada to a very serious extent, and that the hardships we are experiencing must be accounted for to some extent by this fact. The government claims that a balance of trade against a country is not an injury and it is not responsible for hard times, nor is it an indication of business depression. However, the way for the farmer to apply that argument is to look at his own position this year. Many farmers would have been better off if they had burned their crops, and those who left their wheat uncut are not poorer off than many who took chances on harvesting their wheat to find that they are out of pocket on the whole thing. The farmers who have been buying for a year and find after disposing of their crop that they have not been able to pay even their grocery bill, can realize that the balance of trade is against them. They have bought

more than they have sold and are out of pocket.
 The whole country is in the same position. The Canadian trade returns show that the Dominion has imported so much more than she has exported, that the country is hard up.

Gazette Appointments

- Acting Commissioner of Railways—Hon. J. A. Calder, a member of the executive council.
- Justices of the Peace—J. R. Sprague, of Redvers; S. F. J. Williams, of Haddington; S. J. Latta, of Govan; W. H. Wolf, of Wolfston; J. C. Harrison of Melfort; W. J. Smith, of Fielding.
- Notaries Public—P. J. Hoffman, of Annaheim; H. Stapleton, of North Battleford; Wm. Granville, of Dubuc; T. O. Hamre, of Hanley; F. A. G. Ouseley, of Humboldt; Percy S. Elliott, of Humboldt; Alfred Sinclair, of Broadview; W. A. Couthard, Saskatoon; G. A. Hall, Halbrite; E. J. Campbell, Carnduff; I. S. Wens, of Herbert; A. E. Bence, Indian Head; H. N. Norphy, Weyburn; A. J. Robertson, Davidson; R. Donovan, Shebo.
- Commissioner for Oaths—H. J. Martin, of Sedley; Harry Butcher, of Westmount; W. M. Graham, Balcarres; D. A. Steel, Kennedy; W. Poehelman, of Neudorf; W. E. Lewis, of Lewis; G. W. Weese, Battleford; Oliver Nelf, Mooseomin; J. W. Wickware, Craik; J. F. Anderson, Regina; G. A. McKenzie, Morse; E. R. Collier, Etoimami; N. W. Motton, Prince Albert; A. Seymour, Fort a la Corne; William Godfrey, Fort a la Corne; A. H. Shannon, Saskatoon; Fred. Thompson, Carnduff; J. E. Stickey, Kelvington; Jas. McLean, Buffalo; W. E. Marsh, Fielding; A. H. Stephenson, Nekomis.
- Registrar of Land Titles, pro tem.—Wilmot Gordon Haultain, Regina, deputy registrar of the Assiniboia Land Registration district, pro tempore.
- Deputy Local Registrar Supreme Court—Walter L. Cornell, of Cannington; Deputy Clerk District Court—Walter L. Cornell, of Cannington; Deputy Clerk Surrogate Court—Walter L. Cornell, of Cannington; Court Reporter—E. R. Blenkarn, of Regina; Law Clerk Dept. Attorney General—T. A. Colclough, of Regina.
- Official Assignees—Harold Jagger, Moose Jaw; H. C. Carson, Saskatoon; Jas. M. Wessel, Regina; Turnkey—Edward Bigger, of Prince Albert.

Edgeley

Rev. J. Laycock of Qu'Appelle conducted the funeral service on New Year's Day over the remains of Norman Cass, who met his death the Monday previous, while enroute with his father to secure a load of wood. Deceased, who was with his father in the sleigh, was driving, holding the lines in one hand, and with his rifle in the other. A sudden jolt of the sleigh caused the rifle to go off resulting in the death of the young man.

Sherwood

(Too late for last week.)
 The entertainment which was held in Sherwood school house on Friday evening was a grand success. The chair was taken by Mr. I. P. Miller, and a lengthy and enjoyable program of songs, dialogues, recitations given principally by the young people of the community. The school house was comfortably filled and all went home feeling that it had been good for them to be there. We are glad to know that Mrs. Seymour has returned from the hospital in improved health.

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To Sell or Let

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FARMERS GOVERNMENT

Grain Growers Convention of Elevators

Some time ago The West reported that the grain growers of three provinces were considering the advisability of holding a provincial convention at Regina. The organization, their position and consoling policy. The following is the Winnipeg Tribune's account of the convention.

A member of the Grain Association writing to me from Brandon a few days ago some information which the Tribune to secure information of a very important nature. It will be recalled that the Grain Growers' executive Winnipeg some days ago on the local government. The Dominion government is well as other grain growers and the local government is well as other grain growers and the local government is well as other grain growers.

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The members of the executive, considering the question, reached the decision that the difficulties were of a nature and it was decided for the present the provincial ownership of elevators should be done in a limited way.

ANOTHER WAY

Several Westerners Lives—Broken Cause—The Story of Mrs. Ben Sloaning, Sask.

North Bay, Jan. 3.—A wreck occurred a mile east of here this morning. A eastbound express was broken eighty pounds, gage, colonist and track and were turned. Mrs. Sloan was killed. Reynolds of Montreal; Deloraine; E. Perkins; Davd Lindsay; Ed. Melton, Sask.; Dan McMon, Ont., and A. G. Ont., suffered severe heads. Robert Matthe Fat his back hurt. Jas. Stanley, C. E. R. Chapleau, were also injured. The passengers in the were panned in, and fracturing them by the fellow passengers was. The worst horror was a woman's body in where she was crushed head and arms protruding from the broken side of the body swaying in the creek, which covered car for several feet. sible to release the coal hours, but death instantaneous. The was Mrs. Ben Sloaning, Sask. Shortly before of the surprise she sister in Lindsay; On

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