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DUNCAN MARSHALL,
Manager.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1907.

THREE IMPORTANT SUBJECTS.

One subject which Mr. Borden cannot escape if he expects to appeal to the public intelligence of his Edmonton audience is the school clauses of the autonomy bills. It is only some two years since the party heads were endeavoring to stampede the country with the cry that some undefined and unspecified rights of the people of Alberta and Saskatchewan were being trampled in the dust and the people themselves were being shackled and manacled. Yet in his lately promulgated platform is the word of school clauses, of trampled rights or shackled slaves. From that platform no man could conclude that a school question had ever disturbed the sweet serenity of Mr. Borden's repose, much less surmise that it was the sand bank on which only two years ago he hoped to maroon the Government. Has Mr. Borden forgotten the school clauses? Has he receded from his former position, and is he now prepared to admit that he was wrong and the Government right? In the same connection, where is his worthy assistant, Dr. Sproule? This honorable gentleman was to marshal the hosts of the order which he presides in the cause which Mr. Borden then espoused. If Mr. Borden has not wavered in the course or flagged in ardor, why does Dr. Sproule mope in North Grey and the Orange Sentinel lament the faithlessness of Mr. Borden while Mr. Bergeron tours with Mr. Borden?

The land settlement of the autonomy bills must also claim a share of his attention. A plank in the newly contrived platform deals with this subject. In his Ontario speeches Mr. Borden interpreted this plank pretty openly as meaning simply a proposal to chop our subsidies in two and let us get revenue from our lands as best we might. This is the point Mr. Borden must elaborate in Edmonton if he addresses himself to the knowledge and judgment of his audience. Hazy and meaningless allusions to our equality with the people of other provinces will do no good here. Mr. Borden must get up to details and demonstrate in dollars and cents where we would get off with the proposition he need expect little sympathy from the people of Alberta with his proposal.

The tariff, too, demands attention from Mr. Borden. This is a subject in which the people of the West are vitally interested. It is a subject which is dealt with in Mr. Borden's platform. So far as ordinary judgment goes there appears to be only a difference of phraseology between Mr. Borden's policy and the policy of the manufacturer who wants a tariff as high as Haman's gallowes. The interpretation agrees admirably with the preaching and practising of Mr. Borden during the past few years. If this interpretation is wrong it is up to Mr. Borden to give the correct reading of his tariff riddle.

THE LINES HAVE FALLEN IN PLEASANT PLACES.

Hon. R. P. Roblin, premier of Manitoba, thinks, or thought, the treatment of the new western provinces very generous. He said in a speech at Boissevain, Manitoba—
" How differently they treat Alberta and Saskatchewan. Manitoba gets \$100,000 a year for her lands. What do Alberta and Saskatchewan get? There is a provision by which they get one and a quarter millions for all time to come. That is an evidence of the differences in the principles upon which the Provinces of the Northwest are dealt with. In addition to this what do we find? We find that in lieu of their public lands they are to get annually for five years \$93,750 for public buildings. Surely the lines of our sister provinces have fallen on pleasant places."

Manitoba's terms were, of course granted under the former, not the present, Federal Government.

PRECEDENTS.

A contemporary census Mr. Oliver for participating in a by-election in Edmonton two years ago, and Hon. Geo. P. Graham for participating in a provincial by-election in Brock-

ville, Ont., and argues that these precedents warrant Mr. Borden butting into the provincial by-election in Prince Albert.
That Mr. Oliver took part in a by-election here is true; seeing that he was a candidate in the by-election it is difficult to see how he could be expected to do otherwise. That Mr. Graham is participating in the Brockville contest may be true; if true he is only doing what every other voter in the constituency is entitled to do—including Conservative candidates or would-be candidates for both provincial and federal honors. How either circumstance provides precedent for a Federal member butting into a provincial contest in a constituency in which he is not a voter, it remains for some ingenious calculator to figure out.

BRITISH COLUMBIA'S EXPERIENCE WITH THE PUBLIC LANDS.

In his statement at the Conference of Provincial Premiers, Premier McBride, of British Columbia, dealt with the relative advantages of handling the public domain under provincial auspices and of getting in lieu of this a money grant from the Federal treasury. His dealt with concrete example, an example with which he was thoroughly familiar and his statement is therefore worthy of attention. He said:—

"Comparing the terms conceded to British Columbia and to the new provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan, it is found in effect that when these provinces are in receipt of the total allowance to which they will be ultimately entitled per annum, the amount in round numbers will be \$2,250,000, while the total of British Columbia's allowance when it has reached its maximum will be less than \$500,000. It is not contended that the new provinces have received too much but that British Columbia has received far too little. Alberta and Saskatchewan contain large, compact, arable areas, presenting no physical difficulties or obstacles to development. While it may be said that in their case the lands are minerals belonged to the Dominion if we take the case of British Columbia, with its public domain in its own right, the average of its receipts for the past thirty years on account of its natural resources has only been \$235,000 per annum, from which must be deducted the cost of administration, not less at the present time than \$100,000 per annum. It is submitted further that the readjustment of the subsidies every two and a half years, according to the increase of population ascertained by census taking, in our estimation, is another important advantage which the new provinces have over British Columbia. They obtain almost immediately in increased population the benefit of increased taxation, while British Columbia, in which the increase of population is also very rapid, has to wait ten years for readjustment. There is therefore only one of two conclusions to be drawn from a comparison of the terms in the two cases; either the new provinces have been too generously endowed by the Dominion which is not alleged—or British Columbia has received very inadequate consideration of its requirements."

BUTTING INTO PROVINCIAL POLITICS.

The appointment of Hon. J. H. Lamont to the Supreme Court bench in Saskatchewan has necessitated holding a by-election in the provincial constituency of Prince Albert, where Mr. Ferguson, the new attorney general of Saskatchewan is being opposed by Mr. Bradshaw.
So far as the outstanding feature of the campaign has been the resolution of the Prince Albert Conservatives to throw off the mask, fight the election along party lines and run the Conservative candidate as a Conservative. Heretofore they have paraded as non-partisan champions of the cause of provincial rights, knowing no other allegiance than their undying attachment to the cause—and when not on parade have worked like nailers for the success of the Conservative party, altogether regardless of the province and its rights.

The open abandonment of the disguise and the avowal of the party to which they belong, for which they have labored, and for whose success they adopted the disguise, is a movement toward sincerity on the part of the Saskatchewan Conservatives altogether commendable in itself. But the sincerity is belated and the fact that it is belated robs them of any credit they might ordinarily have claimed for exhibiting it. While deception paid, seemed likely to pay, or capable of being made to pay, they practised deception and avoided candor; even when they reaped the reward of their deception they clung to it and it is only when they think they see an advantage in being honest greater than that of being dishonest that they resolve to pursue the way of virtue. This resolution has not been taken

without cause, nor for any cause more commendable than the hope of bettering their political position. They profess no change of heart and bring forth no fruits of repentance. The despatch that records their resolution also records the reason for the resolution. That reason is nothing more nor less than the fact that Mr. Borden is to address a meeting in Prince Albert on the eve of the by-election and in the hope of securing to themselves Mr. Borden may have the Prince Albert Conservatives are to call themselves Conservatives. Not only do they confess to having perpetrated a fraud on the electorate in the past but testify that they are abandoning the fraudulent course simply because the course of candor promises to pay them better. Their testimony is that they intend to become honest because they consider honesty the best policy at present.

It is easy to fancy what a wall of terror would go up from the Conservative press if Sir Wilfrid Laurier came west and addressed meetings in the constituency of Prince Albert on behalf of the candidature of the attorney general. His conduct would be declared beyond all precedent and reason—an unwarrantable attempt to influence provincial electors by the prestige of the Federal Premier. From this it would be argued that a deep dark design was hatching somewhere to infringe on the rights of the province and the electors of Prince Albert would be adjured as they valued their freedom to resent this intrusion by electing the Opposition candidate. The parallel argument would be that as Mr. Borden is doing the intruding the electors should show their resentment by turning down his candidate. But there will not, we fancy be any great objection raised by the Liberals of Prince Albert to Mr. Borden's excursion into their local affairs. Western people are not disposed to be discourteous and Mr. Borden will doubtless receive in Prince Albert the same manner of treatment that would be accorded any other sojourner from a distant province who took upon himself the duty of instructing the people of that constituency how they should vote in their local elections.

But there is another excellent reason why the Prince Albert Liberals should receive Mr. Borden kindly and deal with him indulgently—he is not likely to do them any conspicuous harm. Mr. Borden has had a hand already in some elections during his present trip. In St. John for example he insisted that Mr. Pugsley must be opposed and defeated. Mr. Pugsley was returned by acclamation, succeeding a Conservative member. In Ontario Mr. Borden denounced the Government and all its works and while he was doing it a member of the Government was returned by acclamation in the normally Conservative constituency of Brockville. There is no very great cause for apprehension in these electioneering performances of Mr. Borden, that the Liberals of Prince Albert should dread his coming.

More than this, the subjects on which Mr. Borden is likely to bestow his attention and the circumstances under which he will appear make it probable that the Prince Albert Liberals will get much more amusement than damage from his expedition. Speaking in Saskatchewan in a provincial by-election Mr. Borden can scarcely escape addressing a few remarks to the electors on the school clauses. But if he does so what will our old friend Mr. J. G. H. Bergeron have to say about it? He is Mr. Borden's travelling companion and is not of a disposition to be muzzled for the time or on that particular subject. When he rises to elucidate the remarks of Mr. Borden by a few sentiments of his own there should be fun for the selectors of Prince Albert.

The land settlement with the new provinces, too, will naturally be discussed by Mr. Borden and if he has the courage to do so he will tell the electors of Prince Albert that he would chop their provincial subsidies in two and turn them loose to seek revenues how best they could get them with the burden of administering the public lands also thrown on the provincial treasury. In this Mr. Bergeron will also have a say. He agrees with his leader that the provinces get too much money and goes rather farther than Mr. Borden in lecturing them on their extravagance. Here is what he said in the House of Commons last session on the subject of provincial subsidies:—

"Why should we take money out of the federal coffers, money that belongs to the people of Canada and give it out piecemeal to these local governments encouraging them in lack of initiative and making it unnecessary for them to find money where it should be found—within the province itself? It is a dangerous policy; we are opening a door which may let in great evils into the Dominion, and particularly into the province from which I come."
If the people of Saskatchewan think they get too much money from the Federal treasury Mr. Borden and Mr.

Bergeron will inform them how to get rid of the too-liberal allowances.

MR. BORDEN'S FIRST DUTY.

The leader of the Federal Opposition will address a meeting in the Thielink this evening. That it will be a well-attended meeting and an orderly meeting may be taken for granted, and a meeting quite prepared to do full credit to Mr. Borden if Mr. Borden does credit to the position he occupies.

To do so, the course Mr. Borden must pursue is not wholly of his own choosing. Ordinarily a speaker may select the theme of his discourse; a party leader selects the subjects to which he invites the attention of his audience. But there are times and circumstances in which this freedom of choice is limited and if it is exercised can be exercised only at the cost of public regard.

Unfortunately for Mr. Borden these are the circumstances which surround his tour and which will continue to surround him until he meets them frankly, admits his error or defends his course.

The first duty Mr. Borden owes to his hearers in Edmonton, as to the Canadian public at large—is to undertake the defence of Mr. Foster and his associates for the conduct laid bare by the Insurance Commission. The choice of whether or not he will assume responsibility for defending that conduct no longer rests with Mr. Borden. He has already made his choice, has defended the conduct in the House of Commons and on the platforms of Ontario. Having defended it where of less importance, on what logical grounds can he decline to defend it in that section of the country most deeply concerned? Whether he does so or not he cannot expect to escape being held responsible for having essayed its defence in other places.

However distasteful the subject may be to Mr. Borden this is the subject on which the people of Edmonton and of the West want and expect him to speak, above all others. Rightly or wrongly the public are convinced that that conduct was improper in itself and especially unbecoming for men in public life. Mr. Borden thinks otherwise. The public, therefore expect him to make good his defence or try to do so, and incidentally, it will take a man better defence than he has yet offered to persuade the public that they have misjudged his conduct. If Mr. Borden does not design to offer defence how else can this be construed than as an admission that defence is impossible? And if the lieutenants are beyond defence what of the leader who maintains them as lieutenants?

It is not alone to the public that Mr. Borden owes this duty. He owes it as well to the party which honors him with its leadership. It cannot be news to Mr. Borden that that party is thoroughly disgusted with Mr. Foster and especially unbecoming for men in public life. Mr. Borden thinks otherwise. The public, therefore expect him to make good his defence or try to do so, and incidentally, it will take a man better defence than he has yet offered to persuade the public that they have misjudged his conduct. If Mr. Borden does not design to offer defence how else can this be construed than as an admission that defence is impossible? And if the lieutenants are beyond defence what of the leader who maintains them as lieutenants?

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"CORPORATION CONNECTIONS." Mr. Borden comes to Edmonton sponsored and ushered by worthy representatives of those under whose auspices he visited the west some five years since, by whose influence he was then surrounded and in whose behalf he was then laboring.

On his right is Hon. R. P. Roblin, by courteous consent of the Grain Exchange and the benediction of the Beef Trust, Minister of the Canadian Northern Railway for the Province of Manitoba. On his left is Hon. R. McBride, premier of British Columbia by virtue of having given the Canadian Pacific Company a land grant for a railway they had not built. On his previous expedition Mr. Borden was accompanied by a band of speculative minds from the House of Commons. They went through the land seeking what they might capture through the friendship of these two railway companies and by the employment of other people's money. They were successful—so successful that Mr. Borden dare not bring them out to the West again. Wherever he is accompanied not by his Parliamentary lieutenants, but by a brace of his provincial allies.

The change is a change of companions but not of companionship. The individuals are different but their presence bespeaks the same influence and signifies the same alliances. The representatives have been changed, but they peddle the goods of the same old firm. The former agents were found out, could no longer be used to deceive the public and had to be abandoned. If their successors are accepted as representing anything better or anything different, the public will be most thoroughly deceived.

What is the significance of the leader of the Opposition travelling always in the society of the political lieutenants of the railway corporations? Mr. Borden claims for himself the respect due to disinterested public service. Yet he maintains a political companionship that belies his professions of disinterested service. If his service is disinterested why does he throw doubt upon it by choosing for companions in arms those whose service is notoriously otherwise? Mr. Borden understands the alphabet of politics; would he subject himself to the suspicion of being in alliance with the corporations if he were not so? Or would he openly flaunt his friendship for their political lieutenants if he were under no obligation to them?

Public confidence in Mr. Borden's independence was badly shaken by the revelations made before the Insurance Commission. Despite his protestations of freedom from the cor-

poration dickering of his travelling companions the public will not and should not forget the letter in which Mr. Foster urged Mr. Ferguson to tell Mr. Borden the splendid things the Canadian Pacific and Canadian Northern were doing for them. Why the urgency to tell Mr. Borden if Mr. Borden had neither part nor lot in the transaction?

This hard-earned confidence promises to be shattered into atoms by Mr. Borden's conduct of his present tour. In Eastern Canada, where interest in the former expedition is less keen the members of that expedition have been Mr. Borden's companions on his present tour. But when he entered Western Canada, where the dealings of these gentlemen are known of every man the discredited ones were left behind. Mr. Foster and his friends were left behind not because of what they did, but because they were found out. Their assistance was welcomed and utilized wherever their presence was not likely to recall their records too vividly. And where it was necessary to dispense with them they have been replaced by others of the same ilk.

Mr. Borden comes to us as the ally and defender of the Foster-Fowler-Pope-Bennett-Lefurgey combination. That they are not personally with him is because he dare not bring them. But their places are fittingly occupied by two gentlemen who owe their political positions to the loyal service they have rendered the corporations through whose friendship Mr. Borden's former companions enriched and disgraced themselves, discredited their leader and humiliated their party.

WHAT ABOUT MR. FOSTER?

Mr. Borden does not appear to be meeting with any unprecedented success in his efforts to whip the party into line for the defence of the Foster-Fowler-Bennett-Pope-Lefurgey outfit or if he is meeting success it is of a curiously quiet kind.

Perhaps his failure is in some measure due to a lack of information as to what the party thinks of these gentlemen, or at least what the party organs have said they think. As accommodation to a man in need of help, and a fit of modesty or of failing memory should prevent his local friends informing Mr. Borden on the point the Bulletin reproduces a few editorial extracts from the Edmonton Journal of a year since— Edmonton Journal, Oct. 2, 1906— "Mr. Foster's curiosity on these sub-

jects is all very well in its way, but he seems to fail as yet to recognize the fact that what the Conservative party as a whole wants to know is how long it is expected to carry Mr. Foster on its shoulders. His questions and attacks on the government are every one of them a boomerang for the party."

Edmonton Journal, Oct. 27, 1906— "The whole Conservative party will welcome the report that a movement is on foot to request Mr. Borden to sever Mr. Foster's connection with the councils of the party. The same brief of excommunication should be read against Messrs. Fowler, Pope, Bennett and all the politicians mixed up with the L. O. F. insurance scandals. We cannot politically afford to carry them any longer. If a man cannot put his own weight he has got to be relegated to the crowd on the tow path."

Edmonton Journal, Nov. 5, 1906— "Does Mr. Foster wish us to believe that his common sense has become so atrophied that he really and truly thinks he was fulfilling his duty to the Independent Order of Foresters in lending their money, of which he was a principal trustee, to himself as a director of a land syndicate? Are we given to understand by Mr. Foster that Dan Mann honestly gave himself and his associates an entirely private view of the location of the Canadian Northern, just as they were thinking of having a little flutter in C. P. R. lands or that Mr. Whyte was so kind as to knock a dollar and a-half an acre off the listed price of the said lands, simply because Messrs. Mann and Whyte got stuck on his shape?"

Edmonton Journal, Nov. 5, 1906— "The most through-paced Tory in North Toronto must recognize the fact that Mr. Foster can never any more be anything but a dead weight to the Conservative cause all over the country if he persists in staying in the political arena."

Edmonton Journal, Nov. 29, 1906— "What the Conservative party as a whole wants to know is how long it is expected to carry Mr. Foster on its shoulders. It is hard enough to be down and out but a much more pitiful figure is cut by the man who is down and out and doesn't know it."

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THE Council Has Discove that City's Street the best. Alderm law. Routine Busin

From Wednesday's While the Edmonton Strathcona Council has pose of its street railwa if the people of Strathco disposition of the street chse Edmonton will be position. It is generally unless the two cities work matter of their franchise way could not be made w many years. If the Strath is disposed of to a priva Edmonton's municipal s undertaking would need in advance for years, und cona franchise were purd as Strathcona is concern nton connections the reatly valueless. The sit in a tangle.

The question was refer meeting of the city co night, at which Alderm Gartepp, Walker, Picard were present. The mayor be being in Western n vative convention. Ald was made chairman.

The Communicat R. Hockley & Co. wro ratification of the three for the police and fire clothing. The letter st was understood when th this was put in that it should be for three ye upon looking up the cou pany had discovered th that was the man of the referred to the commissi port. Alderman Picard to say that the council t make such a contray years.

The public works dep tawa, wrote stating that s set of plans for the city was being investiga the report of the enginee tion was received, it co definitely whether the im under the jurisdiction of parliament. The letter w the secretary of the St. cultural society asked re the placing of a streamer per avenue at MacDougall verting the society's fall inville this week. The granted.

Archie Harrington wrote he vacated the premises C. N. R. restaurant on avenue three months after en on his license, and he refund of taxes. The m referred to the commissioner Canada Paving Const wrote soliciting the com pany lays Bermuda argment, a pavement adopte peg. The letter was filed. A petition was receivd walk on Vermilion avenue street west. The petiti on to the commissioners for the city.

A petition to which over were attached was receiv against the city. The petition claiming that the condit in the by-law should l Alderman Gartepp moved be laid on the table. I wanted to look into the the advisability of amendi law to make it inoperative winter months. The moti ried.

Cold Storage Plant B The Edmonton Producers received their applicati oil for certain concessio the establishment of a plant to cost not less than to be located within the C This company's applicati on to the city's attorney, as ago, was not endorsed. In of the application the co exemption from taxation, the last by-law, which limit the concessions asked for water, light and power for thirty years.

Ald. Gartepp wanted an clause included in the by-law. Ald. Picard gave express important point, when he a the request for free water power be made specific as to tity required.

Ald. Manuel asked if it necessary to make some p meet such an event as the city's public utilities. Ass at some future date the wa electric light and power, the city were disposed of such a clause making pr the freeing of the city fro bility, the company might city for the cost of the v and power. The question also of the being required to bear the submitting of the by-law ple was discussed. The commissioners, City Row and A. F. Ewing, the company, notified at th and amended the by-law for the regulation of the free power. This was place five horsepower. Any pow above that amount is to b at minimum rates. The by-law was given it second readings, and would given its third reading and to the people but for Alder nely's motion. The clause be inserted in the l was shown that such a cla be, of any value, they the of man Manuel the bit. Unde ter a by-law cannot be give readings without the unag sent of the council, and it