

## Week in Alberta Legislature

One was tempted to think of the last session of the legislature when proceedings opened on Monday afternoon, November 28. Every inch of space was occupied by the interested crowd listening to the fierce harangues on Premier Sifton's waterways bill. This occupied the centre of attraction during the whole week almost to the complete exclusion of all other subjects. The debate was adjourned on Monday afternoon by J. L. Cote, member for Athabasca, who in a forceful speech urged that a railway be constructed to the north country.

Other business introduced included the second reading of the Calgary University bill, introduced by R. B. Bennett. This debate was contested by W. A. Buchanan, Lethbridge, and W. McKenzie, Claresholm, both of whom spoke strongly against the bill.

### An Exciting Day

Tuesday was again an exciting day, and so great was the crowd that the doors had to be closed and the general public were refused further admittance.

The feature of the afternoon was the impassioned speech of J. V. Cornwall on the debate over the disposal of the A. & G.W. bonds.

Mr. O'Brien spoke on the Calgary University bill, expressing himself as in favor of it. If the people of Calgary wanted a University and would pay for it he saw no reason why they should not have it. The second reading of the bill was agreed to and it was referred to the private bills committee. The act to amend the Edmonton charter received its second reading. Hon. Duncan Marshall introduced bills amending the Noxious Weeds Act and the act respecting the manufacture of cheese and butter. This latter act contains provisions which have been asked for by the Government Creameries Association for some time.

In answer to questions by Mr. Bennett it was stated that the expenditure of the province on capital account for telephones was for four years ending 1909, \$1,833,947, and for the ten months ending October 31, 1910, \$674,948. Total \$2,507,995. The capital expenditure on telephones in the city of Calgary during the same time was \$645,886. The revenue of the telephone systems for the ten months of 1910 has been \$314,616, and the expenditure during the

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same period \$143,470. The government acquired a site for a court house at Medicine Hat in 1909 at a cost of \$11,000. The amounts paid to the C.N.R. and the G.T.P. on account of the guarantee of their securities by the province has been: C.N.R., July 14, 1910, \$1,596,400; September 15, \$475,800. G.T.P., February 7, 1910, \$357,500; July 21, \$179,497. Mr. Hoadley was answered that the amount of educational tax levied in 1908 was \$151,730, and in 1909, \$144,539, while the amount collected in those years was, 1908, \$36,194; 1909, \$93,067.

### A. & G.W. Discussion

The conspicuous feature of Wednesday's session was R. B. Bennett's speech on the A. & G.W. bonds bill, which lasted for two hours and a half.

The routine business included the third reading of the act for the incorporation of the Canadian Northern Western Railway Company. It was expected that there would be an interesting fight over this, but Mr. Bennett was out of the chamber at the time and before his return the bill had passed. This makes the second bill to have passed the house so far this session. A motion was passed for an order showing all the fire insurance carried in the province.

### House's First Division

The debate on the A. & G.W. bonds bill was resumed on Thursday by ex-Premier Rutherford, who came out in a spirited defence of the late administration as a strong opponent of the bill. A. Bramley Moore was the next speaker and recorded himself as against the bill. Some little excitement then ensued over R. Patterson's motion to adjourn the debate, and the first recorded division of the session took place. The government was sustained by a vote of 26 to 11. Mr. Patterson said he was opposed to the A. & G.W. but was not in favor of confiscation. W. F. Puffer was the next speaker and said he wanted more light on the bill. C. N. O'Brien said he had no choice whether the road was built or not, but he indicated that he would either oppose the bill or not vote at all.

The routine business included the introduction of a petition for an act of incorporation for the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association. Acts respecting the Lacombe, Bullocksville and Alix Railway Co. and the Lacombe and Blindman Valley Electric Railway Co. received their first reading. Mr. Hoadley was answered that the total amount expended on the construction of the Land Titles office, Calgary, since 1907, was \$143,868, and the total expenditure on the construction of the Normal school, Calgary, has been \$218,218.


### Waterways Debate Closed

Friday afternoon saw the close of the debate on the A. & G.W. bonds bill, the vote being 25 to 14 in favor of the government, Mr. O'Brien refusing to vote. Mr. Muchiner continued the debate and introduced an amendment which was to the effect that the government should not use the money realized by bonds except to build the railway and that it should not be forfeited except by due process of law and not until every effort to arrive at a peaceable understanding had been exhausted.

Mr. Hoadley seconded the amendment, and in a brief speech said he could not yield to any member in a desire to have the waterways trouble ended, but he could not consent to do so by dishonest methods.

Premier Sifton answered the arguments which had been advanced against the bill and stated that no government of which he was a member would enter into negotiations for the construction of a railway with a man who has acted as Clarke has acted in connection with the royal commission. He did not intend to abandon the north country. Mr. Bennett finished the debate with a short speech and the vote was then taken. Mr. Muchiner's amendment being defeated by 27 to 11 and Premier Sifton's motion to give the second reading to the bill was carried by 25 to 14.

The regular business was then taken up and Hon. Mr. Marshall's bill to abolish the sugar beet bonus received its second reading. First readings were given to bills respecting the Alberta



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Reference: The Grain Growers' Guide, Winnipeg

Western Railway, Alberta Northwestern Railway and to incorporate the apostolic syndix of Francis Friars. The first bill provides for the building of a railway from the C.P.R. at a point between Exshaw and Morley, southerly along the valleys of the Kananaskis and Eib rivers to the boundary of Alberta. The second prolongs the time of a railway company chartered in 1906. Acts to amend the Strathcona charter and to incorporate the Westmere & Calgary Suburban Railway were read a second time. The sum total of the past week is nothing done, but possibly the air is cleared up a little and the result may be a large amount of work during the next few days. There is one sure thing, if the legislators do not want to go back again after Christmas they will soon have to get a hustle on and get down to work.

### SETTLERS FOR CANADA

Ottawa, Dec. 9.—During the first five months of the present fiscal year, April to August, inclusive, immigration into Canada totalled 180,330, an increase of 74,748 or 71 per cent., as compared with the corresponding five months of last year. This rate of increase has been steadily maintained all year and even during the present month the new arrivals are surprisingly large. For the last fiscal year the total immigration was 498,794, and according to the present indications the total for the current fiscal year will be between 350,000 and 350,000. Reports of the Canadian immigration agents in Europe and in the United States are very optimistic as to the prospects for a very large influx of immigrants next year. The department expects that the figures for the coming fiscal year will show a total immigration of at least half a million.

### BRITISH ELECTIONS

London, Dec. 12.—The polling results show a monotonous regularity, and the returns today leave the government one seat to the good, the Unionists having gained 21 seats from the government, and the government coalition 22 seats from the Unionists in the election of 221 members out of 670. Lancashire, by increased Unionist and decreased Liberal majorities, is showing a consistent tendency in favor of Unionism, while the

country districts contiguous to London are following the lead of the capital in favor of the Liberals. Thus, Right Hon. Lewis Harcourt retains his seat for Rosendale with a greatly reduced majority, 1,974 votes less than he received in the last election, while Tottenham and Walthamstow in Middlesex and Essex, respectively, give big Liberal votes.

The polling thus far shows no very decided movement in either direction, except such as might be explained by local circumstances. To-morrow's 42 pollings will include a number of Scotch and Welsh constituencies, and will indicate whether Scotland and Wales remain loyal to the government. The following table shows the strength of the various British parties in the last parliament, and the present state of the parties:

Last Parliament	
Liberals .....	275
Labor members .....	40
Nationalists .....	71
Independent Nationalists .....	11
Total government coalition .....	397
Unionists .....	275
Results of Elections for New Parliament to Date	
Liberals .....	191
Labor members .....	35
Irish Nationalists .....	59
Ind. Nationalists .....	6
Total coalition members elected .....	291
Total Unionists elected .....	230
Constituencies to be heard from .....	149
Liberal gains .....	22
Unionist gains .....	21

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