

THREE GREAT SYSTEMS WILL FIGURE IN RAILWAY POLICY

E. W. Thompson, the Best Informed Newspaper Writer on Canadian Subjects in the United States, Forecasts in Boston Transcript Alberta Government's Railway Policy. Comprehensive Review of Accomplishments of Provincial Government in 40 Months.

E. W. Thompson, writing in the Boston Transcript, says: "The Government of Alberta is about to begin a new railway policy which will directly affect the C.P.R. and which may have important results for the Hill system of American roads. Perhaps it is not necessary to tell Transcript readers that Alberta is the Canadian province just eastward of British Columbia, on which it stands out in the Rocky Mountain range. It is rich in coal mines, cattle ranching grounds, gas fields, forests, it possesses what is declared by American experts to be the greatest petroleum areas in the world. But its lands are mostly agricultural. They include the vast unoccupied region called the Peace River country. That is in North America. Many sections of it are separated by a narrow strip of water, the Peace River, which flows northward to the Arctic Ocean. The Grand Trunk Pacific and the Canadian Northern are both under construction to within what may be called sight of that enormous fertile area, now largely retained by the United States. It is thirty years since the first of its districts, seven hundred miles north of Edmonton (which is nearly 400 miles north of latitude 49, or the United States boundary, showed the best wheat exhibited at the World's Fair.

"To bring that almost virgin North under civilization is part of the task set to be undertaken by Alberta's very progressive government, and people for the people there are peculiarly anxious to see the government do it. To explain soon. They intend, at the coming session of the Provincial Legislature, to formulate a financial plan by which branches of the Grand Trunk Pacific and of the Canadian Northern will be added to run northward from Edmonton to Peace River Crossing, and from Edmonton to Fort McMurray, on the Athabasca. These main branches will be each some four hundred miles long. Their northern termini will be separated by some 200 miles, with a branch line linking them. Short feeding branches will necessarily be thrown out, as the country receives settlers. This will open an immense farming tract, open up, and also petroleum fields, gas, coal, beds to which nothing of the far-being regions that will be brought within easy reach.

"In Southern Alberta, mainly a prairie region of grazing and fall wheat farming, the C.P.R. has long held a monopoly of the railway traffic. It is an energetic, public spirited, well managed monopoly, but that does not imply that it holds a monopoly of the people, nor that they would not be the better with competition all along the line. It is not to be doubted that the people will gain profits as well as contentment, besides the pleasure of not being subjected to a dictation from any one set of railway magnates, by the new railway promotions which Alberta will undertake. The Grand Trunk Pacific and the C.N.R. both design early extensions southward to Calgary, while the C.N.R. will extend further south to Lethbridge, the bituminous coal-mining centre, and to Medicine Hat, the oil and gas and ranching regions. From these extensions, which will be each many hundred miles long, branches will promptly be spread by the promotion policy soon to be detailed by Alberta's government. All the roads now in operation in the province will be in branches of the Hill, or American main lines. It follows, as a matter of course, that the development of the Canadian country will bring in branches of the Hill system. Thus a keen competition cannot be established, because the best of all possible monopolies now holds almost undisputed sway.

"A Province With Resources. "Alberta is in a position to push this active railway policy, because the province has handsome revenues, does not owe one cent, and is infallibly enabled to spend a lot more money through creating new sources of provincial revenue by internal development. The new branch lines, in so far as aided provincially, will be essentially provincial assets or investments, yielding revenues indirectly, but none the less surely to the Edmonton treasury.

"How is it that a province which began political existence less than 40 months ago almost without roads, bridges, ferries, telephones and other large conveniences now has all these good things in uncommon abundance, yet owes nothing, and is able to start out on a magnificent, yet very sane railway scheme? The answer cannot be but of large interest to all students of politics. They have talked and have been told over and over again, ad nauseam, that the advantages that come not but accrue from uni-party or no-party government. Well, that is what the sensible people of Alberta learned in September, 1905, when they began political existence practically unbelieved by an organized, rigid, party system. The people had not then been really divided into two hostile and mutually cursing camps. Efforts to so divide them failed in the specified year. They had come, mostly people of the great races (American, Canadian, British, Scandinavian, German, French, Swedish, Norwegian, Icelandic), from all their various native regions recently. They were required to choose men to manage the public affairs suddenly given over to their control by the Ottawa government. They took the common sense course of choosing the best men in sight. It happened that the men were called Liberals, and the Liberal party is therefore entitled to claim credit for the good results. But, in fact, the people set up uni-party or

THE OPENING OF FINAL SESSION

Continued from Page One.

ing this work. Many public buildings have been completed or are in the course of erection. A good beginning has been made of the future-home of this assembly upon the hill above us. The revenues of the province have been handled by the treasury with economy and accuracy. Education has been facilitated all over the province. A large number of the public buildings have been organized and the interests of higher education have been materially advanced. The Agricultural Department has availed itself of the machinery placed at its disposal by various acts and hasatorized action in the development of the wealth of the country. Co-operation both in the production and marketing of agricultural products has brought substantial returns to the pockets of the farmers. The fight against weeds, fire and other pests has been carried out unflinchingly to the general good. Administration of justice has been facilitated and simplified. The Supreme and District Courts acts. Many who had previously to make long and expensive journeys to the courts for adjustment of their affairs now have courts held periodically almost at their doors. Everywhere the new provincial law which is stirring so strongly around us has been guided and fostered. The measures which I have mentioned, together with others which may be introduced, will receive your most careful consideration and that your deliberations will be conducted, as in the past, to the prosperity and well being of the province.

SECOND DISASTER IN MINE IN ONE MONTH

Terrible Explosion in Mine of Pochontas Coal Company in West Virginia Believed to Have Resulted in Death of Over One Hundred Miners—Difficulty of Obtaining Details.

Richmond, Va., Jan. 12.—Over one hundred miners are believed to have lost their lives today as the result of an explosion in the Lick Branch mine, of the Pochontas Consolidated Coal company at Pochontas, about 20 miles from Bluefield, West Virginia. The explosion, which occurred this morning, had owing to the inaccessibility of the mine it has been impossible up to the present time to obtain accurate information as to the cause of the explosion or of the number of disabled men. It is believed that the explosion was caused by a gas leak from a lamp which was in the mine at the time of the explosion. The explosion was judged from the fact that fragments of human bodies and debris were blown from the mine in a radius of several miles apart on each side of a mountain. On entry, there was thrown out a cloud of dust. On the top of the mountain, the flames destroyed small limbs of trees and shrubs. The mountain side trembled from the concussion. The mine and swayed the forest trees upon it.

Foreman Bowers, who was near the entrance, was blown bodily to the ground. The roof of the mine was blown away and the entrance was blocked by a wall of rock. A rescue party was sent from an entry. A rescue party was sent from an entry. A rescue party was sent from an entry.

ESQUIMALT IS CANADA'S

This Naval Base Was Transferred to Canada Three Years Ago.

Ottawa, Jan. 12.—Major General Sir Percy Lake, military adviser of the Canadian government, has been seen in regard to today's Canadian Associated Press dispatch from London regarding the transfer of Esquimalt to Canada. His answer was that there must be some confusion of ideas in London as to the matter. He stated that Esquimalt was transferred to Canada three years ago, and he had not heard of any proposal to make an Esquimalt deal since. It may be said, that there has been some hitch over the transfer of naval yards, but as to that, Sir Percy has not had any information.

Will Decline Parsons.

Washington, Jan. 13.—At the session of the executive committee of the American Federation of Labor which began here today one of the most important matters that will be taken up will be the sentence imposed by Justice Wright on Samuel Gompers, John Mitchell and Frank Morrison, all of whom are officers of the Federation. It is expected that the sessions will continue throughout the week. It is stated that the sentence will be sought by the three officers and that they will decline pardon by President Roosevelt if he should take such action. Labor organizations and individuals in all parts of the United States and Canada have sent letters of protest and a million dollar demand can be raised, if necessary, it is said.

Offered Bribe to Break Pledge.

Portland, Ore., Jan. 12.—The Republican state senators say that without the past 24 hours they have been offered bribes to break their pledge to vote for the candidate for the United States senate who was the choice of the preliminary caucus. This candidate is Governor Chamberlain. To one pledged Republican the offer of \$15,000 was made provided he would not vote for Chamberlain. This offer, the senator says, was made by a man he has known for years and who has been considered an eminently honorable Portland.

Saw Off in Newfoundland.

St. John's, Nfld., Jan. 12.—It is understood that all the election petitions have been abandoned by mutual consent. On February 4, when it is thought the legislature will convene, the parties will be tied.

FOSTER'S WEATHER FORECAST.

He Predicts Great Cold Wave and Blizzard at End of Month.

Washington, D.C., Jan. 13.—Last bullet the gave forecasts of disturbance to cross continent 7 to 11, warm wave 6 to 10, cool wave 9 to 13. This disturbance was expected to cause a great rise in temperatures, the warm wave reaching meridian 90 about 9, to be followed by rain or snow and falling temperatures but not a cold wave. Next disturbance will reach Pacific coast about 11, cross Pacific slope by close of 12, great central valleys 13 to 15, eastern states 16. Warm wave will cross Pacific slope about 11, great central valleys 13, eastern states 14, 14, great central valleys 16, eastern states 17. Cool wave will cross Pacific slope about 14, great central valleys 16, eastern states 17. This disturbance will come during a period of moderate temperatures, but other weather features will be severe. Temperatures will go above the normal in eastern states, and below in western states. A great cold wave will not reach Texas, Utah and western Colorado but it will reach Manitoba, the Dakotas, Minnesota and Illinois and the country lying south of these states. A cool wave and possibly some rain will reach northern Texas about 17 but temperatures will soon go up again. The Ohio valley and all the states and provinces east of a line drawn from Winnipeg to St. Louis will get a bad cold wave, a little later than the rest of the country. The Winnipeg, St. Louis line. This disturbance promises heavy rains or snow within 500 miles westward to one hour. The great planet Jupiter has been in control of our weather since the first time to end of February, but Mercury and Venus will have something to do.

EFFECT OF DEPRESSION.

Exports to and Imports from Britain Show Fall Off.

London, January 13.—Following are the values of exports to and imports from Canada during December, with totals for the year 1929:

Table with columns: Amounts, Values, and various commodity categories like Wheat, Flour, Bacon, etc.

C.P.R. SECURES WISCONSIN.

Report That Canadian Railway Has Acquired U.S. Road.

Chicago, Ill., Jan. 13.—The Examiner prints the following tomorrow, having obtained the information from sources regarded as absolutely authentic: "The Wisconsin Central Railway changed ownership today. The operation which a well-known broker and not less-known financier had on a behalf of the company's capital stock has been exercised, and the road will be turned over to the Canadian Pacific which had employed the two negotiators referred to. The deal, details of which will be given out officially soon, guarantees the four per cent dividend on the preferred stock of the divided announcement of the day of the dividend, the further advance in the preferred stock. On the day of the dividend announcement the stock of the company was thought to be the maximum for an unseasoned dividend payer. But the Canadian Pacific's guarantee explains the further rise. The stock was one of the few exceptions to the weakness that prevailed in the market till the late afternoon, when the week lines became rarities. In the morning the professionals seemingly had a free field and Wisconsin Central rose from 7 1/2 to 7 3/4."

KING ALFONSO TO FLY.

He Wants to Be First monarch to Navigate an Aeroplane.

Paris, Jan. 13.—Alfonso, the King of Spain, has acquired one of the Wright models and is soon to become a pupil of Wilbur Wright. Alfonso has an ambition to live in history as the first monarch who ever navigated the air as pilot of his own aeroplane. When he has finished his course of instruction under Wright he means to travel about the immediate neighborhood of Madrid in an aeroplane instead of an automobile. Representations made by court officials respecting the risk of his life have been voted against him, as the King takes much pride in being up-to-date in matters of sport.

Winnipeg's Power Problem.

Winnipeg, Jan. 13.—The civic power committee met this morning, on the request of the board of trade, to give the street railway company a final opportunity of putting in an amended offer of power, it being stated that this was not acceptable. The committee has adjourned until Saturday, when the case for the company will be presented by counsel. The case will be presented by counsel. The case will be presented by counsel.

Earthquake felt in Cuba.

Havana, Jan. 12.—The seismograph at Belen City registered several shocks this morning. The most severe has been 4.48 a.m., showing 6.30 a.m. A bulletin states that the seismic wave of Dec. 23th, which wrought havoc in Southern Italy, was of but half the duration of the one today, but it was of greater amplitude.

AMALGAMATION OF FARMERS' ASSOCIATIONS CONSUMMATED

Under the Name the United Farmers of Alberta, the Society of Equity and the Alberta Farmers' Association Join Forces. The Minister of Agriculture Present to Cement Union. The New Organization Has Membership of 5,000.

To the tune of "For they are jolly good fellows," the delegates to the S.F.A. convention welcomed the Canadian Society of Equity delegates in McManis Hall, Thursday morning and successfully consummated the long-looked-for amalgamation. With a total membership of 5,000 farmers, the most important organization in the province will hereafter be known as "The United Farmers of Alberta." Joshua Fletcher was moved to the chair pro tem, and E. J. Fram acted as secretary. It was fitting that Hon. W. T. Finlay, minister of agriculture, should be the first to address the union convention. Mr. Geddes humorously suggested that the delegates be divided into two organizations. Mr. Finlay rose to the occasion. He said that the present was one of the happiest moments he had experienced in his official capacity. He felt that the farmers of Alberta, now that they were united, could all look forward to one leader. His absence the previous evening was unavoidable, but he was glad that he had put it off, in order to speak on such an appropriate occasion. "God speed the unity which has risen among you," said Mr. Finlay, "and may your success in the future as farmers of Alberta be even greater than in the past."

Vote Made Unanimous.

The poll was announced with great enthusiasm and on the generous motion of W. Warner of Edmonton and Thos. Woodford of Cardston, the vote was made unanimous. A most magnanimous spirit was displayed for the remainder of the convention. One after another of the "kickers" withdrew their objections in humorous speeches, and one and all hailed the new organization, "The United Farmers of Alberta."

Mr. Geo. Harcourt, deputy minister of agriculture, addressed the gathering and congratulated the A. F. A. on the decision upon which they had agreed. He felt that things were coming the way of the farmers of Alberta with their prospect for a united organization and with the market facilities on the Pacific operating up, and driving across the great markets of the world by the western route. The deputy minister also congratulated the members of the Provincial Board of Agriculture with special reference to the stock judging school and the short agricultural course at Lacombe. This announcement was received with enthusiasm.

Before the meeting closed Secretary Finlay read a communication from Secretary Thayer of the C. S. of E. requesting that a committee of three and the secretary be appointed to meet a similar committee from the sister organization to arrange for the joint convention. This was done and the committee was given instructions to meet the other committee on the following morning at eight o'clock and arrange for the joint meeting which was held this morning at nine o'clock.

Refused to put Vote.

An interruption was made in the day's proceedings owing to the presence of the secretary, he was appointed to meet a similar committee from the sister organization to arrange for the joint convention. This was done and the committee was given instructions to meet the other committee on the following morning at eight o'clock and arrange for the joint meeting which was held this morning at nine o'clock. The question paramount in the minds of the A. F. A. delegates at the afternoon and evening session of Wednesday was that of amalgamation with the Canadian Society of Equity. The convention had the draft constitution before them and every delegate came from the branch societies with the intention of supporting it on general principles, but on the other hand, there was hardly a delegate who did not have instructions to object to certain clauses of the proposed constitution. The result was that when the question came before the convention there were the most diverse opinions as to how it should be handled. Some delegates had had a most unenviable task in his efforts to keep control of the meeting. Anticipating a strenuous session he pleaded at the outset for self-restraint and self control on the part of the delegates and for the most careful consideration of every possible phase of the question. It cannot be said that the first part of his plea was heeded. At times three motions and numerous amendments were before the meeting at one and frequently three and four delegates claimed to have the floor at the same time. The first point made was the unanimous vote that the constitution be accepted on general principles. Then

Secretary's Annual Report.

The annual report of the secretary was laid before the convention as follows: "Gentlemen: Your officers have to report a very successful year in the history of the society. Several important matters have been taken up and are now before the public. The annual convention delegates passed a resolution relating to the government pork packing system. This was laid before the convention as follows: (Continued on Page Four).

Advertisement for The Traders Bank of Canada, featuring capital and surplus of \$6,350,000 and total assets of \$34,000,000. It lists the Edmonton branch manager H. C. Anderson and mentions the bank's long history since 1867.

Vertical advertisement on the left side of the page, containing various notices and business information, including mentions of 'WEARY OF S DICTATION', 'Castro's downfall', and 'Sons'.