THE EDMONTON BULLETIN

(SEMI-WEEKLY.)

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"THE EARLY BIRD," ETC.

The Honorable Robert Rogers, minister of public works in the Manitoba government "bobs up again" as it were, but only long enough to snort, "Contemptible cowardly attempt," and sinks again, as he assures us, into the silence of contempt. The appearance was brief and it is to be hoped he may again emerge to supplement his characteristic ebullition with something more to the point. It is strange too that the only evidence of his rising should be a stream of adjectives at a newspaper, for it was not a newspaper that started the disturbance. Nor was the Honorable Robert the apparent object of the prodding.

The real disturber was a gentleman named Potts, barrister, etc., of the city of Winnipeg. This gentleman conceived himself to be wrongfully denied the possession, use and benefit of certain monies due and payable to him by the Canadian Pacific Railway company. Wherefore, he asked the courts of the land to compel the said company to come through with the cash. Whereupon the said newspaper, being a newspaper and hearing of the news, published it. Whreat the Honorable Robert manifested his perturbation in the afore-mentioned brief but unmistakeable fashion.

Why is this? Cannot a solicitor sue the Canadian Pacific Railway for fees alleged to be due him without sending vibrations to the depths of Manitoba's political pool and bringing its leviathans spluttering to the surface? The connection is fairly clear from the article in the Free Press, the newspaper which incurred the displeasure of Mr. Rogers.

According to this authority the story runs thus: Mr. Potts acted for the Canadian Pacific in arranging the settlement of the dispute with their employees, for which service he charged or proposed to charge the company $20,000. Having mentioned the sum to Mr. Rogers, that gentleman, according to the same authority, invited Mr. Potts to accompany him to Montreal to "call" upon Sir Thomas Shaughnessy. The trip was duly made and an audience arranged with the president for 11 a.m. But when Mr. Potts came down to breakfast in the morning he found a note informing him that the Honorable Robert had been called to Toronto on important business. Mr. Rogers was astir early that morning it would seem. Mr. Potts proceeded to the president's office alone, however; but was there informed that Mr. Rogers had obligingly collected the $20,000 for him—and presumably taken it to Toronto. The Queen city did not long hold the Manitoba statesman, however. He heard the call of the west, and returned to Manitoba to throw himself with enthusiasm into the Federal election campaign, devoting his oratory particularly to the unwisdom of the project of building the Grand Trunk Pacific railway.

Subsequently, according to the Free Press, Mr. Potts repeatedly demanded the little sum from the obliging Mr. Rogers, but in vain. Wherefore, Mr. Potts sues the C. P. R.; the Free Press publishes the story and Mr. Rogers comes up long enough to blow.

It is to be hoped the verification of the story is not thwarted by a settlement out of court. It is worthy a place in the annals of our political history and future generations should not be denied the benefit of perusing it in duly attested form. Whether they be defrauded in this manner or not one thing stands clear: The Honorable Robert Rogers is a firm believer in the honored maxim that "The early bird catches the worm."

IN SELF-DEFENCE.

The law does not take human life for vengeance sake. Revenge is no more tolerable morally in a people than in an individual, nor is its result a whit more defensible. The law is merely the expression of the public will and must rest upon a moral basis or stand unjustified. If men were hanged through vengeance the authors of their death were murderers, no matter how many millions they might number, and regardless absolutely that the crime was committed under the guise and in the form of a law. It is not in any degree to "get even" with a murderer that a nation hangs him.

Neither is "Capital punishment" a punishment merely, for an offence committed. If so it is a hopeless and notorious failure. The death "penalty" leaves its victim no opportunity for amendment, and a punishment which does not provide both scope and inducement for reform is either barbarously cruel or hopelessly misconceived. The end of punishment is correction, and without that end punishment of any kind or degree cannot be justified. Killing a man and "punishing" him are inconsistent terms, for punishment involves the idea of teaching a better order of conduct on the part of the one punished.

The justification of the death penalty must rest on the necessity of social self-defence. The murderer is an enemy to society. If he were treated leniently, even in hope of reforming him, the leniency of his treatment would be misconstrued by others into an encouragement for imitating his crime. It is not so much on account of the murder that has been done that the murderer is hanged as on account of those which probably would be done if murder were treated in any but a severe manner. The safety of human life is the end of the capital-punishment law. To accomplish this supreme end the penalty has been made that considered most likely to impress men with the horrible nature of the crime of murder and most likely to deter them from it. The infliction of the penalty is a justifiable homicide, committed by the people of the nation in self-defence.

ANOTHER COMMISSION MAKES GOOD.

Houston, Texas, adds its testimony to the efficiency of the commission form of city government. The city was driven to the adoption of the system by waste and dishonesty that existed under the old regime and like Galveston has found the new plan a marked improvement on the old one. Following is a statement recently published of the results of the change:—

"Since they took office, Mayor Rice and his four associates have relieved Houston of a floating debt of $400,000; have created a sinking fund to take care of the bonded debt; have invested nearly $700,000 in permanent public service improvements out of current revenue; have bought the waterworks system and made it yield a profit aboe all charges, besides reducing rates and saving the city $2,500 a month in hydrant rentals; have driven out pool rooms and gamblers; greatly multiplied the paved streets and prepared the way for further enterprises in the way of storm drainage, sanitary sewerage, free municipal wharves, and the organization of a navigeble district which will yield returns into the tens of millions.

"Houston was driven to government by commission, as Galveston had been driven, three years earlier, by municipal waste and cheap grafting under the old ward system. The two Texas though that which happes in their affairs are now national examples, fairs is the simples and most logical thing imaginable. It is only that the people are regarded as stockholders and the municipal business is conducted for their benefit in business-like fashion."

THE "RAKE-OFF" LAW.

A group of gentlemen prominent in its party were interested no doubt in this editorial which appeared in the Toronto Mail and Empire a few days ago:—

"Under a statute passed at the last session of parliament the giving of "secret commissions" is made an offence punishable by fine or imprisonment. The new law states that everyone is liable to be punished in the manner mentioned who, being an agent, corruptly accepts or agrees to accept any gift or consideration for doing or forbearing to do any act relating to the affairs of his employer or principal, or for showing favrs with relating to his pricipal's business.

"Another clause declares that the person who gives the commission to an employee or agent as an inducement to do some act, or to show favor in the transacting of the business of the employer or principal, shall also be guilty of an offence. A third clause makes the issuing of false invoices to cover up the favor that has been shown an offence punishable just as the other offences are. This legislation has been taken from the English law on the subject of secret commissions and is aimed at a practice that was very prevalent in the United Kingdom for years. There the tipping system passed from one phase to another, until finally a clerk purchasing for the firm by which he was employed would not resist the offer of a sum of money to throw the business to this or that vendor. There also the agent who gave orders, say, for work required by his principal, usually a real estate owner, would expect all persons who received orders from him to allow him a "rake-off." This system became in time to general that it was looked upon as regular. Then the law stepped in, and now an agent must accept nothing, and a person who does work or supplies goods on the order of an employee or agent must give nothing. The principle laid down in the English law is correct. No agent ought to accept a favor from the party to whom he is giving business in behalf of his employer. A gift blindeth the eye, and a "rake-off" of this kind is certainly calculated to transfer the allegiance of the employee from his employer to the man who pays him for the purchases he makes.

There is reason to believe that the new law prohibits secret rebates or commisions to merchants. A wholesale firm cannot pretent to be selling at one price and at the same time make a reduction by manipulating the invoice or allowing something in a roundabout way in favor of any particular party. Merchants can sell at what price they please, but they must not pretend either in invoices or books to be selling at a price different to that they are really receiving. The law is sweeping, and it is as well to be ready to observe it."

LIVE STOCK OF THE DOMINION.

Newspaper readers have often heard lately of the unsatisfactory state of the live stock industry of Canada, principally by the evidence given before different commissions appointed at various times to enquire into matters.

We have heard of numbers of men going out of the live stock business altogether, others ceasing to breed cattle, more who have ceased to keep any hogs. We have, however, never had this deplorable state of things brought more forcibly to notice than by the news published in Tuesday's issue, showing the startling decrease in the live stock of the Dominion from the figures of a year ago.

It is appalling to think that this country, which prides itself upon being an ideal stock country, should show such a remarkable decrease in all meat animals.

It is useless to attempt to mitigate the evil by pointing to a shortage also in the States. The causes for any decrease in that country are easily discernible and in no way concern us at the moment.

What is the reason for the deplorable state of things with us? The cause has been known for years to everyone who has taken an intelligent interest in these matters. It is simply and solely the lack of a steady and remunerative market for our stock. Commission after commission has been appointed to enquire into matters and suggest a remedy, but until we had the report of the chilled meat committee nothing of a practical nature was suggested that seemed likely to put an end to this unsatisfactory state of things.

We have in Great Britain the finest market in the world for all kinds of first class quality of food stuffs, goods which this country can supply in abundance. As far as our cattle are concerned, we have neglected to take advantage of it, other than by sending a few head yearly on the hoof, a method which is admitted by everyone to be crude and antiquated, and has consequently in every country but our own, been largely superceded by the more scientific and up-to-date method of sending the animal dead, and building up all sorts of subsidiary industries in the exporting country, on the bye-products.

Our friends in the States have built up a chilled beef trade in twenty years from nothing to some thirty millions worth per annum, to say nothing of the enormous value of the packing house products exported, amounting to over two hundred millions a year.

The farmers of this western country have for years realized the enormous advantage the inauguration of this industry would mean. At the same time the thinking men of the community have always felt that to achieve the greatest amount of good, it was most essential that the industry should be established on sound lines under government control and entirely removed from the grip of trusts and monopolies.

The scheme submitted to the Federal minister of agriculture by the chilled meat committee seems to meet with the general approval of the west. It is felt that it contains the principles necessary for the building up of a large and ever-increasing export trade, and one which would be of enormous value, not only to the producer, but the country as a whole.

The capital required to commence the business in the smallest possible way compatible with success is estimated at about two millions. This would provide for two small but complete plants, and five smaller works or feeders, placed in the principal stock producing centres of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

The Government is asked to guarantee one and a half millions of the capital in 4 per cent. bonds. For this assistance the Government is given control of the industry and the capital in such manner as to protect the producer for all time. In addition, the co-operative principle is introduced, as after receiving the highest price for his stock, the producer further participates in the manufacture and marketing of the finished product, to the extent of half the profit, after 4 per cent. has been paid on the guaranteed bonds, and the reasonable interest of 8 per cent. on the balance of the subscribed and unsecured stock. This would give the producer an interest in the concern, and a fair share in the development of the industry. Thus a tangible incentive would be given, not only to produce, but to finish stock, which does not now exist, and never has existed in this country.

The stimulus which would result, together with the advantages and value of an organized dead meat export trade established on these lines, would be enormous and of a far-reaching nature, benefiting as it undoubtedly would not only the ranchers and farmers but the whole community.

VARIOUS VIEWS

Lethbridge Herald—Did anybody gain anything by the recent strike? The city of Lethbridge which had to pay more than $6,000 more than usual for coal says, "No," emphatically.

Montreal Witness—By establishing the degree of Bachelor of Agricultural Science McGill university has given scholastic recognition to the oldest of all sciences. Agriculture is the basis of everything on which human and animal existence depends. Everyone who cultivates the ground has a smattering of the science gained by experience and almost wholly empirical. Ignorance, however, of the fundamental principles of agriculture has prevailed in the past in Canada and the United States, where virgin fields have been cropped to sterility for producing grain. As a consequence the grain growing area has passed by regular gradation from the east to the middle, then to the western states, and has now moved on to the Canadian northwestern provinces. In Canada the same process is continued. In this province the fields that formerly produced grain are now devoted to the growing of hay. In some of the neighboring states the deterioration of the soil is still more marked. In Virginia the larger part of the eastern section of the state, once a veritable garden producing corn, cotton and tobacco in luxuriant abundance, is now desolate from exhaustion. The state of New York has many abandoned farms from the same cause. Similar conditions exist throughout the New England states and are not unknown in the province. Farmers have died off, or gone west. Their sons and daughters have gone to the manufacturing centres. Failing crops, the attractions of city life, ignorance of the value of land and of how to restore its fertility were chief among the causes for this decline of agriculture. According to Mr. J. J. Hill the same process is going on in the west even to the limit of the grain-bearing region once described as illimitable.

Toronto Globe—The people of this city have an unforgetable grievance against that irreconcilable belligerent, the Toronto News. It published the other day a minute catalogue of the fortresses which loom along the frontier between us and the United States, and omitted altogether the New Fort, which frowns in gloomy strength on the waters of Lake Ontario. It omitted all mention of its paralyzing parapet, its awful abattis (or abattoir, is it?), its steep stockade, its deadly ditch, its chilling cheval de frise, its grinning gabions, and its eternal escarpment on whose glittering glacis no foeman's foot has trod. Why is this? Why should Kingston's bulwarks be lauded (which it might be whispered, were it not treasonable, face the wrong way), and ours not even mentioned? Why was that formidable Vauban-like structure which terrifies Niagara's tide on the American side of the river given a place of honor and our own dear stronghold neglected? If the American guns at the head of Lake Champlain point north, by jiminy ours point south—both of them. The News informs the public that the interior of Fort Montgomery "is scrupulously denied to visitors." There is where our system is better. The youth of Toronto from earliest childhood become familiar with warlike things. One of the joys of a summer evening is riding the big guns and fondling the fancy pyramids of shells that look so pretty along the lake's embankment. We throw ours open to everybody, with the consequence that our strength and inaccessibility have gone forth to all the nations. This being so, there was no excuse for hiding our light under a bushel. We back the New Fort against all comers.

Toronto Star: "One woe doth tread upon another's heels, so fast they follow." The German peril is now to give place to an American peril. Judge Wilhelm Schwartze, a member of the Reichstag, has written an article entitled "Europe for the Europeans," in which he urges Great Britain and Germany to abandon their mutual suspicions, trade competitions and national rivalries, and league themselves against their common enemy across the water, the United States. The United States are a peril for all Europe. The American dollar will annihilate the English shilling and the German mark, unless Europe sets up its own Monroe doctrine of Europe for the Europeans. If Germany and Great Britain fight, the United States of America will be the "laughing heir of both" and will capture Canada.

In this warning there is a certain element of truth. The United States possess two advantages over the disunited States of Europe. One is that free trade exists between the United States, giving their manufacturers the advantage of an enormous home market, while the countries comprising the continent of Europe are divided by hostile tariffs. The other is that the States of the American Union do not maintain hostile armies against each other, while the countries of Europe are all heavily armed, each fearing, or professing to fear an attack from its neighbor. The people of the United States spend a good deal of money on military preparations, but considering the resources and the extent of the country, the burden is light compared with that of Europe. The United States has a very high protective tariff, but it is a fence around a huge area within which free trade prevails.

If Europe is afraid of American competition, her right course is to disband nine-tenths of her armed forces, and to bring about a commercial union of the European powers.

But when Judge Schwartze talks about the United States as the enemy of Europe, he falls into an error which is common with those who treat nations, empires and communities as if they were quarrelsome neighbors. The source of the strength of the United States lies in its enormous power of production. No European combination can lessen this power, or prevent the growth of the United States. But, on the other hand, this power is not a menace to Europe, but a benefit to Europe and the whole world. The real interests of nations, in the main, are common, not conflicting; the more a nation helps itself, by cultivating the soil, by producing manufactures, by advancing in civilization, the more it helps its neighbors.

Bain Wagons are best for Alberta.

AREONAUTIC FACT AND FANCY.

Winnipeg Free Press—The Scientific American draws the line sharply between fact and fancy in regard to aeronautics. "The present indications," it says, "are that the airship and aeroplane of the future, even when they have been developed to their ultimate perfection, will find their field of usefulness exclusively in the work of scouting and the carrying of despatches." It points out further that in order to avoid prompt destruction by specially designed artillery a military airship must operate at so great an elevation that accurate aim at a ship or a fort would be utterly impossible. Even without an international agreement to forbid the dropping of torpedoes, that form of warfare seems to be entirely out of the question.

For observation of an enemy's position and strength, however, a self-propelled airship promises to be more useful than an old fashioned spherical balloon, held captive or left free to drift with the wind. It is possible that a dirigible balloon or an aeroplane might also be employed advantageously to carry despatches. Perhaps the worst aeronautic nonsense, however, is that of assuming that aerial transportation lines for freight and passengers are about to be established on a commercial basis.

A CENTURY OF PEACE.

Montreal Star—The proposal of Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King that Canada and the United States should celebrate in some striking fashion their "hundred years of peace" is an idea which should not be dismissed without consideration. We are constantly commemorating the triumphs of war. Battlefields, dismantled fortresses, renowned battleships are the scenes of our most impossible ceremonies and inspiring orations until the gaping lads who listen are imbued with the notion that only in war are great deeds done and that fights are the only events worth commemorating. The effect of this insidious teaching upon generation after generation cannot be measured. If war alone is to be lauded, peace comes to wear a sort of ignoble air. It is comfortable and inglorious.

Now ardent spirits touched with the magic of youth are drawn mightily to the glorious. Whatever mature age might decide, most of us on the sunny side of twenty-five would make the choice of Achilles for a short and glorious life. We are prodigal of years when the light of dawn still shines about us; and the dazzle of glory attracts our young eyes as the flame does the moth. Now this being true, what fruits do we expect to gather from this constant glorification of war and its exploits and this perpetual ignoring of peace and its triumphs Will we not teach the young, who contribute much of the motive power to the movements of the nations, that war, while possibly dangerous and certainly costly, is not an unmixed evil; and that, if they hope to have their names remembered after they are dead, they must find some opportunity to win reputation at the cannon's mouth

As an offset to this, a great international celebration of a century of peace might have an effect. The young of that time would see that peace was not after all something of which we were a trifle ashamed—a luxury which we indulged in at the expense of our manhood. Let us grow enthusiastic over peace occasionally and not save all our rhetoric for the blazing deeds of war. "Peace sitting under her olive and slurring the days gone by," is not a pretty picture of the condition which, in all truth, is the sole purpose of any war. War is not made for war's sake, but for the attainment of peace. Our heavy armaments are borne that they may secure peace. Our bloodiest battles are fought that peace may come in permanence. We all know this; but we should get together occasionally and say so.

BAD MAN CAUGHT.

Companion Says He is Wanted for Two Murders.

Calgary, July 12.—Among the party of negroes who were arrested last night for gambling, was one man who gave his name as John Webster. This man, if the story told to the police is true, is wanted on two murder counts, one in Saskatchewan and one in some other part of the country. It appears that one of the negroes split on Webster and told the story of his being wanted. He is now being held pending investigation by the police. The chief of police is reticent regarding this matter, for he has not yet got much more to work on besides the story of the negro who told him.

To Electrify Jap Roads.

Seattle, Wash., July 12.—S. Kondo, chief of the electrical department of the Japanese department of communication, has arrived in Seattle on his way home from a tour of Europe and the United States to study electric railways. "It will be a matter of a short time," he said, "until all the railroads in Japan are operated by electricity."

Suffragettes Fined.

London, July 12.—Fourteen suffragetes, who smashed the windows of the government offices in the big raid on parliament on June 29 were arraigned today and fined five pounds apiece or a month's imprisonment.

NO SUNDAY CARS UNTIL NEXT MAY

But Beginning the First of September Cars Will Be Run to Meet All Trains on Sunday.

Apart from the question of inefficient water supply, the most important matter discussed by the Edmonton city council at their committe Monday night was the Sunday operation of the street cars.

In answer to an enquiry at last meeting, Superintendent Taylor submitted a report stating that the street railway department was ready to operate Sunday street cars as soon as the council considered it necessary and advisable to do so.

In answer to a question, Commissioner McNaughton said that at present the city was not in a position to satisfactorily operate, as the Sundays were required to fix up the machinery after the week's run. The new plant would be ready to operate in six weeks, however, if thought necessary, as the engine would then be ready.

Superintendent Taylor was asked if he thought it advisable to start in September next. He replied that it would be better to start next May. The expenses of Sunday operation would be one and a half times as great as on week days. In summer the traffic would be good, but in winter poor. He was in favor, however of meeting all the Sunday trains as soon as possible.

Inquiry was made as to what action Strathcona had taken with reference to passing a by-law taking a plebiscite upon Sunday operation. Mayor Lee replied that the aldermen of Strathcona had agreed to the plebiscite if the cost were paid by Edmonton. This was agreed to and it was understood that a vote would be taken with other by-laws, early in July. This was not done, however, and nothing had been heard since with reference to the matter..

A motion was passed that on and after September 1st all trains both in Edmonton and Strathcona be met on Sundays. The regular operation will not commence until next May. The proposed operation on September 1st will not be affected by Strathcona failing to take a plebiscite.

BIG LAND SALE.

Average Over Eleven Dollars Per Acre Paid.

Lethbridge, July 12.—The figures of the greatest land sale ever held in America and probably in the world, have been given out. There were 136,624 acres sold in 856 parcels for $1,506,291.79, an average of $11.60 per acre. This land was good, bad and indifferent, scattered over an area of 108 miles by 72 miles, some of it 50 and 60 miles from a railroad. The prices are considered very high under such circumstances, and other land values are being raised as a result.

The buyers had money with them to buy two or three times as much, had it been available. The O. W. Kerr company, who have been operating largely here for three years, bought 90 quarters. The Alberta Securities Company, which buys and develops large areas, got over 30 quarters; E. B. Tainter and W. F. Annable, both of Taber, bought between 50 and 60 quarters. The E. S. Mason Land Company, with headquarters here, bought heavily south of Bow Island and Grassy Lake. Leffingwell and Eagen bought 30 quarters in the Warner district.

All the land for sale within 20 miles of a railroad was bought except a few broken and rough pieces along the river banks. Prices ranged from $7 to $14 per acre, the latter being paid for part of a townsite at the first station west of Lethbridge on the new line. Two whole sections went for over $50 per acre. The buyers expressed perfect satisfaction with the conduct of the sale by Inspectors Ingram and Potts and Auctioneer T. C. Norriss, who were cheered by the buyers at the conclusion of the sale. The farmers got a square deal from the dealers, who let them have the land they wanted without opposition, so that much good land went very cheap.

Lightning Caused Two Deaths.

Pentanguishene, July 12.—Theodore Moreau, Joseph Lalende and Thomas Nault were building a cottage on a small island near Maxwell Island on Saturday and during an electric storm sought refuge under the veranda. The lightning struck the building and it went down. One of the posts killed Moreau and Lalende. Nault had moved a little to one side and was only stunned. Moreau's watch had a hole burned into it near the stem.

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