

## The West

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 1909.

### More Ministers.

The Canadian Courier in a recent edition says that the provincial cabinet of Saskatchewan may be increased to six. We do not know on what they base their supposition, but people of the province sometimes have to go far off to obtain inner government circle news. The crop estimate of 1908 appeared in the Toronto Globe before it appeared in even the government's own organ, and so the intentions of Premier Scott may in this case have been given to the editor of the Canadian Courier.

In referring to the subject of more cabinet ministers the Moose Jaw News says:

It seems improbable that a sixth Minister will be added in the near future, though one cannot predict with certainty what an opportunist like Premier Scott may do. It is, however, undeniable that the present grouping of the ministers is unsatisfactory to the province, being tolerated by the Liberal party because of political exigencies. Four out of five ministers from the north gives that portion of the province a preponderance in the cabinet councils which is utterly unwarranted. Within a triangle, the sides of which are less than forty-five miles in length, and the angles Saskatoon, Duck Lake and Humboldt are to be found three ministers.

If, instead of being noted for its magnificent distances this were a cramped and cabined province, the present allocation of the ministers might be justified. But the sight of the north country, which has probably less than 150,000 people, represented by four ministers, while the extreme southeast corner, containing 100,000, has not a single ministerial representative, is sufficient to move the most supine to protest.

It may be that the sixth minister, of which the Courier speaks, will come from the southeast. We have long had a suspicion that something was contemplated in that quarter. Who can tell? In the meantime it behooves all persons who believe sincerely in the principle of proportionate representation to demand that the south-east be recognized. It contains the bulk of the pioneers of the province. Its people are among the most intelligent and prosperous in the west; two conditions which so make for stable government as to call for immediate and ample representation.

### Investigate Expenditure.

Since the retirement of J. Lorne Macdougall, the people of Canada have felt that they were not getting full and proper value for the money expended. There seems to be too much politics and not enough business brought to, bear in the administration. As a check on the expenditures the Toronto News makes the following suggestion:

Effective work is done by the British public accounts committee because it really examines the report of the auditor general. Moreover, the chairman is always a member of the opposition. Too often in Ottawa the chairman and the government majority regard all examinations of the accounts as a wicked Tory attack on a blameless administration. Investigation is blocked and there is developed an electric atmosphere which badly affects the temper of the members. The oppositionists are steeped in suspicion and the ministerialists assume an attitude of indignant de-

finance. Each side, in the words of the National Anthem, is bent upon frustrating the knavish tricks and confounding the politics of the other. In Britain the items in the report of the auditor general are taken up serially. Here a few apparently juicy plums are picked out by the opposition members and papers are demanded. There would be no time for "gallery plays" on either side if the committee had to study the reasonableness of each item of expenditure in the report. The work takes from thirty to forty days in Britain. With the method now in vogue in Ottawa it would take thirty or forty years to get similar results.

As a matter of fact politics should have as little to do with the public accounts committee as with the private bills committee. It should be possible to examine the expenditures in a reasonable way. The government would gain strength by facilitating inquiry. But after all wouldn't it be better to place the estimates under the microscope? If a committee were appointed to find out the reasonableness of the proposed appropriations the labors of the public accounts committee might be greatly lessened. It is better to prevent extravagance than to exclaim over it after the money is spent.

The Civil Service Commission displayed good business sense when it said: "Your commissioners would suggest, though it is not the case either here or in Great Britain, that from the House of Commons a small committee be created to be called the 'Estimates Committee,' to which the estimates might be referred for examination before being passed upon by the House, and that such committee should have power to call for persons and papers if considered desirable; the committee to be in the nature of an examining committee to ascertain full particulars of the several votes asked for and any explanation that may be desired. This procedure would in all probability relieve the House from the delays now occurring in committee of supply and would tend to shorten the sessions."

No government is anxious to be extravagant. Here is a chance to check extravagance and to economize the time of the House at the same time. It is worthy of the premier's serious consideration.

### Won't Tolerate Asiatics.

There can be no doubt as to the position the business men of Prince Rupert, B.C., take on the Asiatic question. On the certificate of membership of the members of the Board of Trade of that place is printed the following paragraph in red ink: "No person who is an employer of Asiatic labor is eligible to become a member, and any person who is a member and who employs Asiatic

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THIS, and much more was written by Mr. G. W. Howerton, Clark's Gap, W. Va. We would like to send you a full copy of his letter, or you might write him direct. His case was really marvellous, but is only one of the many proofs that

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labor shall cease to be a member and his name shall be struck from the roll of members."

### Editorial Notes

The Grain Growers will now have to devise some scheme which can more easily be financed by the western provinces.

Messrs. Mackenzie & Mann are saying nice things to the governments of Saskatchewan and Alberta. Watch the results in the legislature.

Ontario Liberals are looking for a new provincial leader. Hon. A. G. McKay hopes to cast his mantle on Rev. J. A. Macdonald, editor of the Toronto Globe.

A dispatch from the north announces that W. W. Rutan, M.P. of Melfort, has disposed of his hardware business in order to devote all of his time to politics. Now wouldn't that jar anyone?

On January 1st citizens of Toronto voted for a reduction in the number of licensed hotels. There were 150 licenses granted last year. According to the vote this number is to be reduced by 40.

The ignorance of many United States papers regarding matters Canadian is deplorable. When the New York Globe and Commercial Advertiser published its account of Longboat's victory over Dorando, it contained in its headlines the statement that: "Canada, the country without a flag is not without a runner."

### Press Comment

(Ottawa Journal)  
Mr. Pugsley has been telling the people of St. John that owing to the necessity for retrenchment public works which he had promised St. John before the election, must be postponed for the present. Mr. Pugsley is to be commended for postponing works for which the government has no money. But when he made the promises he knew that there would be no money and that there was small chance of his being able to redeem the promise. In such a case another man would have withheld the promises. But Mr. Pugsley used the promises as so many bribes for votes and he got the votes. His part of the obligation he blandly waves aside.

(Ottawa Citizen)

The latest championship prize fight seems to have been a low-class and brutal affair. The negro-Johnston is physically almost a giant, and in height, weight and reach Burns, the Canadian was no match for him. Johnston has been trying to secure acceptance of his challenge by white men for some years past, but even in prize fighting certain lines are drawn though probably it was the herculean brute force of the Texas negro, rather than his science, or any social considerations, that caused former wearers of the belt to be fastidious. There are colored men and colored men; Peter Jackson was a pretty decent individual, but Johnson comes nearer being pure brute. Burns was evidently tempted to go up against him by the offer of a purse of \$35,000, \$30,000 of which was to go to Burns in case of a win. It must be said of the

Canadian that he gave them value for their money, and was still pounding himself against the negro's fists when the police stopped the fight. At the same time it was not an edifying spectacle that the promoters of the fair secured, if prize fights can be edifying spectacles, when they presented to a crowd of 20,000 Australians the sight of a plucky white man 5 feet 7 inches tall, and weighing 168 pounds, being battered and taunted and insulted, by a negro 7 inches taller and 30 pounds heavier. In "professional circles" there was never any doubt as to the result, but the general public, banking on Burns' reputation, bet on him heavily at odds and those on the inside must have made a lot of money. The statement that Burns backed himself is very doubtful judging from the stipulation he made regarding the prize money. In the whole disreputable business, the best that can be said is that the Canadian delivered the goods, and never shirked his punishment.

(Saskatoon Phoenix)

The western premiers are certainly up against a disturbing proposition in the proposal that the government should buy out the internal elevators. But they have given a very decided refusal to the proposal. It is a purely socialistic scheme, and in a country where there are such vast numbers of small property owners it is next to impossible to carry out the socialistic ideal logically.

The farmer who calls for the nationalization of the elevator today because he wants it, must be prepared sooner or later for the demand for the nationalization of his farm, because his hired man wants a more equal share of the product of his labor.

It is a poor rule that will not work both ways, and the man who allows himself to become persuaded of an idea that they would like to destroy private enterprise in one department of life, must not be disappointed if it comes to their turn to yield up something to further the idea.

We do not bank much on the socialistic idea in politics at all. It is almost entirely visionary, and depends for success upon a perfect condition of mind and morals, which is as yet far away on the horizon of human possibilities. To attempt to create satisfaction amongst farmers or any other class by erecting machinery requiring absolutely unselfish and angelic men to work it, is simply attempting too much.

(Victoria Colonist)

It is announced from London that science has hurled a terrible epithet against the suffragettes. Writing in the Times, Dr. A. E. Shipley, the eminent zoologist of Cambridge, affirms that their conduct revives the peculiar mental disorder known in the Middle Ages as Tarantism. He writes in no sense of levity, but makes his cruel, scientific analogy in these terms: "From an account of the meeting at Albert Hall on December 5, under the presidency of Lady McLaren, I am inclined to think that we are witnessing a revival of those recondite mental disorders which afflicted so many western countries 500 years ago. In more severe cases were there howlings, screaming and jumpings, and the patients afflicted, although they had not complete control of their understandings, yet were sufficiently composed to obey the directions, they had received. The persistent, monotonous and rhythmical utterances of a word or a short sentence and the abandonment of self-control were equally characteristic of the disorder. Paracelsus, who dwelt learnedly on the treatment, recommended that the patient should be deprived of her liberty, placed in solitary confinement and made to sit uncomfortably. He

attempted to allay the excitement of the nerves by immersion in cold water."

(Winnipeg Tribune)

"There are evidently going to be things done" in the railway business in the west during the coming year. Those wonderful railway magicians and financial prestidigitators, Messrs. Mackenzie and Mann, are now here in conference with Premier Scott of Saskatchewan and Premier Rutherford of Alberta. Inasmuch as Mr. Scott announced during the recent campaign that he had become converted to Mr. Roblin's plan of getting railways by guaranteeing bonds, and that he intended to adopt the same plan for his province, it may be taken for granted some big scheme looking to the construction of railroads upon that plan is being evolved. It may also be assumed with mathematical certainty, that Barkus, in the person of Mackenzie & Mann, will be found to be "willing." One thing is sure, that in past years they have always been found to be willing, and a pretty good killing they made of it.

Premier Rutherford of Alberta is also said to be anxious to build roads in his new province of Alberta and if he is ready to turn over the credit of his province to Barkus, he may be quite sure that a deal can be made. If the western provinces would join together in a scheme of public ownership of railways and own and operate themselves what they are paying for, they would be in a much better position than if they guaranteed bonds galore for railways which they neither own nor control.

### The Pope's Apparition.

Rome, Jan. 3.—There is much expressed excitement in church circles over reports that the Pope has seen various apparitions recently. The Italia declares that while praying on Christmas night in his private oratory, Pius was visited by the Virgin Mary who spoke to him. Those in the ante-room heard her voice. The story was contradicted the following day by the Correspondenza Romana, but the denial does not silence, and does not silence the public who talk of other visions that the Pope is said to have seen.

London, Jan. 2.—A news agency correspondent says that Monsignor Boudouresque, a papal secretary when asked at the Vatican about the story that the Pope had a vision of the Virgin Mary, replied, "Not only is the story correct, but I can assure you that we are gathering proof that Pius X. has performed several miracles. His holiness does not wish the matters to be spoken of, but they are already known to several persons."

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### Free Press Souvenir.

Not many people are aware that the annual export of caviar from Lake Winnipeg to Hamburg, which is the chief caviar market of the world is of the value of from \$10,000 to \$15,000. Fewer still are aware that much of the Lake Winnipeg caviar comes back to this side of the Atlantic in one pound, half pound and quarter pound jars and tins, labelled as the Russian article. By gosh, it makes the world over, caviar is greatly relished as an appetizer. King Edward is particularly fond of caviar sandwiches at luncheons.

A handsome little enamelled tin of caviar from Lake Winnipeg was sent out by the Winnipeg Free Press, in pursuance of its annual custom of marking the Christmas season by the distribution of a western Canadian souvenir to the newspapers of Canada, the United States and Great Britain. This makes the eighth of these annual souvenirs, the one for Christmas, 1907, having been a miniature barrel of flour made at the Hudson's Bay company's mill at Vermilion, 1,492 miles northwest of

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## GRAIK SASK

Winnipeg, from wheat grown in the Peace River country. The Christmas 1908, souvenir is accompanied, like the predecessors, by an artistic booklet, with numerous illustrations, the cover design being the reproduction of a water color picture of a Lake Winnipeg scene. In addition much interesting and valuable information about western Canada, it contains some curious facts about caviar, given in print for the first time.

Caviar is the roe of the sturgeon prepared as a table delicacy. Shakespear makes Hamlet speak of it as a dish too rare to be known by the generality of people, and the flavor of which could not be relished by an uneducated palate. No finer sturgeon are caught anywhere in the world than in Lake Winnipeg. It is not generally known by the way, that Lake Winnipeg has an area of about 9,000 square miles, and that its total coast line is longer than that of any of the great lakes, except Lake Superior. There is not in this continent contained wholly within the boundaries of any one province or state, a body of water at all approaching it in magnitude. Last year's catch of fish on Lake Winnipeg amounted to 8,000,000 pounds, making, at an average value of 5 cents a pound, a total value of \$400,000. Western Canada thus yields other harvests than those that are reaped from its fertile soil.

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