

The West

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1908

Political Rumors

A number of political rumors have been going around lately which would seem to indicate a change in the personnel of the provincial government. One rumor is to the effect that J. A. Calder will try election in Saskatchewan. Mr. A. P. McNab retiring to make room for him. At the same time it is stated W. C. Sutherland, M.L.A. for Saskatchewan county will get an appointment in the senate or on the bench, and that J. Aikin, editor of the Saskatchewan Phoenix, will run for that seat. Another rumor is that Hon. Walter Scott will be taken into the Laurier cabinet and given the Interior portfolio succeeding Hon. Frank Oliver who will succeed the late Mr. Greenway on the railway commission. Still another report announces that J. A. Calder will retire from Saskatchewan politics and take a position as deputy minister to one of the departments at Ottawa.

What do all these rumors and report mean? Outside of being ordinary feelers there must be something in them. There seems to be no doubt but that this province is Liberal in federal party politics. There is no doubt also but that the party has little confidence in the provincial party leaders. If the heads of the provincial party enjoyed the confidence of the people why would it be necessary to keep two ministers in office for three months without finding their constituencies. Is it possible that the provincial liberals have embarrassed the local premier and that, added to his own conduct during the provincial campaign, has decided him to retire altogether from Saskatchewan politics. As for Mr. Calder, no one will regret his departure from provincial politics, not even the Liberals. He has become a very much disliked man, and any shuffle which would rid the province of him would be hailed with delight by the Liberals.

There is no doubt but that there is something in the wind, but not being in the confidence of the Liberals we will have to await developments.

Canada's Position

In discussing the position in which Mr. Borden stands the Toronto Mail and Empire states that he enjoys the confidence and respect of the party. Continuing the article states: "There are those who say that, after all, Mr. Borden was lucky in escaping the responsibilities of the premiership at the present time. It is not easy to agree with that view, which seems to look too much to the personal comfort of the leader and too little to the welfare of the country. True, it is easier to conduct a campaign against great evils than to apply a remedy. True, the work of the reformer must be very difficult owing to the tangles that have been produced by the ruling men. At the same time viewing the situation from the standpoint of the public, it would have been better had Mr. Borden had been entrusted at once with the duty of restoring the public honor and the public credit. That the work must be done sooner or later everybody admits; and a delay only adds to the difficulty of the task. A review of the situation makes this fact obvious beyond dispute. In the first place the financial situation at Ottawa is becoming desperate. The taxation is enormous—almost three times what it was a decade ago—and yet it is not sufficient to meet the obligations that have been undertaken.

This means that we are to incur heavy deficits and a very considerable addition to the debt. For general business this will not be advantageous. Although the state of affairs is so unfortunate, new liabilities have been incurred. In nearly all the constituencies the government has pledged itself to huge outlays, which it is bound to undertake unless it is prepared to sacrifice its local supporters when the next election comes. The amount called for by these lavish promises is not less than three hundred millions of dollars. In addition the Grand Trunk Pacific, as manipulated by the Ottawa politicians, is becoming a dreadful nightmare both to the company and to the country. It is so bad for the company that the government is raiding the treasury in order to square itself with the corporation. The huge subsidies given to the branch lines of the Grand Trunk Pacific form one feature of the raid. The grant of all the townships along the prairie line at \$3 an acre is another.

Four years more of the present state of affairs will bring about a state of affairs which will be far more difficult to deal with than that now confronting us. For this reason we believe that the delay in inaugurating the reform, while, perhaps, contributing to the ease of the Liberal-Conservative party and its leader, and while preparing a situation that will make the victory all the more sweeping when it comes, as come it must, is a most expensive operation for the country. It would have been well for Canada had the inquiry been swept out while the damage is no worse than it is. But seeing that the change has not been made, there is but one thing to do: "Let Borden continue his splendid work."

Editorial Notes

According to the Montreal Witness, the people have said in the election, "Let him that was filthy be filthy still." And the worst of it is that the crooked politicians are likely to be the first to adopt this view of the result.

A man named Murphy recently testified before the commission investigating the Marine Department, that he had sold supplies to the department at a price which was 25 per cent. in excess of the retail prices to other customers.

Press Comment

(Moose Jaw News)

No official announcement has been made respecting a fall session of the legislature. In June the government gave the members of the legislature to understand that a fall session would almost certainly be held. Such was the intimation given when the announcement was made that the bill relating to rural municipalities would not be put through. For it was maintained that without inconvenience it could stand over until the fall. In his campaign address Premier Scott said that one of the reasons which had suggested the sudden dissolution of the legislature was the desire to know the will of the people on the important subject of municipal legislation. That having been given in no uncertain manner, the government should make haste to enact the rural municipalities bill. But it would seem that the desire to hold the provincial elections while the Laurier government was in office, not the desire to ascertain the will of the people on municipal legislation prompted the sudden appeal. The government's purpose having been served, the public must wait for the enactment of the Rural Municipalities Bill.

That in delaying the calling of the legislature the government is playing a hide-and-seek game with the people is evident from the resulting effect upon its liquor license legislation. When it was announced that the Rural Municipalities bill would not be put through the opposition drew attention to the fact that the dropping of it rendered impossible the introduction of local option into rural municipalities, as the machinery for such introduction was contained in the bill. If we remember rightly, answer was given that this was a matter which could easily be attended to before the end of the year. So long has action been delayed that it is now impossible in rural municipalities to vote on local option before holding the municipal elections for the year 1910.

When the liquor license legislation was before the legislature we said that its benefits were more apparent than real. Time has confirmed that opinion. Not only must a local option vote be taken on the provincial voters' lists, but no provision has

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been made for the introduction of local option into other than cities and towns. Were the legislature to meet tomorrow the legislation necessary to enable a vote on local option to be taken at the coming elections in villages and rural municipalities could not be enacted; for the time intervening between now and the date of the elections would not suffice for the circulating of petitions and the posting of notices as required by the act. When the province got local option it got it with a string. But what cares the Scott government after the event? The local option concessions caught the temperance vote, and its exceptions kept the liquor vote in place. Four months ago the subject of municipal legislation was considered of sufficient importance on which to ask for a popular verdict. Now it is not worthy of prompt consideration.

(Toronto News)

The program of the Unionist party in Great Britain takes account of the economic depression of Ireland, as shown by the political unrest and the persistent decline in population, harks back to tariff reform as a positive constructive policy of rehabilitation for the smaller island. It is believed that all sections of the Irish people would be prepared to co-operate in such a policy. This case is stated in a recent manifesto issued by leading unionists in and out of Parliament.

It says: "Tariff reform would lighten the burden of Irish taxation by transferring a certain amount of taxation from imported articles, such as tea and sugar, to other imported articles of a kind produced at home by the majority of Irish taxpayers for their own consumption, such as butter and meat. Also by giving Irish agriculturalists a preference in the markets of the United Kingdom against all over-seas competitors, and by making possible the starting of important new industries, such as sugar beet and tobacco, it would confer upon Ireland the economic advantages which she has a right to expect from the union. Tariff reform is thus the natural complement of the land purchase policy already developed by the unionist party and would give a real significance and vitality to the union."

It is reiterated that the Unionist party is still opposed to giving Ireland any "exceptional status within the United Kingdom." This it is believed, would prove dangerous to the union. It is within the bounds of probability that fiscal reform would greatly lessen the demand for home rule, and bind the smaller British Isle by the bonds of self-interest in close alliance with the larger.

(Toronto Telegram)

Bryan made a better run than any other Democrat could have made, and as good as any Democrat is likely to make until the United States forgets the suffering associated with the last period of Democratic ascendancy. The victory of Grover Cleveland in 1892 made the Democratic party responsible for the depression that had crushed the republicans had they been in power. The public associate the consulship of Cleveland with its sufferings during the panic years. It was the fate of Cleveland to put the Democracy so far underground that the genius of Bryan or a dozen Bryans could not dig it up again.

A popular idol is seldom elected president of the United States if his heroic qualities are revealed before his first nomination. Henry Clay, "The Great Commoner," swayed multitudes with his eloquence. He went down to defeat. James G. Blaine, "The Plumed Knight," could not get elected when he was nominated and could not get nominated when he might have been elected. William Jennings Bryan fails for the third and last time to win the reward that has been denied to other brilliant and heroic Americans.

If the personality of Bryan has fallen short of supreme success, the principles of Bryan have not been denied recognition in the life of his country. Bryan has been a pathfinder for the policy of Roosevelt, his

valor has sown the harvest which the Republican virtue has reaped. The principles of Bryan apart from his silver heresy, have gone forward to victory even while the personality of Bryan has gone down in the battle. The triumph of a man's principles has the importance of the unseen and eternal. The defeat of a man's personality has the unimportance of the seen and the temporal.

CORRESPONDENCE
(We do not hold ourselves responsible for the views expressed by correspondents.)

(To the Editor of The West.)

Dear Sir,—With your permission I wish to refer to what I consider to be one of the causes of the defeat of the Conservative party in the recent election. Charges of mismanagement of affairs and dishonesty during their term of office were hurled at the Conservative party by their opponents. Comparisons of the country's progress under the rule of the two parties were made, always in favor of the Liberals. An examination of the public records—equally accessible to both—would have shown the progress of the Dominion under Conservative rule to have been as relatively as great as when the Liberals were guiding the ship of state. The assertions as to Conservative dishonesty and incompetency were ignored to too great an extent, thus allowing new comers to the country and younger voters to believe that the Conservative party of the time they held office were unfit to be at the head of affairs and that the party as at present constituted is no better. It might have been shown to a much greater degree than it was the praiseworthy section of the Dominion was in its experimental stage during the Conservative regime, and it was just beginning to be understood when they left office, to say nothing of other circumstances that favored the Liberals.

Hoping these ideas may appeal to those who are pleading for support for the party at a future time, as I believe if they are acted upon it will be beneficial to the Conservative cause, I leave the matter to the consideration of those who are more able than I to place the subject before the electors.

CONSERVATIVE.

Gazette Appointments

The following recent appointments are gazetted in the current issue of the Saskatchewan Gazette.

Justices of the Peace:—
L. J. Bourassa, Souris Valley.
L. C. Frindel, of Souris Valley.
Geo. Wyatt of Paynton.
Geo. Low Hutcheon of Aberdeen.
Wilfred Jones of Swift Current.

Notaries Public:—
Leon Benoit of Melville.
Herbert Geddes, of Esterhazy.

Commissioners for Oaths:—
W. G. Gardiner of Aylesbury.
C. J. Banister of Wawota.
R. Mitchell of Mitchellview.
Ed. J. Moon of Weyburn.
J. F. Helmhecker of Colonsay.
J. R. Green of Moose Jaw.
M. W. Lowe of Tugaskie.
Harry Blyth, of Forrest Bank.
B. Guize, Notre Dame d'Auvergne.
Samuel Bergey of Forrest, Bank.
Chas. Colquhoun, Maple Creek.

Process Issued:—
L. T. Ainley of Wadena, judicial district of Saskatchewan.

Coroner:—
Edward T. Jessop of Tugaskie.

Pound Keeper:—
William Lees of Kisby.

Stock Inspectors:—
Walter Starkey of Star City.
R. R. King of Melfort.

Game Guardian:—
Arthur Simpson, of Moose Jaw.

Resignations and Retirements:—
Jacob Hantz, Canora, game guardian.
Fred Williams of Moose Jaw, game guardian.

A. Ancy of Domremy, game guardian, also as fire guardian.
Wilson Hall, of Kisby, herd pound keeper.

Election Return:—
J. D. Robertson, of Canora duly elected.

NAVIGATION ENDS
The Canadian Pacific railway has given notice that after Saturday, Nov. 21, they will not accept freight in Montreal or at points west of that city for shipment by lake and rail.

KING FOR PEKIN

W. L. Mackenzie King Will Attend International Conference Which Deals With the Suppression of the Opium Traffic.

Ottawa, Nov. 5.—W. L. Mackenzie King, the newly elected representative of North Waterloo in the Commons, will be Canada's representative at the international quinquennial conference in Pekin next January on the suppression of the opium traffic. Mr. King made a special investigation into the opium question at Vancouver last spring and a bill suppressing its use in Canada was passed on his recommendation last spring. At that time he furnished the United States government, on request, with some of the facts learned during the investigation and the suggestion has been made from Washington that he be appointed Canada's representative and Sir Wilfrid Laurier also asked Mr. King to accept the mission. The Imperial government has sanctioned Mr. King's appointment. Mr. King will leave at the end of the month for Pekin and will probably be absent until about March. The knowledge of the Oriental questions he will gain on this mission, added to his wide and varied experience already obtained on his various special missions on behalf of the government during the past few years will add materially to his unique equipment as a minister of the crown when Sir Wilfrid calls him to his cabinet.

Death of Cuban Ex-President

Havana, Nov. 4.—Tomas Estrada Palma, first president of the present Cuban republic, died at Santiago today of enteritis. Although Palma was removed from office by the people there was no charge against him personally. His political affiliations caused the failure of the government. The moderates who ended his political career are now in Santiago on a presidential campaign and will attend the burial of the man whom they made an outcast and drove prematurely to the grave with a broken heart. There is already talk of the government pensioning Palma's family. The whole people mourn the loss of the venerable patriot.

Tomas Estrada Palma, Cuban patriot, was born at Bayamo, Cuba. He studied law at the university of Seville, but never practiced. He took part in the Cuban revolution of 1895-98, in the early part of which his mother had been captured and starved to death by the Spaniards. Her death made him heir to a vast estate which the Spaniards confiscated. He became president of the Cuban republic, but was captured in 1897, and imprisoned until the hostilities ceased in 1898. He then went to the Honduras, and became a teacher, and later post master general. Afterwards he came to the United States and settled in the Central Valley, Orange county, New York. During the last revolution he was delegate at large and minister plenipotentiary for the Cuban republic, and was elected president of Cuba, May 20, 1902.

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