

The Albertan

A. A. MOORE, W. M. DAVIDSON,
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SUNDAY CLOSING AT POSTOFFICE

For the first time in very many years the postoffice was closed yesterday and today. Though the doors had been shut against the public for a few months, that meant practically no decrease in the Sunday labor for the members of the staff. The public seemed so to be of the opinion that as long as the men were working any way, the postoffice doors should be kept open. The result was that the postoffice was kept closed so that business men could not answer letters and make their stenographers very, was hardly regarded as a satisfactory answer. The public could take care of itself and so could its stenographer.

The Albertan believed that the department went the wrong way about it, and thought that the staff should receive the first consideration. No person should be forced to work more than six days in the week and the government was forcing its employees to work the whole seven days.

The department has decided upon the six day rule and with that there can be nothing but sympathy. Even if the mails are somewhat tied up this morning and show a little delay during the day, the public will not complain very much about it. The legal idea of Sunday is to give every person one day of liberty to spend as he pleases. But when the postoffice limited the rights of the public and at the same time deprived its own people of their rights, there was a double grievance. But now the government has removed one of the grievances.

THE UNIVERSITIES COST

The only criticism that has been offered to the establishment of the university of Calgary is that it will cost so much that Calgary and district may not be able to maintain it as it should be maintained, because universities are expensive.

The large universities do cost much, very much. But smaller universities are not so very expensive. In the United States a dozen universities stand out as leaders and are very expensive to maintain. In Canada we have three universities of that kind, namely, "McGill," "Queen's," and "Toronto." It will be very many years before any university in Western Canada will be able to rival the three institutions named. But in the United States there are hundreds of universities, which do not rival Yale, Harvard, Princeton, Wisconsin, Chicago and the half dozen other great institutions which are doing much towards the development of the great country.

The Calgary university will not rival the larger universities during the first few years of its existence, but it will attract to it, hundreds of students who, without it, would not have the advantage of university education. It is a question if the smaller institution which furnishes education to many who would otherwise be deprived, is not doing as good work for the entire country as the institution which develops the specialist. A large number of people fairly well educated is better for a country than a few people with a very finished education.

So, the aim of the Calgary university should be to give a very thorough Arts course until such time as it will be found to be advisable to specialize in certain lines. At the beginning the cost will not be very great. With an able president, and a staff starting modestly, will be able to fit itself to circumstances and will regulate its own expansion to a great extent.

WHAT IS THE USE?

With an impatience that cannot be described as becoming a journal which professes as much business, the Edmonton Capital dismisses all the arguments and statements, which reflect upon the administration in the A. & G. W. deal with a lofty wave of the hand and "what is the use?" It believes that it has answered these arguments many times, and yet they are still asked. The methods of the Capital are much more convenient than they are convincing. It has not answered to the satisfaction of any person, not even of itself, any of the arguments used against the railway transactions, which have been much more conclusive by the evidence of witnesses friendly to the government which was given before the royal commission.

This new method of settling the whole thing will hardly do. In this country people are anxious for the facts and will not tolerate this lofty indifference even from the Edmonton Capital.

Even at the price of repetition the Albertan will refer to a few reasons which have been urged against this contract with which the Capital and its following have declined to deal.

The guarantee was grossly and unnecessarily large. The guarantee was for \$20,000 a mile for 350 miles and the bonds were at five per cent. Mr. Cornwall's engineer estimated the cost of the road at less than \$12,000, and that seemed to be about right to Mr.

Cornwall. Mr. Faulkner thought that that would be a little too high. Dr. Waddell mentioned \$17,000 as about the right figure for a road better than the specifications called for. Mr. Clarke told J. D. McArthur the railway builder, that he expected to build and equip the road for \$12,000 a mile. Some of the government defenders say that J. D. McArthur declined to build the road for \$20,000 a mile. That is not what Mr. McArthur said. He declined to deal with Clarke because he did not like his appearance.

But there is something even more convincing than that. The Alberta syndicate approached the Rutherford government and offered to build a road to Fort McMurray for a guarantee of \$12,000 a mile, the road to be 250 miles in length and the bonds to bear four per cent. Mr. Cornwall says that he does not remember that any figure was mentioned, but the other witnesses are more definite. Mr. Faulkner says that the syndicate was prepared to go on with the road if the government guaranteed it at \$10,000 a mile. The responsibility of the government under a guarantee of that sort would be \$100,000 a year in interest. The guarantee of the government under the present conditions is \$370,000. The government would have been able to get along with borrowing \$5,000,000, but now it is behind a loan of \$7,400,000.

In the light of these facts, and they all came out in evidence, it is very convenient for the Capital to wave its saintly hand with "What is the use?"

The government was dealing with promoters and not railway men or railway builders. It has been shown in evidence that there was no such thing as the A. & G. W. It was a myth. It had no substance. Clarke had no standing in the railway world, and the convincing evidence has been shown that he had any standing in the financial world. The financing of the company, the juggling between the construction company and the bodiless A. & G. W. company show what manner of man the government was dealing with. J. D. McArthur, showed railway builder that he is, declined to have anything to do with the man.

It has been given in evidence that Mr. Clarke intended to build the road out of the guarantee that he was to get from the government, and he had no large backing, as the premier announced in the house.

Now, these are facts, whether the Edmonton Capital dismisses them with "What is the use?" or not. The assertion that the entire opposition to the road is a C. P. R. scheme is an empty one, and is no answer to the clear evidence produced. All you have to do is to look to the evidence.

Then there is the question of the bond issue. One government paper says that it has been shown that Mr. Clarke got par. It has not been shown that Mr. Clarke got par. It has been shown that the bonds were disposed of for 10 and the government got par. It was shown that Mr. Clarke asked Mr. Minty if he could not make something on the sale, and Mr. Minty pointed to the statute and said that he could not do so legally by selling them directly. It has been shown that Mr. Minty was offered 103 for 20 year bonds and refused it saying that the bonds would have to be sold at a discount, whatever that may mean. If a 20 year bond is worth 103, a 50 year bond is worth more. Only one person in any country can give further evidence and that person is W. R. Clarke, and he is not in Canada and he declines to come here to give evidence. There is the question of the bond deal. It is clear enough to people who will look at it without prejudice. Why does not Clarke come and give evidence? Why did the company refuse 103 for the bonds and accept 100?

The argument of the Capital that the basis of the opposition to the pointment is a Conservative plot, is not a satisfactory answer to any of these questions. But the Edmonton Capital and all its following have given no other.

The agreement with the company does not guarantee the construction of the road. There is no evidence to show that Mr. Clarke intended to operate the road. Some of the Winnipeg witnesses say that Mr. Clarke talked as though he did intend to operate the road. Dr. Waddell was much opposed to the operation of the road and intimated that Clarke did not intend to. Mr. Clarke is not here. But there is better evidence than Dr. Waddell or any of the Winnipeg witnesses, or even Mr. Clarke himself. The legislature asked Mr. Clarke to make some guarantee of operation and though he wrote the government suggesting it, he has not done so. This is the most convincing evidence.

The Edmonton Capital may argue from now to the end of time that the entire opposition is a sectional feud between the north and the south, but that does not effect the facts at all. There they are.

The province had no security, the road, it built upon the specifications, would be a very inferior road, the whole thing was loosely and badly done. There was nothing businesslike in the transaction from beginning to end. All this is shown in the evidence and the assertion of the Edmonton Capital that the opposition is the work of ambitious or disgruntled members of parliament hardly effects the issue.

There are some of the facts. They cannot be controverted. No attempt has been made to controvert them. The Capital says "What is the use?" and its less reputable friends call names, which probably is the wisest course for these people, with their limited ammunition, to adopt.

But we hesitate to believe that the public will take the same attitude. The Capital says "What is the use?" because there is no use. The Albertan has repeated the facts time after time. They speak for themselves.

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EDITORIAL NOTES

And where is our roving royal commission this morning?

The farmers of Macleod seem to be of the opinion that Macleod should have representation in the present parliament.

There is real Sunday closing at the postoffice now and the clerks there are working the same hours as other human beings.

Grateful, eloquent and enthusiastic as are the tributes to Britain's late King, the most pleasing feature of them are that they are no more enthusiastic than those paid to him when living.

The attendance at the farmers' meeting at Macleod on Saturday seems to indicate that there may be a breaking away from the old parties with the farmer a factor in the political life in this province.

If the policy of the insurgents is outlined by Mr. George Smith in his Chaireuse Canadian, it would have been better if they had published it officially. It is the only reasonable position for any person to take.

Two members of the house must inform the speaker of the vacancy before a writ can be issued for a new election. It is possible that of the four members of the cabinet at least two have feared that Macleod is not now represented and might do that duty.

It is early in the season and so very many things happen in the baseball world that it isn't safe to predict, but Mr. William Carney and his associates are acting like real patriotic Calgarians at the present time. They have the wide head, the speedy limb and the lordly wallop.

If there is anything on the horizon which threatens in any way to interfere with the value of any of Calgary's utilities, the Calgary Herald may be depended upon to take it to its bosom and adopt it as its own. Placing private owned cars upon Calgary's public owned street railway is a case in point.

If the Conservative party in Britain is attempting to make capital out of the death of the King, arguing that it was hastened by the conduct of the Liberal leaders, party politics are a little baser and lower than in Canada and worse than people in this country believed possible. A party that would make capital out of such a sad incident would be base enough to do anything.

On the question of principle the Albertan believes the city is wrong in paying extras to city officials for doing work which is, or should be within the scope of their official duties. One would imagine that amending the charter, which is done more or less every year, would be within the scope of some official's duties. The principle of paying extras is unbusinesslike and will lead to grave abuses unless checked. In fairness to the city clerk, it may be added, that he did not seek for the extra remuneration, and it was all the work of the legislative committee.

John D. Rockefeller would go broke if he should spend his entire income trying to prepare a better medicine than Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy for diarrhoea, dysentery or bowel complaints. It is simply impossible, and so every one who has used it. Sold by all druggists.

Good Advice

Thomas Jefferson: "Do not sit up late at night; study and work in the daytime. Rise early and go to bed early. Avoid novel reading and cultivate the companionship of good books. Never tell a lie or stoop to a mean act. Be kind to every living creature. Speak no evil of anyone. Be good, adore God, be loyal to friends and love your country better than yourself. Take hold of things by the smooth handle; avoid disputes; do not turn pleasant conversation into heated argument. Too much speaking is not best. Never put off till tomorrow what you can do today. Never spend your money before you have it. Never buy what you do not need because it is cheap. Price costs more than hunger, thirst and cold. We never regret of having eaten too little. Never borrow trouble."

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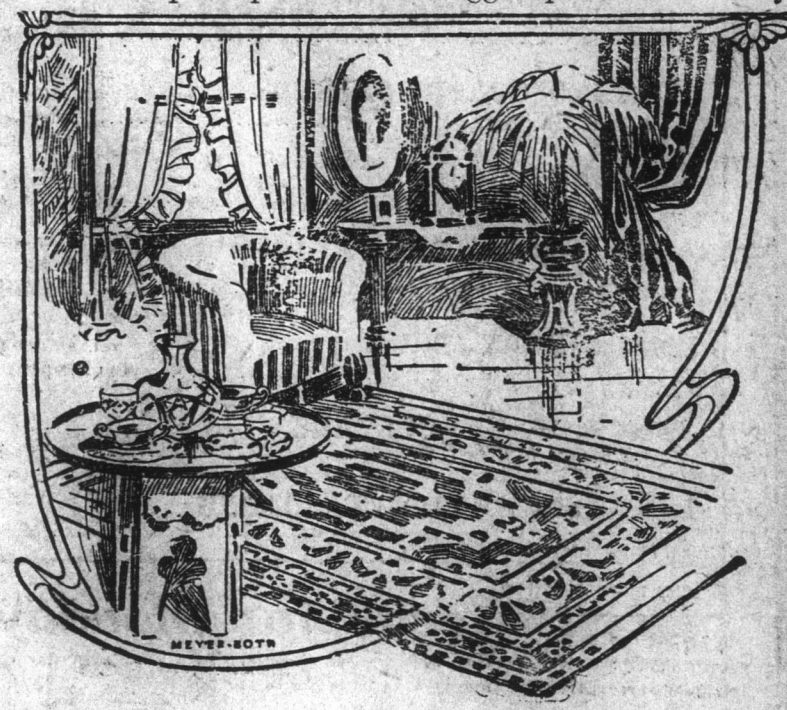


means to save much time in making a quick clearance. Prices are really so remarkably low that a record crowd is assured. Don't wait until landlords and contractors come in and pick up the best and biggest part of them. Try and come down just as soon as you can. They are on sale now and will continue until every roll has cleared out. The regular prices range from 10c to 40c a single roll, and the bundles contain from 25 to 35 single rolls, and are to sell in the following fashion:

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