

THE EDMONTON BULLETIN

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4, 1907.

BEWARE THE GRABBERS.

Friday evening's meeting at least revealed that the business men of the city have a correct appreciation of the value of the street railway franchise, and that they have no intention of obligingly handing it over to whoever chooses to come along and ask for it.

This is a healthy sentiment, and there is every reason to believe that it prevails among the citizens generally. Aside altogether from their attachment to the principle of municipal ownership, the ratepayers understand that the street railway franchise is the most valuable in the possession of the city, more valuable probably than all the other franchises combined.

They may be relied upon, too, to understand that under the circumstances of to-day they are not likely to get an offer of anything approaching the real value of the franchise. Whether or not the capitalists produced the money stringency for the purpose of gobbling up franchises, there is no room for doubt that they are making the stringency an opportunity for doing so, and that the offer for the street railway franchise is merely an incident in the general campaign of grab.

Whatever might be a fair price for the street railway franchise, we are in a peril of being offered that price at a time when ready cash can purchase money-making enterprises of all kinds at far less than normal value. That an offer should be made at this particular time is all the proof necessary that the maker of the offer does not contemplate paying what the property is normally worth. If there is any right time to sell the franchise, that time certainly is not the present.

The wonder is not that an offer should be made for one city franchise at the present time; the wonder will be if scores of offers are not made for every franchise in the possession of the city. However "stifling" money may be, we are safe in assuming that hundreds of astute gentlemen have been hoarding their wealth for just such emergencies, and that they will duly appear on the scene with seductive promises and ridiculously low offers for every franchise that is worth having.

The point to be remembered is that the franchise-hunter is not a public benefactor, but is governed solely by the laudable and common ambition to "make money." He believes not only in selling service as high as the law will allow, but in buying service systems as low as the callibility of their owners will permit, or as the exigencies of the hour may compel them to accept. To part with a civic franchise at this stage of the game would mean not only the loss of the franchise, but a loss of credit and prestige of perhaps greater consequences than the loss of the franchise. Edmonton has begun the construction of a municipal street railway system; Edmonton ratepayers are notoriously favorable to municipally owned enterprises; if, under these circumstances Edmonton sold its partially completed system, the conclusion abroad would be that the city was under the pressure of financial disaster. Whether or not we can afford to complete the street railway system, we assuredly can not afford to ruin our financial standing by surrendering the franchise for a ridiculous figure. And under the present conditions of the money market we are not likely to be offered any figure that is not ridiculous.

WHY NOT LET THE CITIZENS LOAN TO THE CITY?

Why should not western cities borrow money for current expenditure directly from the citizens in small sums and at short time?

In every city in Western Canada are hundreds of citizens who could advance a few hundred dollars each for short periods on good security and at a reasonable rate of interest.

The individual sums are small but the aggregate in any reasonably large and prosperous city runs into hundreds of thousands.

At present this money is deposited in the banks, a large portion of it drawing no interest at all, the remainder earning only the 3 per cent. paid for savings accounts.

The money thus deposited in the banks is re-loaned by the banks of the cities at not less than six per cent. per annum.

The net result is that the owners of the money as ratepayers of the cities pay the banks six per cent. for the privilege of using their own money for city purposes; in return they receive from the banks only three per cent. for nothing, and the money deposited in the savings departments and nothing at all on the amount deposited in current accounts.

Why not short-cut this expensive process by permitting the owners of the money to lend it directly to the city, the city paying a lower rate of interest than is demanded by the banks, but a higher rate than is paid by the banks on savings accounts?

If this were done the owners of the money would profit both ways—they would receive more for the use of their money as private citizens and they would pay less interest as ratepayers of the city.

For their services in handling the money of depositors the banks quite properly demand compensation—but compensation at the rate of borrowings for nothing, and re-lending to the owners at six per cent. is rather expensive for the owners.

The practicality of the scheme need not be doubted. A somewhat similar plan was resorted to by President Lincoln during the war and met with remarkable success—that of offering bonds to all comers and in whatever quantities were desired.

These sums combined should be sufficient to meet any temporary loans the city ordinarily requires. If they were turned over directly to the city the owners would receive more returns and the city pay less interest. And, being advanced on short time notes the owner could calculate to have his money available when likely to be needed for other purposes.

THEY TRAVEL ALONE.

It will be observed that Dr. Sproule, Grand Master of the Orangenemen, and grand councillor of the Opposition on how to catch the Orange vote, is not among the lesser lights that revolve about Mr. Borden on his western trip.

For reasons good, sufficient and sufficiently patent, it was considered desirable that these gentlemen travel separately. Accordingly Dr. Sproule, made his trip some few months ago unhampered by the presence of Mr. Borden and his equivocalities and poured out the feelings of his soul on all who were opposed to either the Orangenemen or the Opposition, with a double dose for those hardy spirits who dared differ with both.

Now Mr. Borden comes along unhampered by the presence of Dr. Sproule and his vigorous assets, and will endeavor to convince those who differ with the Orangenemen that it is their duty to support the political party to whom Dr. Sproule tries valiantly but not always successfully to deliver the Orange vote.

Mr. Mackay has had a remarkable career, having passed the third-class teachers' examination in Ontario when only fourteen years of age, and although he taught school for three years he graduated from Toronto university with first-class honors at the age of twenty-three. He taught in a High School for four years, after which he studied law. In his present profession, he is a man of front rank.

Mr. Borden takes his trip under circumstances which tacitly invite Roman Catholics to support him because he does not give a rat for the Orange men and their cause.

Logically, of course, the first plank in Mr. Borden's platform should be a condemnation of the school clauses; that neither the first nor any other plank refers to them at all only means that he has not the courage of his late convictions or that his convictions existed only for the purposes of the hour.

Leader Mackay a Man to Cheer For

The new Leader of the Opposition in the Ontario Legislature is easily the ablest man holding a seat in that House, and during the few years he has been in public life, has made a name for himself, not only as a keen critic of legislation, but as a man who can suggest a remedy for the defect he is pointing out.

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His high finance to do with vulgar fractions? Toronto Star: It is, we apprehend, no fault of Mr. George E. Foster that the charm of his presence is lacking to that Western tour.



HON. A. G. MACKAY Leader of the Opposition in the Ontario Legislature.

The new Leader has shown that he has honor in his own country, as he represents the constituency in which he was born, and in which he has lived practically all his life, winning it by the handsome majority of 271, after it had elected a Conservative to two parliaments.

As a public speaker, Mr. Mackay is in a class with Sir Richard Cartwright, and in his style of public utterance is not unlike that of the venerable knight. In a campaign Mr. Mackay is a man to cheer for, and in debate few men in public life are quite so much feared by their opponents.

In the work he has undertaken the new leader has an uphill fight, but no abler, braver, fairer fighter ever undertook a difficult task.

The Liberals of Ontario will never falter on account of the lack of courage of their leader, and his opponents will find in him a man incapable of doing a mean thing, but a foeman worthy of their steel. The opposition will never be on the defensive while it is led by A. G. Mackay.

MUTUALLY AGREEABLE. The people of Vancouver and the residents of Honolulu are apparently at one in not wanting the Japanese to emigrate from Hawaii to British Columbia.

ITS "IMPORTANCE."

The Winnipeg Telegram rightly says: "The opening up of the Hudson's Bay route is a matter of great 'importance' to the West in particular, but it is important to the whole 'of Canada as well.'" So "important" does the Telegram consider the project that it demanded a couple of months ago that the railway to the Bay be abandoned unless the country to be traversed by the line be annexed to Manitoba.

Premier Gouin wants Ungava annexed to Quebec. Well, who else wants it?

ON THE SIDE.

After all five per cents at ninety-three scarcely threatens an inundation of cheap money.

A Winnipeg broker has been sentenced to ten years for fraud. He neglected to sue the Telegram for libel.

It is quite appropriate that a nation whose emblem is a dragon should be represented by an ambassador named Fang.

Now the embalmers want to become a close corporation. One step toward the happy condition when a man cannot afford to die.

Premier Roblin denies having disciplined Mr. Borden. Premier Roblin is the man who swore that he did not hold himself responsible for what he said speaking politically.

The Albertan figures out that Calgary "is paying .54 of one per cent. 'less' for its money than Edmonton."

Toronto Star: It is, we apprehend, no fault of Mr. George E. Foster that the charm of his presence is lacking to that Western tour. Mr. Foster is too experienced a politician not to know that absence makes the heart grow fonder of some other fellow.

Montreal Herald: Perhaps Mr. Borden's unexpected delay in Vancouver was occasioned by inquiries into that little grant of shares by which Sir Adolphe Caron made himself solid with the McBride Government, and for which the edge said his knightly decorations ought to be stripped from his breast.

Mr. M. S. McCarthy, M.P., has offered neither proof nor retraction of his declaration that the Conservatives

have won in Calgary every time the votes were honestly counted. Unless and until he does so he must be content with the role of a shameless slanderer who has neither the evidence to prove nor the decency to retract.

Toronto Globe: According to Mr. Borden, the shocking wickedness of the Laurier government at Ottawa is sufficient to call down upon the Dominion, the fate of the doomed cities of the plains. The four righteous men he puts forward to avert the judgment and save the Dominion are Mr. Foster, Mr. Fowler, Rufus Pope and Mr. Bennett.

NOW ON RECORD.

Some progress was made last week by Mr. R. L. Borden in the direction of public ownership. The logic of his present position will carry him inevitably away from historic Conservatism and land him beside Mr. W. F. Maclean in what the typical Tory would call "the slough of Socialism."

On Friday afternoon at Woodstock the Conservative leader committed both himself and his party to the policy of nationalizing both the telephone and telegraph systems of Canada. His language was far in advance of his cautious and hesitating Halifax platform. Here is what he said in reply to the Globe's criticism:

"Now, gentlemen, so far as I am concerned let me assure you that I am thoroughly in earnest, thoroughly sincere, and the Conservative party is pledged to the nationalization of telegraphs and telephones. Both should belong to the postal system of Canada."

"Gentlemen, this attitude of the Globe is a mere pretence. It knows that every elector in Ontario favors public ownership in the public utilities."

Those words sound big and brave, but when taken as a pronouncement of Tory policy they ring hollow, and on the lips of Mr. R. L. Borden they sound too much like a campaign promise to carry instant conviction.

But, allowing for hyperbole, here is a question for Mr. Borden: To whom is credit due for whatever public ownership opinion there is in Ontario or anywhere else in Canada today? Can one atom of credit be placed to the account of Mr. R. L. Borden? When did he advocate public ownership in public utilities? What risk did he take in parliament or on the platform to promote the policy of nationalization? Throughout his entire career as leader of the telegraphs and telephones of the Conservative party when that issue was up he was either dumb or he damned it with faint praise. And now, when by the campaigning advo-

cy of men who do not follow his lead and of newspapers that are not allied to his party public opinion is awakened and organized, he suddenly appears upon the platform and "pledges" in-voluntarily and says, "The Conservative party is pledged," because, as he adds, "upon that issue we can sweep every electoral district in Ontario." His "pledge" comes too late for him to claim credit as a pioneer.

What Mr. Borden now presents as a plank in his platform was laid down as a principle by Sir William Mulock three years ago, when as post-master-general he took his stand in favor of operating the telephone and telegraph services in connection with the postal system. The present post-master-general, Hon. Mr. Lemieux, is a statesman of the same school, and when the time comes will speak for himself. But where was Mr. Borden when Sir William on the one side and Mr. W. F. Maclean on the other were interesting parliament and other public opinion on this question?

For his aggressiveness as a protagonist of public ownership Mr. Maclean was renounced by his own party, and ever since has been an outcast from the Conservative caucus, cursed by the very men who now take up his cry and call him "my friend Mr. Maclean." The shallowness of this sudden enthusiasm for the public interest may possibly be matched by Mr. Borden and his company when they reach Manitoba and "pledge the Conservative party" to free trade in agricultural implements.

THE RYBIE Sovereign Fountain Pen. THIS "special" Fountain Pen is made of the finest grade of Para Rubber, and is fitted with a 14 solid gold pen nib with a Tildeman tip which assures a steady flow of ink. COMPLETE with a safety clip which holds the pen securely in the pocket, the price is \$1.00. [N larger sizes the Sovereign may be had for \$2.00. Send for our Handsomely Illustrated Catalogue. RYBIE BROS., Limited 134-138 Yonge St. TORONTO.

THE City Solicitor and Appliers for Given Their Reference ti

The appointment of civic officials was made meeting of the city of Edmonton, at which were present except A. J. C. F. Brown, K.C. ed to succeed Mr. J. city solicitor, and J. building inspector, Blaney. The various salary to the sale of worth of 5 per cent. of the Scottish-American of Edinburgh, were given readings and passed. tion to sell the street class was only one call from the aldermen with a consideration of

Only One Communist Alderman MacFarlane the Strathcona fire committee, were stating would provide Edmonton power from Strathcona kilowatt hour, provided a petition was received foot plank sidewalk on of Cameron, streets from River streets. This referred to the commission. Three other sidewalk received, one for a walk on the north street from Kinross, and another for a on the north side of Ross-Nanvay to Kinross, for a plank walk on east from Kinross. Mammal stated the west street was very badly needents on that street being waste through water to properties. The sewer referred to the commission. The Douglas Company The report of the commission made by the Jasper Street sewer by overflow of sewer in of their premises was a This damage was an insufficiency of the sewer avenue, in front of the party's premises, to carry extraordinary fall of storm fell at that time. To currence of this trouble sewer was after wards 1 Douglas avenue and Curc street to the City No. 241, clause 54, provi sewer clean, and valves of back-water traps shall all cellar drains in add water seal traps where possible danger should sewer or from the rain-

SEEING IS BELIEVING. WHEN we announced our Big CLEARING SALE some people were sceptical about our statement regarding the prices at which we offered our goods. Their doubts soon vanished when they entered our store and saw the same goods displayed before them with the prices marked as in our advertisement, and all our customers felt convinced that we are doing MORE THAN WE ADVERTISE because all of our IMMENSE STOCK IS GOING AT THE SAME RATE. The values as listed in our last advertisement are still on sale at the same prices because we have plenty of stock on hand. We have opened our Fall and Winter Overcoats and marked them at SUCH LOW PRICES that to secure one will mean a saving of from 3.00 to 8.00, which is worth while taking advantage of. No. 5026, heavy cloth overcoats in black and navy, good value at 9.50, now 6.50; No. 8571, heavy overcoats in good fancy tweeds, best value for 11.00, now 7.50; No. 6028, best Beaver cloth, very best material and workmanship; remember this coat is guaranteed; best value that could be produced from 18.00 to 23.00, only 15.00. Always pleased to quote prices. Yours truly, S. F. MAYER.

Building Inspector J. D. McKinnon was called upon by the J. D. Blaney, who had until he became an alderman in the by-election of resignation of Alderman It took an hour to make ment, the balloting results. The committee to question of the appointm referred presented three recommended voting by these. The names were: J. A. Kinney, J. D. The report was adopted and proceeded with. After Gariepy had moved that made concerning the res J. D. Blaney as building should be rescinded. This motion was to permit the appointment of a successor. The Mayor exercised his vote on this question, and assistance in doing so had. Before taking the first it in the event of a tie bet candidates the third, if less than the others, was eliminated. A second vote and the result was R. J. J. D. McKinnon, S. F. A. Before taking the first it in the event of a tie bet candidates the third, if less than the others, was eliminated. A second vote and the result was R. J. J. D. McKinnon, S. F. A. "The question has to be night," said Alderman G. the committee composed of Gariepy, Manson and An fired to confer and make mediation as to the res. A solution of the diffic committee failed to agree a ed a report to that effect ballot was then taken, at