

THE EDMONTON BULLETIN

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C. F. HAYES, Business Manager.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1910.

NORTHERN RAILWAY EXTENSION BEGINS NEXT SEASON.

The silly story that Premier Sifton is indifferent to railway extension in the northern portion of the province, or hostile toward it, received its finish from the statement of Vice-President Mann, of the C.N.R., that he was able to assure the Premier—in reply to his urging that rapid headway be made in construction work—that steel would be laid on three hundred miles of the line guaranteed by the province next year.

A WORD TO THE PRESIDENT.

If his frequent change of address does not prevent him receiving regularly copies of the Edmonton papers, President Clarke, of the A. & G. W., will be pleased and surprised in a few days to observe in some of these how many people there are in this city who are said to have unshaken faith in the integrity of his company and to regard as criminally cruel the proposal of Premier Sifton to drop him out of a contract which he has already twice broken.

not dropped in time, who knows but the ill-advised friendliness of the A. & G. W. Press might get the respected head of the institution into trouble? Relying on their representation of things he might even determine to return to Alberta, forgetful of the lurking vigilance of the Royal Commission, which has been seeking the pleasure of his company in vain, in those many months. It is hoped that he will not take amiss, therefore, a few statements of sober fact, couched, however, to help him keep his feet on the ground and his head from swelling.

To put the matter as briefly as possible, and as gently as can be, the fact is that his newspaper friends are lying to him. Perhaps their aim is to help him so much as to hurt the Government. To their peculiar kind of judgment it seems to be capable of belief that the public can be roused to frenzy with the statement that Clarke is being abused, and the Government thereby hurled from office by an indignant electorate. The delusion seems to please them, and the friends of the Government can only hope that they continue to abide in it until the elections come around, and then make their stand against the Government upon it. To be specific, the President is informed in scarce headings that the Edmonton Board of Trade fathered a resolution approving of his scheme. If he will scan the resolution he will be saved from this snare. A resolution was submitted to the Board which might have been made to bear that construction, but the Board took it in hand, wrung the politics out of it, and produced a simple and straightforward expression of opinion that railway extension should proceed into the northern portions of the province, an opinion that no one here would dissent from, but that does not hold much in the way of compliment or hope for the President. Then in "forty-eight point black face" he was told yesterday that the people of the city stood for two hours or so in the bitter cold while orators preached the greatness and goodness of his project. The President should take this with a handful of salt. One of the friendly papers puts the crowd at a half thousand. But there were some details that were not added. One was that the petition asking the Mayor to call the meeting was circulated simply as a means of getting an expression of opinion in favor of the construction of railways into the northern districts. Another was that the Conservative party, which was holding a kind of grand rally that evening, decided that they could do better work promoting discussion among the Liberals than making speeches to themselves. They adjourned the convocation and joined the crowd. Thus augmented, the crowd reached a number put by the friendly paper at five hundred. This may be taken as the official estimate of the number of Conservatives in the city who are ready to swallow what they said six months ago in order to promote discussion among the ranks of their opponents, and of the Liberals who are prepared to take sides with them in the hope of upsetting the Sifton Government; plus the people who were induced to attend the meeting by the assurance that it was not intended as a white washing for the A. & G. W. bargain. It is fair to add that Edmonton is the only place in Alberta where anybody thinks the A. & G. W. Company should be allowed to meddle further with the matter. These may be unpleasant truths to the President, but if he ponders them they may save him from letting the over-kindness of his friends lead him to think more highly of his reputation in these parts than is warranted. He will understand that the information is tendered in a proper spirit, and will no doubt accept it in the same way.

TORTURISM.

The "free hand" with which the member for Red Deer was said to have been elected remained "free" only till the chance offered of getting a grip on the steering wheel of the Conservative party. When that chance came it gripped the sponsor quite as readily as though its owner had been elected on a "straight" ticket and with no professions or promises of disregarding the prescribed course of his party when he saw fit to do so. Nor—even while denouncing the Premier for not consulting the people in a general election—did it occur to the Opposition leader that he perhaps should consult the men who elected him as to whether they were willing that his free hand should be no longer free and that he should confine his public actions with all the rigidity demanded of a party leader to the maintenance of the traditions and policy of the party to which he had allied himself. As a private member the honorable gentleman was free to exercise considerable latitude of thought and action when his convictions or the interests of his constituents demanded that he do so. In accepting the leadership of a party he renounced this privilege and bound himself by every obligation of loyalty to promote not his own views but those of the majority of his followers and associates, as declared in the history and platform of the party. A party leader must steer by the chart if he is to deal fairly by his shipmates. When a man elected partially

by independent votes undertakes this responsibility he at least debar himself from accusing others of lacking consideration for the rights of the voters. When Mr. Sifton assumed the leadership of the Liberal party he went into a constituency as soon and as elected. When Mr. Michener assumed the leadership of the Conservative party he simply sat tight and gave no voter a chance to say what he thought about it. Whether he was justified in doing so for the men who voted for him on the understanding that he was to have a "free hand" to say. But his having done so certainly gives him no license to accuse a man who appealed for endorsement and "received" it, as "waiting in consideration of the public."

Any doubt the independent voters of Red Deer may have had as to whether and how their member's new duties affected the understanding on which they voted for him went into the debate on the resolution introduced by the member for Lloydminster. Mr. Moore wanted the Province to secure the administration of the fisheries, timber and minerals of the Province. The Opposition leader went him one better. He wanted the Province to get possession of the crown land also. Nor did he stop there. He proceeded to say what the Province should do with the land. First, the policy of giving away free homesteads should be stopped. Instead of giving a quarter-section to the man who puts his money and labor into the task of converting it into a farm, Mr. Michener would make him pay for the land in cash, as well as doing the homestead duties. Land, he thinks, is too cheap for the settler in this country. He does not agree that the man who clears and breaks up a homestead earns it. Neither does he agree that the increase of production and business brought about through the settler's efforts compensate the country for the land. On the contrary, he thinks a man who gets 160 acres for doing the homestead duties gets it too cheap, and in the getting does nothing to compensate the country for the land. He should, according to Mr. Michener, be obliged to also pay so much per acre into the treasury of the Province. The price he fixes at from \$3 per acre to \$5 per acre, or from \$400 per quarter section to \$500 per quarter, with interest of course. That this would have a discouraging effect on settlement and would tend to divert immigration to the free lands of Saskatchewan, the Opposition leader does not consider at all. In fact he rather hints that he would not be grieved if settlement in this Province proceeded more slowly, so long as the man who undertook to bring a wild quarter under cultivation, was made to pay for the privilege. It is to be said for Mr. Michener that he admits the result of his policy more candidly than his predecessor. He is not foolish enough to argue that a man would be as willing to pay for a thing in cash as he is to take it without any cash payment. He admits the patent fact inferentially at least, and makes the illuminating explanation: "Eat he is not concerned with the discouragement of settlement. What he is concerned with is the privilege of bringing wild land, and boost as well the course that a corresponding margin be added to the price of every acre held by land-speculating corporations in the Province. Assuming that he is arguing in the C. P. B. and other corporations which are holding immense tracts of wild land at fancy prices, his policy may be politically sound. Be that as it may, the policy he champions is the policy to which the party he now leads has set the seal of its approval. Let there be no further misapprehensions about the "free hand." Mr. Michener is a Tory of the Tories. He proclaims it even when candor compels him to admit that the adoption of the party policy would stop the rush of immigration, would check the process of settlement of our wild land, and to boost as well the price the farmer would pay to the land speculator.

EDMONTON.

Bulletin News Service. The M.W.A. of Edmon celebrated their anniversary November 15th. Most all of the members' wives were present. An enjoyable time was spent. Dancing lasted until midnight and chicken and turkey supper was relished. Mr. William Garrison delivered a very appropriate address followed by a hearty cheer for the Modern Woodmen of Edmon. Mr. Jack Taylor, of Clyde, furnished the music. Mr. Arthur Bates has returned to Edmon, after being away all summer. He will likely spend the winter with his brother, Morton J. Bates. Mr. Mack Granger took W. J. Baldwin and wife to Edmon, where they will leave for California in a short time. Mr. E. C. Baldwin made a trip to Pickardville, also to the Landing trail last week. Mr. Geo. Deffenbaugh has his new post office building nearly completed. Mr. H. A. West has left for his north to prepare his camp for his winter's trapping. Walter Weidick is threatening in the Pembina district. Mr. William and Achille Houle, of Edmon, have purchased a new J. I. Case threshing outfit, including a twenty-horse-power engine and self-feeder and blower. Houle Brothers also have a saw mill. They are threshing in the Morinville district. When finished they will ship their engine to Wolf Creek, where they have a million feet of lumber to saw. They will return in the spring to their farm at Edmon. In the fall cattle and hogs have been sold in the district this year. The Methodist church opening took place on October 30th, a large crowd being present. Write for particulars 398 Victoria St. Winnipeg.

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INNISFAIR.

Bulletin News Service. Mrs. Constantine, one of the town's oldest residents, has gone to Sedgwick to reside with her daughter, Mrs. Clements. D. Arnell has been shipping quite a number of cattle during the week. The box social and bazaar at Matherville, given by the Ladies' Aid of Bethel church, was an unqualified success. J. Walford, of Olds, has opened up pool room and will run a barber's shop in connection. S. Boyd, 3 1-2 miles east of Bowden, intends going to the coast, and is selling off at his horses, cattle and household effects on Wednesday, the 30th inst. E. Butler, of Bowden, well known these many years has disposed of his general store to J. Howard and E. Morpitt, who will come into possession of the year. Jas. Hayward, of Bowden, has purchased some good roadsters and started a very busy business. Mrs. R. Buckham, late of Innisfair, and now of the Victoria hotel, Olds, has had the misfortune to lose his valuable car. In the fall a large number of settlers expected next spring Trochu is starting a publicity campaign. Mr. and Mrs. B. Fisher, from Irris, were in Trochu looking out for land and D. Stern has disposed of his farm there.

casual disaffection can best be treated by gentle means. An understanding of what Britain has done and is doing in the world is all that is needed to win for her the sympathetic admiration of any right-thinking man. Col. Sam Hughes in a fit of Imperialistic wrath is not likely to say much that will help to produce that understanding where it is needed.

FIRST THINGS FIRST.

The man who wants to see railways built into the north country is the man who above all others should desire to have the A. & G. W. matter cleared up as quickly as possible. Until that is done it is useless to talk of railway projects into the north country, or any other section of the Province. The House is not very likely to make any more railway bargains until it has got the matter of the possession of the bill proposed by the premier in the surest and quickest way of attaining that end. It proposes to assert the right of the Province to the money for which it is solely responsible. What is to be done with the money is a matter for consideration when the possession of the money has been settled. The settlement proposed is the proper settlement and the only one consistent with the rights and interests of the Province. The only alternative to it is to allow the A. & G. W. Company to proceed under the contract they have broken. Does anybody want that? If not, the sensible thing is to enforce the foreclosure proceedings and eliminate the company. That done, the way will be open for talking over the requirements of the north country, and all other parts of the country, in the matter of railway facilities and for supplying these in the best way found practicable. Until the way is cleared nothing will be done or can be done. Those who want the north land opened up are bound by their own professions to facilitate the passing of the measure, and the removal from the Legislature of the bar to further arrangements for railway extension. The more time that is wasted in needless reassertion of the well understood resources of the north country and of the benefit their development will be to Edmonton, the longer it is made impossible for the Government or the Legislature to do anything to provide the facilities so vociferously called for.

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INFLUENZA IN NAMAO. Influenza is rampant in this neighborhood. Mr. Williams and Mr. Carson have the most valuable animals. Some of our farmers are baling their timothy, thus making it convenient for marketing. The concert in the Methodist church on Nov. 27 was a decided success. Rev. Mr. McLean preaches his farewell sermon next Sunday evening. Mr. Hill, P.S.I. made his official visit to the school, Nov. 14. B. Bailey had the misfortune to lose a fine fur coat with important papers in the pocket. Nov. 28, 1910.

Demand Protection for Union Men. St. Louis, Nov. 25.—The American Federation of Labor tonight unanimously adopted resolutions protesting to Governor Gilchrist of Florida against the so-called mistreatment of union men in the Tampa cigarmakers' strike troubles and demanded that the governor accord adequate protection to the striking men.