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SEMI-WEEKLY EDITION

The Edmonton Bulletin.

SEMI-WEEKLY EDITION

VOLUME V. EDMONTON, ALBERTA, CANADA, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2. 1909 NUMBER 323

MUNICIPALITIES SEEK PROTECTION

Civic Legislators Believe Government Should Place Municipal By-laws Beyond Courts.

The fourth annual convention of the Union of Alberta Municipalities was brought to a fitting close Thursday evening by a banquet tendered the delegates by the City of Edmonton at Hurry's Cafe. A splendid spirit of hearty good fellowship prevailed, and the representatives of the various towns and cities in Alberta gathered around th festive board to partake of the hospitality of the capital. The menu was excellent, the speeches appropriate, and the toasts proposed received with whole-souled enthusiasm by the guests of the evening.

The convention just closed has been of the utmost importance to municipalities in Alberta, and, if the ideas advanced by the delegates are carried out, it will place Alberta in the front rank in municipal affairs in Canada. A number of very important resolutions were passed looking to the extension of the work of the Union. A permanent paid secretary was appointed to arouse interest in the work of the Union. The membership fee was greatly increased, and the provincial government were asked to give a substantial grant to the Union. Affiliation with the Union of Canadian Municipalities was decided upon. In addition to these extensions of the scope of the Union, several important resolutions were passed asking the government to change legislation affecting municipalities.

Officers for 1909.

At the conclusion of the discussion on Thursday afternoon the officers for the ensuing year were elected. Some discussion took place as to whether men interested in municipal affairs, but not actively connected with city affairs in the province, should hold office. It was decided that they should, and that for the more important offices it would be better to have a man experienced in municipal work eleced, even although he were not at the present time actively connected with municipal work, rather than a man new to municipal affairs.

The election of officers resulted as follows:

Hon. President, Ex-Mayor W. Cousins, Medicine Hat.

President, Ex-Mayor W. A. Griesbach, Edmonton.

1st Vice-President, Mayor R. R. Jameson, Calgary.

2nd Vice-President, Ex-Mayor H. H. Gaetz, Red Deer.

Secretary-treasurer, John T. Hall, Medicine Hat.

Executive Committee—W. Laurie, Cardston; F. C. Jamieson, Strathcona; Mayor D. Milne, Medicine Hat; D. Grier, Macleod; Ex-Mayor E. Michener, Red Deer; Mayor M. A. Brimacombe, Vermilion.

The secretary-treasurer was voted a yearly salary of $200, with the opportunity of a bonus should his work prove satisfactory. His duties will be to extend the work of the Union and stimulate the interest of the smaller municipalities in the Union, besides the regular clerical and official work of a secretary. John T. Hall, of Medicine Hat, who was elected to this important position, is secretary of the Associated Boards of Trade of Western Canada, and will be able to carry on the work of the two organizations jointly.

It was decided that the next convention of the Union should be held in Lethbridge, the date of meeting to be left to the executive to decide.

Will Join Canadian Union.

During the convention a telegram was read from the secretary of the Union of Canadian Municipalities, extending greetings to the Alberta Union and asking for affiliation. The matter was discussed briefly and it was decided that it would be in the interests of the Alberta Union to unite with the Canadian body. A resolution to this effect was carried. Six delegates from the Alberta Union were appointed to attend the next convention of the Union of Canadian Municipalities, to be held in Medicine Hat in July. The delegates are: President W. A. Griesbach, Edmonton; vice-president R. R. Jamieson, Calgary; Hon. President W. Cousins, Medicine Hat; Secretary-Treasurer John T. Hall, Medicine Hat; Mayor Milne, Medicine Hat; J. T. Brown, Cardston.

To Protect Municipal Legislation.

Among the resolutions passed by the convention was one to protect legislation passed by cities and towns. It was decided to ask the Alberta Legislature to pass an Act preventing the courts from declaring municipal legislation invalid until it had been passed upon by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council. The resolution was as follows: "Resolved, that in our opinion, city and town legislation regularly passed and not ultra vires, ought to be absolutely valid until disallowed (within a stated period) by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, thus abolishing the power at present exercised by the courts of holding such legislation invalid for unreasonableness, discrimination, uncertainty, etc."

Making Debentures Incontestable.

In connection with the issue of debentures, in which every municipality in Alberta is vitally interested, the delegates felt that these should undergo government scrutiny, and, if satisfactory, should be declared incontestable. The following resolution embodying this idea was accordingly passed: "Resolved, that in our opinion municipal debentures ought, before issue, to be scrutinized and approved by a department of the government and notice thereof published in the Gazette, and that thereafter such debentures should be incontestable."

Want Vital Statician.

The introduction of a system whereby the municipality may keep in close touch with the vital statistics, thus being accurately informed of the births and deaths, was advocated. It was decided to ask the government to change the law in this respect, making the clerk of each municipality registrar of vital statistics. With this end in view the following resolution was passed: "Resolved, that in the opinion of this convention it is desirable that all municipalities throughout the province should be in close touch with the registration of vital statistics, in order that such municipalities be fully informed of the growth thereof, as well as the cause of death therein. Therefore be it resolved that representation be made to the Legislature of the pro-

(Continued on Page Seven.)

BRAZEN MENDACITY OF VICTORIA COLONIST

Editorially the Paper Admits the Telegram From R. L. Borden Was Forged—People of Victoria Do Not Accept Latest Statement of Colonist Regarding the Notorious Telegram.

Victoria, Feb. 1.—The Victoria Colonist this morning says: We find, on investigation, that Mr. R. L. Borden's telegram was taken from the telegraph editor's desk shortly after it was received and never returned to the Colonist office. The telegram printed in the Colonist was taken from the notes of the reporter in attendance at the Conservative meeting of that time. We cannot excuse ourselves for being so remiss in allowing the telegram to be published in this manner. We must, however, assume the responsibility of inexcusable negligence, and endeavor, by exercising greater care in the future, to protect our paper and its friends. The lesson of the incident will not be lost."

In the editorial, from which the foregoing is an extract, no allusion is made to the fact that it was the Colonist representative who brought the forged telegram to G. H. Barnard at the Conservative rally on the night of October 24. The explanation is regarded here as entirely satisfactory, if not an absolute distortion of facts.

BARCELONA STILL STANDS.

Report of Disastrous Earthquake Wildly Exaggerated.

Madrid, Jan. 31.—Communication with Southern Spain is uninterrupted and reports emanating from England relative to the disastrous earthquake and tidal wave at Barcelona are untrue. There was a slight earthquake in Totana province at Murcia but no serious damage was done. It was reported at the moment the earthquake occurred the sun was obscured, followed by hail stones the size of walnuts, which covered the ground to a depth of several centimetres.

Canon Burman, of Winnipeg, Dead.

Winnipeg, Jan. 31.—Canon W. Alfred Burman died on Saturday afternoon, aged 52, after ten days' illness. The canon came from England in 1875 and took the arts and divinity course in St. John's college. Winnipeg. Learning the Sioux language he was a very good missionary and was for some time principal of the St. Paul's Indian Industrial school. At the time of his death he was Canon of St. John's cathedral, lecturer, steward and bursar of St. John's college. The canon was a well known botanist.

All-British Labor Conference.

Canadian Associated Press.

London, February 1.—The executive of the Labor Congress has been authorized to ascertain whether the Labor and Socialist organizations throughout the empire favor the holding of an all-British labor conference in 1910. Taken on the whole, the resolutions of the Congress show an increased desire that the party should devote itself to the work of detailed reform.

High River Arson Case.

Lethbridge, January 31.—That the interest in the arson case at High River is intense was evidenced by the great crowd which gathered yesterday to attend the priliminary hearing before Justice Sheppard. The courtroom was packed. The Driscolls, father and son, pleaded not guilty. Eight witnesses were heard for the prosecution, and the prisoners were committed for trial. They were immediately taken to Calgary, where they will remain until the court sits.

Policy is to Emigrate Farm Laborers.

Vancouver, January 31.—Colonel Howell, immigration secretary of the Salvation Army, replying to W. R. Trotter's attack at the English labor conference, states that the army's policy is back to the land, and they never encourage mechanics to emigrate, or accept the responsibility of finding them positions at their trades.

To Stop Immoral Traffic.

Chicago, Januar y31.—A national crusade against white slavery will begin here with a conference of leading jurists, to consider a bill for presentation to the state legislature.

529 WERE KILLED BY THE RAILWAYS

Toll of Deaths for One Year. The Injured Numbered 1,309. Report Presented to Commons.

Ottawa, Jan. 29.—In the House of Commons this afternoon R. L. Borden, leader of the Opposition, as a matter of privilege drew attention to an editorial in the Toronto Globe in respect to a telegram sent by him to the Victoria Colonist on the eve of the election. The Globe said that Mr. Borden knew immediately after the publication of this telegram that it had been tampered with, but had allowed three months to elapse without making any correction. This, Mr. Borden said, was untrue. He was not aware until after his return from the south late in December that the telegram had been changed. He had without delay instituted an inquiry, but up to the present time the mystery had not been satisfactorily solved.

Mr. Borden inquired as to present status of the negotiations with the United States in respect to the waterways and fisheries treaties. The premier replied that the govenor-general had asked the foreign office to send Canada a copy of waterways treaty without delay.

Civil Service Increases.

Hon. Sidney Fisher, minister of agriculture, introduced a resolution declaring that the salaries of the employees the inside civil service should be increased by $150 per annum, the increase to date from September 1st, 1908. Mr. Fisher said that under the proposed act, 2,605 civil servants will get increases totalling $347,103.

Geo. H. Cowan (Conservative, of Vancouver) made a plea for the outside service. Sir Wilfrid in a short speech informed the house that the government intends to reform the outside service as soon as the reform in the inside service is completed. "Rome," he said, "was not built in a day."

Hon. Geo. E. Foster declared that Mr. Fisher's resolution negatived the recommendation of the Civil Service Commission, which was opposed to a flat rate of increase. He argued that increases should have been based upon merit and put in a plea for the re-organization of the outside civil service.

Mr. Borden thought the proposal should apply to the outside service. He pointed out that Justice Cassels had reported that the outside officials, handling large sums of money, were grievously underpaid.

Just before adjournment at six o'clock the resolution got into the committee, Gilbert H. McIntyre, the new deputy speaker, taking his seat for the first time.

Railway Commissioners Report.

The report of the Board of Railway Commissioners for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1908, was tabled by the Minister of Railways. It shows that during the year the salaries of the staff cost the Dominion $28,166, while the maintenance cost was $86,504. In both cases the expenditure was kept well within the parliamentary appropriation. According to statistics gathered by the board, 64 passengers were killed and 326 injured lurinr the year, as compared with 49 killed and 210 injured in 1907. During the same period, 246 employees were killed and 866 injured, as against 212 killed and 317 injured in 1907.

Including the people killed on the tracks and in other ways, the total number killed was 529 and injured 1309, as against 460 killed and 603 injured during the previous fiscal year. On the C.P.R., 233 people were killed and 341 injured, as against 218 killed and 140 injured in 1907. On the Grand Trunk, 165 people were killed and 721 injured, as against 160 killed and 303 injured in 1907. On the Canadian Northern the killed numbered 19 and injured 123, as compared with 30 killed anl 92 injured in 1907.

Hon. Mr. Graham also laid on the table a report of the National Transcontinental Railway Commission for the fiscal year. In the section devoted to surveys, it is shown that during the year it had been found possible, by additional surveys, to shorten the route distance between Moncton and Winnipeg by about 13 miles. The estimated distance now stands at slightly over 1,804 miles.

Expenditure $27,057,944.

Up to March 31 last the total expenditure of the commission amounted to $27,057,944. Chief Engineer Lumsden, in his reports, remarks that some general charges in respect to over-classification have been made. These will be taken up and considered later on. It is noted that a large number of accidents occurred during the year, the majority of them being due to explosives. On district "B" eight men were killed, while forty-two were killed and forty-seven injured on district "E." These accidents, the report says, were due to carelessness in the handling of dynamite and occurred in spite of the strict precautions which have been taken to protect the lives of workmen.

Bradbury Wants to Know.

G. H. Bradbury (Conservative, Selkirk) gives notice of several questions. He wants to know what was the cost of dredging done on the Icelandic river last fall, and of the work done at Gimli for the protection of the bank. What was estimated in the best post office in Selkirk, and was the lowest tender accepted. What was the cost of converting a snag boat at Selkirk into a dredging outfit, and what price was paid for the post office site at Elmwood. He will also move for particulars in respect to the expenditures of the companies which have held James Bay, Nelson river and Great and Lesser Slave lakes fishing leases.

In the Senate.

The Senate, after a brief sitting, adjourned till February 25. Senator Campbell moved the second reading of his bill of last session respecting water carriage of goods, which is designed to prevent steamship companies contracting themselves out of liability for damage to freight. Sir Richard moved the second reading of a bill to amend the Annuities Act, explaining that the principle of the Act was not interfered with.

AFFILIATE WITH THE UNIVERSITY

Board of Governors of Alberta College Decide on This Course—To be Moved to Strathcona.

The whole question of the future of Alberta College, its educational policy, plan of operation and location was carefully discussed at a special meeting of the board of governors, which was held in the College Tuesday evening.

The result of the deliberations of the board is that the college will enter into affiliation with the University of Alberta. A theological faculty will be established at the opening of the next fall term, and the theological work and the ladies' college department at present conducted in connection with the college will be transferred to a new college building to be erected on the University grounds at Strathcona. The plans for the erection of the new building were discussed and steps will shortly be taken to carry the work forward.

Dr. Riddell Principal.

Dr. Riddell was appointed principal of the theological faculty and was given instructions by the Board to proceed with the selection of a staff. A small committee, representing the different parts of the Alberta Methodist Conference, was appointed to co-operate with him. This committee consists of Judge Taylor, Rev. J. M. Harrison, Rev. G. W. Kirby, Rev. T. C. Buchanan, Rev. A. R. Aldridge.

It is the intention to secure the strongest staff possible for the initiation of the work, and the Board pledged themselves to assist the principal in making the theological college worthy of the province of Alberta.

The preparatory and commercial departments of Alberta College still remain after this change, and these will be carried on as before. There is some agitation to move the preparatory departments from Edmonton to some other point. The Board has decided to leave this matter with the executive of the college.

Growth of the College.

Principal Riddell's report showed that in five years the Alberta College has grown from nothing to the largest and strongest of its kind in Western Canada. The reports of the bursar and treasurer showed the finances of the institution to be in a most satisfactory condition. By the close of the college year on July 1st, 1909, the college will have expended $39,000 in the various branches of the educational work.

Among the members of the board present were His Honor, Judge Taylor, P. E. Butchart, secretary; W. T. Henry, treasurer, A. T. Cushing, Edmonton, Dr. J. H. Riddell, Edmonton; R. L. Gaetz, Red Deer; Dr. Galbraith, Lethbridge; A. F. Grady, Macleod, Rev. G. W. Kirby, Rev. T. C. Buchanan, W. G. Hunt, Calgary; John Benson, Medicine Hat; Rev. Dr. McDougall, Calgary; J. F. Fowler, Wetaskiwin; A. H. Goodwin, Vegreville, and Rev. C. H. Huestis, Red Deer.

QUEEN ALEXANDRA ILL.

Anxiety Caused by Tenacious Cold, From Which Her Majesty Suffers.

London, February 1.—Some anxiety has been caused throughout Great Britain by the prolonged indisposition of Queen Alexandra. Her health, as a rule, is good, and she is rarely ill. Dr. Francis Laking is attending the Queen at Sandringham. He reports Her Majesty to be better than he expected, and until the illness becomes worse no bulletins will be issued. Members of Her Majesty's household are much worried about her illness, which is said to be a severe cold. Unless the Queen makes a speedy recovery, she may be unable to visit Berlin or attend the opening of the parliament in state.

Queen Alexandra has been much worried by Princess Victoria's health. She is the Queen's favorite child, and her health has always been precarious. If she recovers soon, the Princess will go to Christiana to visit her sister, the Queen of Norway.

Electric Company Defies City.

Montreal, Jan. 29.—The Montreal Electric Co., a new organization with powers from the Quebec legislature started today to dig up the streets and to erect poles in defiance of the civil authorities. Orders were issued to arrest all workmen engaged in the affair. A big legal battle is expected.

His Back Is Broken.

Hamilton, Ont., Feb. 1.—Bertram Wylie, twenty years of age, son of a Glanford farmer, is in the hospital with a broken back. He is paralyzed from the waist down.

REDISTRIBUTION BILL INTRODUCED

Edmonton and Calgary to Have Two Members—38 Constituencies in New Legislature.

The legislature met for a brief session on Tuesday afternoon and adjourned until today at 3 o'clock.

J. W. Woolf, member for Cardston, presented a petition re the Cardston club.

J. B. Holden, member for Vermilion, presented a petition re the Vermilion public school.

A bill respecting the Alpine Club of Calgary introduced by E. J. Riley, member for Gleichen, was read a first time and set down for a second reading on Thursday next.

A bill, introduced by E. J. Riley, member for Gleichen, respecting the Royal Collieries Railway Co., was given a first reading and set down for a second reading on Thursday next.

Hon. C. W. Cross introduced a bill respecting the Legislative Assembly of Alberta, which was given a first reading and set down for a second reading on Friday next. This is the election bill of which the following are important clauses:—

1—Each of the electoral districts nominated or defined or constituted in or by schedule 1 to this act shall return one member except the electoral district of Edmonton and Calgary, which shall return two members.

2—Every Legislative Assembly shall continue for five years from the date of the return of the writs of election.

The bill is a revision of the Autonomy act and although much the same in a general way it contains many important amendments.

It is understood that the bill will provide for 38 constituencies in the new legislature. Just what these constituencies will be named and what territory they will cover will be decided by a joint committee of the House which will probably be named at the sitting this afternoon.

An important point to be noted in connection with the constituencies is that each will be entitled to elect one member to the legislature with the exception of Edmonton and Calgary, which will elect two members. This, however, does not necessarily mean that the two cities will each have two members representing one constituency. There is nothing to prevent the cities being formed into two constituencies.

Another point worthy of notice in the bill is that the House may sit without dissolution for a period of five years from the date of the return of the writ of election. Hitherto the period has been but four years.

It has been the rule of the House to fix the speaker's indemnity by a vote in a committee of the House, but under the Redistribution act the speaker's indemnity is fixed at $1,500. In the case of indemnity to the deputy speaker a committee of the House will be required to vote upon it.

Under the new act the travelling expenses of the members of the legislature from their place of residence to Edmonton, will be five cents per mile, whereas formerly it was ten cents per mile.

A bill respecting official auditors, introduced by Premier Rutherford, was given a first reading and set down for a second reading on Monday next.

A bill respecting an amendment of the Strathcona charter was read a second time and referred to the committee on municipal law.

C. Hiebert, member for Rosebud, gave notice that on Thursday next he will ask the government the following question:—

"Have in any case instructions been issued to the Royal Northwest Mounted Police or other officers of the law not to proceed against any person or persons for alleged violation of the Liquor License act?"

A. J. Robertson, member for High River, gives notice that on Thursday next he will move for a return showing:—

1—The number of bushels of seed wheat, oats and barley purchased by the government during the past year and the total cost of each.

2—The amount of seed wheat, oats and barley supplied to the farmers of the province for seed and the amount charged the farmers for each variety.

3—The amount of each variety otherwise disposed of, to whom, and at what price.

4—The means taken by the government to collect the amounts due for seed grain.

5—The amount collected.

6—The amount now due.

The House adourned at 3.30 o'clock.

SUFFRAGETTE IN TORONTO.

Woman Who Was Imprisoned in Holloway jail Doing Missionary Work.

Toronto, Ont., Feb. 1.—Mrs. Bararmar Wells, a prominent suffragette who was imprisoned in Holloway jail, addressed an audience of 1,500 in the opera house tonight. She said the suffragettes had failed to win votes for women through logic and argument, and had now cho en the only way to win and were content to suffer to the utmost. The fight would not end till the object was gained.

Angus Hooper's Will.

Montreal, Jan. 27—The will of Angus Hooper was filed this morning. The total estate is about three hundred thousand. He left twenty-five thousand to Montreal General hospital and the same sums to his brother and sister.

BULGARIA IS VERY SAUCY.

Tell the Powers Turkey's Attitude Is Most Reprehensible.

Sofia, Jan. 30.—The Bulgarian government last night delivered a note to the representatives of the powers complaining of the irreconcilable attitude of Turkey and declaring that the Porte must be responsible for the consequences. The note does not solicit the intervention of the powers but draws their attention to the tension of the situation. For several days past relations between Bulgaria and Turkey again have been exceedingly strained by reason of the fact that Bulgaria had mobilized her reserves, and brought up to its war strength of 25,000 men, the eighth division of her army on the Turkish frontier.

Unable to Agree on Indemnity.

The present situation is a result of the failure of Bulgaria and Turkey to reach an amicable agreement concerning the amount of the indemnity Bulgaria shall pay to Turkey.

PHILLIPINE VETERAN EXECUTED IN RUSSIA

Czar May be Called to Account for Court Martial of U. S. Regular Who Was Visiting Land of His Birth on Furlough.

Philadelphia, Feb. 1—A vigorous resolution was passed at a mass meeting held at the German theatre yesterday afternoon, in which the United States government was called upon to take immediate action to secure from Russia an apology and reparation for the death of Fritz Strombach, a regularly enlisted soldier of the United States army, a veteran of the Phillipine war, who, according to information received, was executed by the Russian authorities while on a furlough. The meeting was held under the auspices of the German Trades unions. Strombach's execution by shooting took place on October 19, 1907, but the facts have only been learned by his friends in this city during the past few days.

It was declared that the Russian government had been istrumental in having the matter suppressed. Before sailing for Europe Strombach came here to bid his friends good-bye and was warned against returning to his native land. "Oh, I am all right," replied Strombach. "I am a citizen of the United States and the czar himself could not hurt me."

Shortly before of his furlough had expired and he did not return, his friends concluded he had decided to remain in Russia with his mother in Coarland. Late last week, however, a clipping from a newspaper of October, 1907, was received in the city. This stated that Strombach had been arrested at his mother's farm by soldiers and executed after a court martial in which two witnesses had appeared against him.

ARMY OFFICERS MUST RIDE.

U. S. Secretary of War Orders Abolition of Autos in Washington.

Washington, Feb. 1—Secretary of War Luke E. Wright, is either cocksure of his re-appointment by Mr. Taft, or he is a reckless man. He is formulating an order withdrawing automobiles from military use in Washington. He finds them too expensive and besides, if President Roosevlt sets the standard of riding horseback and making ability to go fifty miles a day essential to good military form, the further use of automobiles would tend to destroy the popularity of this way of exercising one's muscles and demonstrating one's endurance.

Military men are influential with Mr. Taft. He was secretary of war. There he met all the generals, colonels and majors, and it was during his administration that the automobile was introduced as a necessary appendage to the army. These gentlemen threaten a revolt if they must now go back to the horse and buggy.

Early in his administration Secretary Wright expressed a wish to know the cost of maintenance of two motor cars which had been purchased for the use of the army in this city. Investigation was made for his information and the report showed that the expense in the way of repair was considerable. The secretary came to the conclusion that the needs of the situation are fully met by horses and carriages and that the cost of maintenance of automobiles is not justified, at least not in Washington.

Children Spend Collection.

Hamilton, Ont., January 31.—Rev. J. A. Wilson stated at a meeting of the Hamilton branch of the Lord's Day Alliance that children who attended Sunday school, spent the money given them for collection on candies on their way to Sunday school. He advocated that the police close up these stores.

Interior Department Accountant Disappears.

Ottawa, Jan. 31.—Peter Robertson, an accountant of the interior department, has mysteriously disappeared from the city. He has not been seen since Wednesday afternoon. An investigation into his accounts shows nothing irregular.

Embargo on Horses Removed.

Niagara Falls, Jan. 30.—After having been in force since November 1, the embargo on horses was removed this morning. Horses and wagons are now allowed to cross the bridges into Canada.

PREMIERS REPLY TO GRAIN GROWERS

Will Undertake Control of Elevators If Legislative and Financial Obstacles Are Removed.

For constitutional, financial and legislative reasons the premiers of the three western provinces find they are not in a position to accede to the requests of the western grain growers as submitted in the recent conferences concerning the grain trade, more particularly the proposed looking to the government ownership of internal elevators.

In the reply to the grain growers, which is signed by Premier Rutherford, Alberta; Premier Scott, Saskatchewan, and Premier Roblin, Manitoba, it is pointed out that the powers of provincial legislatures are limited, and that the parliament of Canada reserves to itself the duties and responsibilities towards industry and the right to establish confidence, credit and commerce in salutary laws affecting the Dminion as a whole. Powers which the parliament of Canada has and which the provinces have not are defined by concrete examples, and the conclusion is that the premiers are confronted in solving the elevator question by the absence of provincial jurisdiction in the matter. Amendments to the British North American Act would have to be made before the scheme of government ownership of internal elevators could be carried into operation.

The Financial Difficulty.

The financial considerations show that the initial outlay to be provided for by the provinces to establish and equip an adequate elevator system or to acquire that already in existence would be between seven and ten million dollars, and that this could only be accomplished by issue of bonds. The premiers are of the opinion that without the provinces possessing the fullest power to legislate, the proffered securities would not be deemed desirable in the money markets of the world.

Although the hands of the provincial governments are thus tied by grave legislative and financial difficulties, yet the premiers believe the parliament of Canada by reason of the Dominion Grain Act and other agencies has done a great deal and is desirous of doing more to remove unfavorable and undesirable conditions in the grain trade.

The premiers close with an expression of their appreciation of the magnitude and importance of the whole question. They state their willingness, subject to the approval of their respective assemblies, to undertake the scheme, provided the above mentioned difficulties can be removed.

Reply to the Premiers.

The following is the reply of the premiers to M. D. Geddes, secretary of the conference:

Dear Sir,—We have had under careful consideration the representations made by you to us in our recent conferences concerning the grain trade, and the necessity of certain remedial measures being adopted to remedy the grievances complained of. We readily assent to your position that anything affecting the agriculturist is of paramount importance and deserves the most mature consideration. We understand that you take the position that nothing further can be hoped for by amendments to existing legislation insofar as internal elevators are concerned and to obtain what your executive desires, you request that insofar as the three western provinces are concerned, a system of government ownership and operation of grain elevators be inaugurated. In reply to this request we beg to say as follows:

The several matters presented involve, in their institution, carrying out and performance, the consideration of unusually grave and complicated questions, constitutional, financial and legislative, which we will more fully hereinafter indicate.

The three provinces are asked to wholly provide, operate and maintain on the public credit, the requisite quota of elevators for the storage of grain and to regulate generally the manner in which the shipment or transportation of grain shall be conducted. This will necessarily involve, as you will recognize, a new constitutional principle nt hitherto exercised, and also means the incurrence from time to time of heavy financial responsibilities on the part of the several provinces, and further the putting in practical form by construvtive, regulative and restrictive legislation, the right of absolute provincial government control and regulation of the matters involved.

No Legislative Power.

It is evident that to accomplish in its entirety the end lastly above mentioned or sought by you, it would be necessary first for our respective provinces to be given, or have delegated to them, the necessary legislative powers in the premises, by amendments, through the imperial parliament, to the British North America Act; and secondly, to have adequate provision made for the necessary self-protection and the consequent liability undertaken by us amongst other provisions expressly providing that all grain should pass through one channel, and one channel only; or in other words, to create in regard thereto a complete and absolute monopoly. Any attempt to deal with the subject, other than in a full, complete and far-reaching manner would, in our opinion, fail and prove futile and possibly be followed with disastrous results. The separate states

(Continued on Page Three).