

**THE EDMONTON BULLETIN**

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1907.

**PENALIZING SETTLEMENT.**

A few days ago Premier Whitney destroyed the hopes of clamoring office-seekers by saying: "An impression seems to have gone abroad that the 'Government of Ontario was about to inaugurate some new and expensive scheme connected with immigration from Great Britain, and that as a consequence a large number of agents would be employed. While there is no actual foundation for such rumors, still it is quite true that my colleague, Mr. Monteith, has for some time been engaged in stirring up immigration matters with the view of securing a much greater efficiency and much more important results. And I think that I am safe in saying that he will succeed in both these objects."

The meaning of this is that Ontario wants immigrants, wants them badly, and does not know how to get them. How to get the north country settled has been a problem before the Government of that Province for many years and the problem appears to be as far from a general and satisfactory solution as ever.

Ontario of course with the other provinces shares in the benefits of the immigration effort of the Dominion Government. Besides this the province maintains more or less immigration machinery of its own and at its own expense. Yet despite the combined efforts of both these agencies the north country remains unsettled. Meantime thousands of new-comers travel through the length of Northern Ontario to take up homesteads on the prairies.

This should surely be an object lesson in the fatuity of trying to settle a country and extract revenue from it at the same time. Land in Northern Ontario is not given away as homesteads; it is sold—when anyone can be found to buy it. And for the excellent reason that the new settlers are not looking for land to buy but for land to homestead. Northern Ontario remains a wilderness while thousands of people traverse it every summer to make homes in Western Canada.

By reason of geographical situation, valuable timber resources and good soil, Northern Ontario should have been cleared and settled long ago, and certainly the more favorable districts would have been settled before settlement spread by the prairies had conditions been the same. But the conditions were not the same and the results could not well have been other than they have been.

The settler beginning life in a new country has demands enough upon his usually meagre capital without being forced to pay even a minimum penalty for making a productive farm out of a useless wilderness. Yet this is what a "purchased homestead" amounts to. The money he must pay for the land is added to the outlay for stock, buildings, implements which he must make during his early years in the country when his income is small and his expense proportionately large.

The free homestead gives the settler a chance to begin as nearly even with the world as possible; the "purchased homestead" represents so much of badly-needed capital tied up, if it does not represent an actual debt. Comparatively poor men may settle on free homesteads with every chance of success; but only a comparatively wealthy farmer can succeed on a homestead that must be bought and paid for. The men who settle on wild land in a new country are not as a rule wealthy men, hence they are deterred from settling on any but "free" land however valuable or desirable the purchasable land may be.

Northern Ontario under present conditions could only be successfully settled by comparatively well-to-do farmers. But the well-to-do farmer who comes to Canada is not at all likely to take up a homestead; particularly a heavily wooded homestead that must be paid for, as against a prairie homestead that can be had for nothing. If farms ready for the plow can be settled only by giving them away it surely is foolish to try to sell farms that must be cleared before they can be ploughed.

The experience of Ontario in trying to settle the north country and not succeeding even when settlers are flocking to Canada by thousands and travelling in train loads through those districts, is the standing and unanswerable condemnation of the policy of throwing Alberta and Saskatchewan on the public lands for their provincial revenue. Northern Ontario is a wilderness while people travel through it to increase the population

of Alberta and Saskatchewan. Yet if we assumed control of the public lands we would be thrown back upon the very policy that has precluded settlement from Northern Ontario while settlement has spread in every direction throughout these provinces. If we adopted the policy we could not avoid the consequences; and if Mr. Borden had his way we would adopt the policy whether we wanted to or not.

**SELF-DESTROYING CRITICISM.**

Commenting on the threat that financial corporations may "withdraw" from Alberta if they are not given tax exemption the Calgary Herald says: "The trouble is that this particular 'burden of taxation does not fall on the corporations but on the people who borrow money from them, because the rates of interest are increased to correspond with the tax. Well if the corporations do not pay the tax why should they?"

Incidentally the financial institutions are about as liable to withdraw from Alberta as the Dutch from Holland.

Unlike the Herald and similar critics, the delegates to the Union of Alberta Municipalities apparently think these corporations are not sufficiently taxed in Alberta. At Thursday's session in Medicine Hat a resolution was passed asking the Provincial Government to hold inoperative a clause in the Corporations' Taxation Act providing that corporations taxed by the act are free from similar taxes or licenses imposed by municipalities.

That there are arguments on the side of the municipalities is undeniable, but the stock critic leveled at the act by the opponents of the Provincial Government is far more damaging to the contention of the delegates than to the act as it stands. If these corporations are already too heavily taxed what have their defenders to say to the proposal to set the municipal tax-gatherer after them also? If, as is contended, the provincial tax operates to discourage such institutions from starting business in the Province would not the discouragement be doubled if another tax were added? And, if, as is altogether probable, there is any shadow of substance in the nebulous theory that the present tax might induce some of such institutions to "withdraw" from the Province, would not the danger be multiplied if the taxes were multiplied?

**INVITING CALAMITY.**

Rumors have been prevalent for some time that the Bell Telephone Company had an eye on the local situation and were speculating whether or not they could secure a profitable business if an exchange were installed in opposition to the city's system. The rumors may or may not be without foundation in fact, but if they have no such foundation this only proves that the business observation of the Bell people has been grossly over-estimated.

Whatever may have been its cause there can be no manner of doubt that the delay in installing an efficient municipal telephone service has created conditions in Edmonton which might very easily become the means for letting the Bell Company secure a grip on the telephone business of the city. That our service has been wretched, and continues so, is too commonly understood to need assertion, but even this is not the worst feature of the case. People have been unable to secure telephones, good or bad. To all intents and purposes the city stopped supplying new 'phones months ago. Even the unsatisfactory service available to patrons is denied hundreds of residents and scores of business men who have come to the city during the past year. Perhaps it was wise or necessary financially to stop installing 'phones, as the system is to be replaced by one in which the instruments will be valueless. But however strongly urged by reasons of economy, it helped to produce the unfortunate situation that has pertained for months—that hundreds had no 'phones and wanted them. Meantime hundreds had 'phones but had no reasonably efficient service.

This condition of affairs is a standing invitation to the Bell Company, who have already a long distance line into the city, to put in a local exchange and compete with the city system for the business of the city. That the company see the opportunity may surely be taken for granted, and that they will much longer neglect it is by no means to be supposed. If, for instance, the new system which the city is to install should prove unsatisfactory in any noticeable degree, the talkers, coming after the long wait for relief, might put the finishing touches to the city's chances of having the field to itself in future. That the Bell people would then put in a system that would work, and put it in in a

hurry there can be no doubt. If they did so, not even the unquestionable loyalty of the citizens to the principle of municipal ownership could be expected to deter them from accepting from the Company a service which the city could not give them. But if the new system, when installed, accomplishes everything expected of it, the fact remains that it is not yet installed, and that every day's delay makes the opportunity for the Bell Company the more inviting.

Should the company be permitted to gain a foothold in this manner, the damage done to the city's system must be enormous, if it is not reduced to a non-paying enterprise. The value of a telephone system to its patrons and owners depends on the thoroughness with which it covers its constituency, and in the nature of things a system cannot be efficient unless it is a monopoly. Edmonton now has a monopoly of its telephone business, and every opportunity to maintain that monopoly. But we can only maintain it by making the service so satisfactory that a rival would have no hope of getting business in the city. At present we are inviting competition, and in the telephone business inviting competition is the same as committing suicide.

**HIS VANITY.**

Reviewing a recently published volume of the official history of the South African war being issued by the British government, the Saturday Review refers to Lord Dundonald in the following language:—

"The actual joining hands of the 'first of the relieving columns with the 'defenders of Ladysmith was effected 'by a small portion of Lord Dundonald's brigade. In order to secure the 'patriotic journalistic triumph of being 'the first into Ladysmith,' Dundonald sent back his two regiments of 'Mounted Infantry to Nelthorpe, and 'with a few of the Imperial Light 'Horse and Natal Carbineers 'galloned himself into Ladysmith' on the afternoon of the 28th. Even then, according to unofficial accounts, he was 'forfeited by some pushful subordinate. Having thus gratified his 'vanity, he wrote and asked Buller 'to send him up the bulk of his brigade which he had abandoned, but 'the message was delayed and unattended to. On his arrival in Ladysmith General White's staff organized a patrol which started at daybreak on March 1, and found Umbalwana 'occupied. Probably this time Dundonald regretted his precipitate 'abandonment of his command."

This paragraph from the high priest of British Toryism should provide material for dissertations from the Canadian journals which a few years since were in a strait as to whether Lord Dundonald exemplified most the valor of Napoleon or the modesty of Moses.

**A LIBEL NAILED.**

An absurd story of ill-treatment by the R. N. W. M. P. authorities at Regina was recently launched in Winnipeg. The supposed sufferers were among the Doukhobors rounded up by the police a few years ago for participating in a full dress parade and the complaint was that while in captivity they had been subjected to tortures and ill-treatment. The denial of Superintendent Saunders disposes of the absurd charge and makes clear that not only were the prisoners treated with the ordinary care but that in consideration of their being demented rather than criminal they were provided with food not ordinarily on the bill of fare, their religious scruples preventing them from eating this.

That the charge was unfounded and would be denied was certain. The important thing is not that the denial was made but that a denial was made necessary. If the story which produced the denial was invented by the ex-prisoners it proves that these wandering spirits are by no means devoted to the obligations of religion as they claim to be; if it was invented by anyone else it can only have originated in a malicious desire to injure the reputation of the police, or to draw upon the Doukhobors censure for a falsehood they did not father.

**STABBING IN THE DARK.**

The mails are freighted these days with marked copies of various publications which are apparently being used in a cartoon campaign against the Insurance Commission and the proposed Insurance Act.

It is unfair to infer that the newspapers in question are carrying on the campaign on their own responsibility and at their own expense. Their editorial columns do not indicate voluntary participation in any such campaign. It is further noteworthy that the pictures appear with a suspicious regularity and succeed each other as though pre-arranged on a general plan and as though the cuts were shipped about from place to place and used successively by different papers, as is

customary in certain classes of advertising. Altogether the indications are that the cartoons are merely a form of advertising adopted by some central agency which pays for the spaces they occupy. And as nothing to the contrary is indicated the reader is left to suppose that the paper in which he sees them is responsible for them, and stands to endorse their claims and promote their purposes.

What those claims and purposes are is well illustrated in two samples which came recently to hand. The first, appearing in the Port Hope (Ontario) Evening Guide represents the law as a gardener using shrunks labelled "Insurance Act" in pruning a tree called "Life Insurance Fruit Tree." Underneath is the legend: "Clipping the blossoms off. Why make the profits smaller?" The legend is credited to an insurance journal, "Office and Field," but nothing is used to intimate that the cartoon does not express the sentiments of the paper in which it appears.

Another of the series appears in the Moncton Daily Times and represents a group of distressed widows reproaching the chairman of the Insurance Commission because their late husbands became alarmed at the insurance report and dropped their policies. Again the legend is credited to "Office and Field," but the public are left to credit the Times with the implication of the cartoon.

So far as the arguments of the pictures are concerned they are simple enough to require little refutation. The Insurance Act proposes to lop off no profits which the insurance companies may legitimately earn or safely attempt to earn; and if any man dropped an insurance policy because of the Commission's report he has only himself to blame, for neither by statement nor inference does that report convey an impression that the companies are not entirely solvent and thoroughly able to make good the claims of policy-holders.

But the important thing is not what the individual cartoons represent or misrepresent but what the series represents and what the method of using them indicates.

Assuming that the cartoons are disguised advertisements, they are paid for by somebody, and it is reasonable to conclude that the "somebody" is the Insurance Company—or the man behind and underneath the Insurance Company.

If an Insurance Company, or if the Insurance Companies jointly, desire to conduct an advertising campaign they are altogether entitled to do so, provided they conduct that campaign as an advertising campaign and for the increase of insurance business.

But if the Insurance Companies of this country are expending the money that belongs to their policy-holders in conducting a covert campaign of misrepresentation and slander against a Royal Commission created by the Parliament of Canada for the purpose of investigating the methods of the Insurance Companies, then no Companies are doing what they are by no manner of means entitled to do.

And if the Companies are using the funds of their supporters to make war on a measure calculated to better safeguard the interests of those supporters, then the supporters ought to know about it.

The Insurance Commission was chosen to investigate the way in which the Insurance Companies were handling the money of their policy-holders; if the Companies are misusing that money to discredit and frustrate the efforts of the Commission this surely is the best of evidence that the Commission was timely and the best of reasons why their recommendations should be acted upon.

The Insurance Act was designed largely to better protect the money of the policy-holders from the unwise handling of those in whose charge it is placed; if that money is being expended today in an attempt to prejudice and defeat the Insurance Act, that surely is the best possible proof that the Act is needed and the best reason possible why Parliament should enact it as soon as possible.

This underhand assault on the Insurance Commission and the Act which grew out of its findings suggests in itself an amendment which might very well be made to the Act—to wit, that all advertisements for which money is expended by the Insurance Companies must be plainly designated as advertisements and that all advertising campaigns carried on by them must be carried on as such, and be clearly represented as such.

cepting the self-abnegation of the capitalists, and will insist that if Providence shaped the course, the financiers have done the steering. It was not Providence unaided who shipped a hundred millions of Canadian money to the gamblers in Wall Street; Providential dispensation alone did not drain Canada of capital to develop railway systems and plantations in Cuba, and to corral the natural resources of Mexico; it was not solely a study of the ways and wishes of Providence that led our monetary institutions to sanction, aid and abet a season of inflation and speculation in Western Canada, and then suddenly shut down, leaving thousands of men with property they could not pay for; nor was it from Providence that the financiers received the inspiration to hold up the money stringency as a bugbear to frighten the public while they rifled the public pockets for franchises and half-completed service systems.

The agency of Providence is unquestioned and unquestionable; so also the activities of the financiers. If Providence is to be blamed for the money stringency, Providence must also be credited for the former supply of money; unless we are to suppose Providence working always for evil, and the financiers always for good. Unless the financiers are to forego their share of credit for producing prosperity, they will have trouble shifting the burden of adversity onto Providence.

**ANXIOUS ALLIES.**

The annual report of the directors of the C. P. R. indicates that that Company has no notion of losing the mail contract, and the fast through-traffic between Britain and the Orient. But it also indicates that the directors are by no means confident of preserving these unless their ocean facilities are speedily bettered. A paragraph in the report reads:—

"The subsidy that is now being paid to your company for the carriage of the mails between Liverpool and Hongkong will expire in April of next year, and it is not improbable that a faster and more frequent service will be made a condition of its continuance. In view of this fact your directors recommend that they be authorized to arrange for the acquisition or construction of two

Manitoba has a Royal Commission to investigate the university affairs. That's right. A monopoly of knowledge cannot be tolerated.

"Lumber is a curious and uncertain commodity," declares an exchange. "Curious" is a good word. It suggests curio, and these always come high.

The Winnipeg Telegram argues lengthily that the Federal Government must have pre-arranged the Jap influx. As no reason is specified why the government should do so, our credulity is supposed to supply the conclusion that the government sought to

"steamships to meet the requirements of your Pacific trade, or to build two larger and faster boats for the Atlantic service and transfer the Empress of Britain and Empress of Ireland to the route between Vancouver and Hongkong."

The anxiety of the C. P. directors is paralleled by the anxiety of the directors of the Federal Opposition. The former want a fleet; the latter are doing their best to keep the All-Red Line out of business until they get it.

**ON THE SIDE.**

Saskatoon Capital: "The Conservator leader is the prime favorite in the betting." Always associated with the gambling element.

The people of Germany are using rye to augment the sparse supply of wheat. In this country the use of rye is credited with lessening the supply of bread.

The Toronto Globe says the Conservative leader is supported in his campaign of political morality by Mr. Foster, Mr. Fowler, Mr. Rufus Pope, Mr. Bennett and Matthew Wilson. What are you laughing at?

The Confederation Life President assures Western people there is no truth in the charge that they are extravagant. His judgment is sound. We are living in a stringency of economy as it were.

Coal oil from Texas or Petrolia costs 10 cents per unit in Edmonton. Fluid from the local dairies costs 8 1/2 cents per unit in Edmonton. Rockefeller has made \$125,000,000 in eight years. Problem—How many oil wells is a cow worth?

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encompass their own defeat by antagonizing the labor men.

An Ontario mob raided a house occupied by two women considered of bad character a few weeks ago. In the fracas one man was shot and killed. The woman who shot him was acquitted last week. A Britisher's house is the castle.

Toronto News: "Just as certain as bad money drives out good money, so a higher civilization is overcome by a lower." How comes it, then, that the "higher" civilizations are still doing business in the world, and on a larger scale than ever?

The German correspondents appear to have an exaggerated notion of British territorial expansion. A Berlin despatch of recent date says: "The governor of Southwest Africa telegraphs that Chief Morenga, who is reported killed, has refused to surrender and has crossed into British territory. Morenga has been German's most dangerous point for years." If Morenga was killed it is improbable that he has surrendered, but this is the first intimation that Britain has laid claim to his present place of abode.

The Moroccan tribesmen have sued for peace but will continue to fight while negotiations proceed. In time of war they prepare for peace.

Britain and Russia have reduced their interests in Persia to black and white and hedged them by a treaty. Persia's interests remain unspecified.

It is fitting that the passenger rates should be lowered when the Atlantic records are being broken. The faster a ship travels the "shorter" the trip.

The Czar has another Duma on his hands—and a more radical one than the others. It is no picnic being nursed to these new-born institutions of liberty.

Hereafter Yukon prisoners may be brought down over the Edmonton-Dawson trail. Going "over the road" will have a literal significance for northern offenders henceforth.

**NOT AN EASY JOB.**

The Alberta government will be an extremely smart bunch if they succeed in establishing a case against the lumbermen's association in the face of the lapses of memory displayed by the witnesses and the burning of the books and papers of the association.

**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 procured from 18.00 to 23.00, only 15.00. Always pleased to quote prices. Yours truly,

S. F. MAYER.

**GAVE COLON GREAT RE**

Canadian Light Horse Flattering Praise at Exhibition

The Irish Times give interesting account of performances of the Cavalry at their recent visit to the exhibition.

The exhibition presented a spectacle on Saundria weather proved very favorable occasionally rain but grounds were illuminated effectively. The picture was taken at the Central Hall. In the portion of the grounds, terms were suspended, bamboo canes, chess, bordered the walks; and trees and shrubs multi-gleaned, while French grounds were clustered, tically arranged in cha. The scene was one land. Crowds of filled pathways, but ing was greatest, as the ground was being, ning was pleasantly with capital music. During tion of the evening the lads' renditions, an programme in character.

The Calgary Evening Herald says the Canadian Light Horse visit, unfortunately, was close. Everyone felt sore forewell programme, for were hearty favorites with the first they were hosted and as their stay ad friends increased, so it pricing that when the tion took place. The conductor, Mr. Fred. B. raised an admirable programme that included pieces, which gave such the past fortnight.

March "Dunlap (Hall); serenades; "B heart" (Gorr); Irish of Racket at Gilligan's" whizzes, "The Postion viceds solo, "Dan d. Shiere) musician, Bot tion, "Faust" (Gound) "Killarney," musician, scripte piece, "A H (Buelcos); descriptive Indian Campaign" (Gor Melodies, "Sounds" (Lon Langly).

Each number was offered, and many encores were given. The band, indeed, seemed to have served itself for a special occasion, and had led to greater advantage. The ter had scarcely filled it concluding with the "Canada's national anth, air. The Colonel's resp the "The Sweet Litt which was again heart vocally by the enormous

Col. Walter Given's manding, made a brief a ing the Dublin people reception account of the Horse Calgary band—the ment amongst Canada Corps. The Colonel was der high at the conclus happy address.

Captain Bagley, the e ceived a tremendous ov of the reception of the in audiences, the Capti enthusiastic applause wh he had heard a great de and the warm-heartedne plo, but the hospitalit received at the Internat ion was, he thought, b by the beauty of the and the fine specimens of had, met.

Thousands of Pe The assembled crowd, is said, of over 30,000 waited for Captain Bagley his speech. Crowding o of the band stand they and the band, indeed, h his progress from the b his dressing room one l cheers, handshaking, a "speech" greeted the com of the most popular bati tive authorities of the ec the good fortune to see

**A TRAIL TO DA**

R. N. W. M. P. Trail Tkon Capital Is Co Ottawa, Sept. 23.—Af hard work the Mounted out an eight-foot trail, river through the Rock giving a route from Edm son City entirely over titory. Col. Whitehead, telegram from Commi with the police announ al on the Pacific after dred mile rid on the t monton. The trail has Hazelton, where it join along the line of the graph and thus contin kon capital. The trail, ing access to a large p of the country, a to the purposes of just porting prisoners who to take advantage of munity if taken over of travellers which cro can territory.

Athletics. At New York, Ralph B world's record for the 8-10 it 67 feet, seven inches.