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SMALL ENDS.

The Montreal Gazette entertains the opinion that the present Dominion government works in "small ways" to the attainment of "small ends." If the "small end" is a reference to the present composition, condition or significance of the political party upheld by the Gazette the phrase is most happily descriptive. Anything "smaller" numerically than the fragment of a once great party which now occupies the front centre section of seats to the left of the Speaker, would be valuable as a curiosity. If the allusion be to the political significance of the remnant it is quite as apt, for anything "smaller" than the conception of public affairs constantly and consistently exhibited by this forlorn hope would be seized upon as a signal mark of the mental decadence of these latter days. Whether the policy of the government which reduced itself to its present condition by the "small" or large it appears to have been ample for the purpose. To insist that the policy against which the opposition dashed itself to pieces was "small" is only to emphasize the "smallness" of the party which it shattered into "small ends."

THE GROWING WEST.

Ontario papers are still publishing harrowing tales of freezing settlers and perishing cattle, while the chinook is blowing its hot breath upon the bare hills of Southern Alberta and the cattle are comfortably grazing upon the ranges. It was cold for a while, but in the present glorious sunshine everyone has forgotten the cold snap. Spring is in the air, the sleighing is practically done, and while Ontario is in the midst of the grip of winter the land of sunshine is enjoying the best climate in the world. Already settlers are beginning to come in and they are charmed with the weather and the country. A party from the Western States the other day remarked that this was good enough for him, he didn't mind a few cold days when weather like the present followed. This year will beat all records in the boom of the West. More settlers will take up land in Alberta this year than in any preceding one; towns and villages will spring up and grow into cities, and the development and progress of the whole country will advance by leaps and bounds in spite of any small discouragements from eastern papers who for small, selfish purposes, seem willing to disparage any part of Canada except their own small parish.

ENCOURAGE HOME INDUSTRY.

The special committee of the Edmonton board of trade appointed last fall to investigate the question of better local markets for the farmers of the Edmonton district are to be commended for the interest that has been stirred in the matter and for the demand for more loyalty to home industries. It cannot be denied but that the city of Edmonton has made rapid and permanent progress. Extensive public works have been carried out and few of the conveniences of a modern city are wanting to the great frontier city of Canada. A vast amount of capital has come to the city, but beyond the unprecedented rise in realty values, based almost exclusively on the promise of the future, that capital has not created one dollar of national wealth. The creation of wealth depends upon directing capital into the channels of trade and industry, and of industries that are native to the district. It is economy by which the whole community will profit if raw products are transformed into finished commodities at home, and consumed in the local market. These observations are not new, but they are very pertinent to the state of affairs that the special committee have found to exist in the city of Edmonton. One question that occupied the attention of the committee was the consumption of local flour in the local market. The committee contended that all the high grade wheat should be manufactured into flour and consumed in Alberta. It has been found that the milling industry receives scant encouragement from the citizens of Edmonton. Unfortunately, and for no valid reason Alberta flour, like the proverbial prophet, has no honor in its own country. From all practical tests yet made Edmonton flour has not been proven one whit inferior to the best brands imported from Manitoba. Indeed we firmly believe that the soil and climate of Northern and Central Alberta afford possibilities of growing a grade of wheat of superior in flour making qualities as the best Manitoba

hard. Further we venture to assert that when a scientific analysis is made, Alberta wheat will not be second.

But the condition of affairs the committee most regret, is that there are dealers in the city who refuse to handle Edmonton flour and so disparage it in the eyes of the citizen. This attitude is bitterly resented by the farmers of the district, who are anxious that as much wheat as possible be manufactured here to save them the high freight rates—incurred by shipping to Fort William.

The city for many years to come, in fact its future, depends upon, the prosperity of industries that have their basis on the manufacture of the varied products of the farm. The price of property on the great thoroughfares of our city will always be conditioned upon the prosperity and extent of agriculture, and it is to the interest of every business house to encourage it by every means.

NOTES AND COMMENT.

It is rather unkind of Mr. Cushing to go after the monopoly which his opponent in the election is solicitor for.

Foster's cold weather, like the Ontario earthquake, failed to materialize. Fool us again Mr. Foster, like your illustrious political namesake you are not always certain of what you are talking about.

There should be a good attendance of members of the Young Liberal club at the first meeting of the mock parliament on Monday evening.

Those who thought the member for Victoria was embarrassing the government with his telephone question are beginning to sit up and rub their eyes.

It looks as though Frank Walker's questions require pretty lengthy replies. Frank better not get the question habit too strong.

Mr. Borden, leader of the Opposition at Ottawa, is strongly opposed to compulsory arbitration.

GETTING TOO RICH.

No revision of the tariff in Canada has occasioned so little discussion as that of this session. The champions of protection are silent, the general prosperity of the Canadian manufacturers being so evident that the last vestige of an excuse for increased duties has vanished. The changes made are not very radical, but are in the right direction. A gradual reduction of the tariff will work out the trade problem of Canada to the best advantage.

It would appear that their present season of prosperity has tended to make the manufacturers a trifle too independent in the day of prosperity is a good time to prepare for the time when the immediate business may not be so great. The Canadian commercial agent in England makes the following complaint about the action of Canadian manufacturers towards British purchasers:—

"A notable feature of the past year has been the inability of many Canadian manufacturers to fill export orders promptly or even to undertake new business. The extraordinary activity of the home demand for goods of all kinds has apparently strained the industrial capacity of the Dominion to its utmost limit and Canadian houses who formerly sought export trade have had to refuse business which they would have welcomed ordinarily. A number of British firms who have been placed in touch with Canadian houses known to be interested in export trade have reported to us to this effect. This is, however, no reason why some Canadian houses who are written to should not have the courtesy to even acknowledge letters. Several firms have informed us that this has occurred in cases where they have written to a number of Canadian firms described in The Canadian Industrial Blue Book as being engaged in export trade."

"Failure to attend to such matters tends to create an unfavourable impression. There will undoubtedly come times when Canadian manufacturers will welcome some of the inquiries to which they are at present unable to attend. Another feature has been the receipt of inquiries from Canadian houses seeking supplies of articles of various kinds which they can as a rule obtain within in the Dominion. This furnishes a further proof of the active home business ruling in Canada. The prospect of the existing prosperity continuing for some time would seem to offer special opportunities to British houses for obtaining a larger share of Canadian import trade." The manufacturers of all people should do nothing to prejudice the interest of Canada. This country has done a good deal for the manufacturers.

THE VIRILE OPTIMISM OF THE WEST.

A perusal of the eastern papers this winter would almost constrain one not familiar with the facts to prophesy a reversal of the prosperity of the West. As a matter of fact most of the anxiety is felt in the East. After a season of the coldest weather in twenty years, coal short-

age and coal strikes extending over months the virile optimism of all these misfortunes has not been broken. The untoward conjunction of all these misfortunes has not affected real estate speculation nor the preparation for spring building operations. The return of warm weather in Edmonton was hailed with the ring of the carpenter's saw and the incessant rapping of hundreds of hammers. The farmer may not have yet sold his wheat, but his credit is good while his principal asset, the farm, is appreciating in value. The tide of immigration promises to double that of former years. Railroad and immigration officials have difficulty in dissuading prospective settlers from the Western States from coming before spring actually opens up.

The railways have undoubtedly suffered from increased expense in the battle against frost and snow, and the movement of freight has been postponed, which will only help to make the coming season one of the busiest on record for the railways in the West. The ranchers have also been among the sufferers, but it is two decades since they were so hard hit. Moreover, this is a country where a man can lose a great deal before becoming bankrupt. Nothing could better illustrate the optimism of the West than the story of a farmer who moved from Ontario six years ago and who last year lost 200 acres of wheat through hail.

In writing to his Ontario friends he related his misfortune, but concluded with the significant remark that it is a wonderful country where a farmer can lose \$3,000 and not be bankrupt. Truly it is a wonderful country, and the people of the West were never more sanguine of the full fruition of their hopes than the present year of 1907.

MANITOBA ELECTIONS.

March 27th has been fixed as the date for the Manitoba provincial election. Both parties have been virtually engaged in the campaign for the past year. Mr. Edward Brown, the new leader of the Liberal party, is making a very favorable impression throughout the prairie province, and he is succeeding in getting good capable men nominated in nearly every constituency. In this he is laying the foundations for a successful campaign, as no party can succeed without candidates who are respected and the confidence of the electorate.

The Roblin government will not be easily defeated. Its conduct of public affairs shows it to be without either shame or scruples and it will be hard. Its recent land deals are being exposed one by one, and each looks a little more suspicious than the preceding one. The speech of Horace Chevrier in the legislature was a strong arraignment of the government's methods and their absolute inability to reply showed both their weakness and culpability in the matter.

Mr. Brown is a man of high ideals in both business and politics and to those who know him best his leadership is an inspiration. He is enthusiastic to reply and he is bringing to his support a large body of independent electors who are heartily sick of the methods of the present administration. A large body of the people in Manitoba believe that his election to the premier ship would ensure clean, honest and capable government and they are satisfied that these terms are far from describing the kind of administration that the prairie province is afflicted with at the present time. It looks as though Mr. Brown's chances were steadily improving and that he may very soon be at the head of the legislature of Manitoba.

THE GROWTH OF THE WESTERN POPULATION.

The detailed census returns have been published showing the population in each census district of the prairie provinces, compared with that of 1901. The returns are summarized in the following tables:

Table with columns for Census district, 1906, and 1901. Rows include Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba with various sub-districts.

Total population of three provinces, 1906, 808,863; in 1901, 419,512. The three provinces fell 30,161 short of doubling their aggregate population in the five years. The general increase throughout the three provinces amounted to about 90 per cent, a record surely which should excite gratification in every Canadian who desires the advancement of his country, and particularly of those who have staked their fortunes on the settlement and development of the western country.

Saskatchewan led in the numerical increase, Alberta came second, with Manitoba a close third. The population of Saskatchewan increased 104,484 in the five years; that of Alberta 112,390; and that of Manitoba 110,477.

The average annual increase for the five years figures are: Saskatchewan 33,298, Alberta 22,478, Manitoba 22,065. Saskatchewan leads also in the percentage increase, and for the five years Saskatchewan's population increased 182 per cent., that of Alberta 131 per cent., and that of Manitoba 43 per cent.

The average annual percentage increase on the populations of 1901 were: Saskatchewan 36 per cent., Alberta 30 per cent., and Manitoba 8 per cent. While Alberta does not lead the other provinces either in numerical or percentage increase, she obtained second place in each—a position which should bring very great satisfaction to the people of that province. While Saskatchewan lead Alberta very strongly in numerical increase, and also in the percentage gain, Alberta secured a greater number of newcomers than Manitoba and in the percentage increase of population hopelessly distanced that province.

Of the settlers who make their homes in Alberta coming from Eastern Canada, the United States and Europe, easily seventy-five per cent traverse the province of Saskatchewan and fully fifty per cent. traverse both Manitoba and Saskatchewan en route to Alberta. The natural tendency of immigrants is to go no farther afield than necessary to obtain suitable land located reasonably near railway facilities. Manitoba, though much smaller in area, contains many times the railway mileage of Alberta, and is situated a thousand miles nearer the European wheat and cattle market. Saskatchewan contains a larger area and double the railway mileage of Alberta and is located several hundred miles nearer the export market.

The fact so is this assurance that the resources of Alberta are quite as well known and at least as favorably regarded abroad as those of Manitoba and Saskatchewan. And if with only half the province available for settlement and this supplied by no more than one-tenth the railway mileage reasonably necessary to its development, Alberta makes so good a showing it surely is not overreaching optimism to suggest that when the railway facilities are made adequate to her needs and the northern half of the province is brought into connection with the markets of the world the rush to that province will break all Canadian records for the settlement of agricultural territory.

A RE-ORGANIZATION FOR CAPE.

The Ottawa Free Press published a few days ago a Toronto despatch relating of an alleged reconstruction program now under way for the re-organization of the Conservative party in Canada. Mr. Hugh Graham, of the Montreal Star, for many years the presiding genius of the opposition alliance, is credited with being the stage manager in this changing scene. The program is said to comprise:—

"The retirement of R. L. Borden from the opposition leadership to accept a position as consulting counsel of the Canadian Pacific Railway company. "The selection of Hon. J. P. Whitney, now premier of Ontario, as Conservative leader in the house of commons. "The return of T. Chase Casgrain, ex-M.P., to active politics as the leader of the party in Quebec. "The removal of Hon. F. W. G. Haultain from the provincial field in Saskatchewan to be western leader of the party. "And, if it be possible, an alliance with Hon. Richard McBride, by which the premier of British Columbia shall hold himself in readiness to become a member of the federal cabinet if or when the Conservatives come into power." The usual denials have been forthcoming, but they have been neither of a nature nor from a source to allay the suspicion that there may be an Ethiopian in the wood pile. If so the task of Mr. Graham is not likely to be lessened by the assertion of the Toronto World that there be those who consider Mr. Graham the evil genius of the party, whose organization is in his hands, a statement which may have been prompted by

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TELEGRAM INTERDICT SENT TO Brandon, Feb. 15—For liquor under false pretenses. Winters, an interdict was issued, \$34.50 in all. Winters, James yesterday in default he was ordered to show one month. IN DARKEST KAN Topeka, Kan., Feb. 16—Senate today voted to ban the sale of the Kansas City 8th floor or galleries of the cause the Star printed a printing of the alleged tendencies of the senate. WILL ARREST TRAM Brandon, Feb. 16—Deputy Sheriff today for Winters, warrants for the arrest of D. Purdy, the engineer, and the means of causing the section man named Mulrhea killed by being knocked off snow plow a short distance. Doug as about two weeks ago, Mr. and Mrs. Winipeg, are the outcome of the engine and fireman. Moore of this city on which at Doug's about two weeks ago, Mr. and Mrs. Winipeg, who was working on the engine and fireman, and was struck by the wing most instantly killed. HARI KARI. Fort William, Feb. 15—Symons, a resident of the district, while loaded up with commenced shooting at his loss through the window of his home. William was arrested before the magistrate and fined \$50 and costs, 6 months in jail. J. J. MCGEE RESIGNED Ottawa, Feb. 15—J. J. McGee, clerk of the Privy Council has resigned his position to take effect in three days, during which he has been on leave of absence. Mr. Rodolph Bonfranz, secretary of the Privy Council, succeeded Mr. McGee. Mr. McGee is now in Albany, N.Y. visiting friends. Mrs. McGee and they may extend their trip further. Since May 29, 1882, nearly 25 years ago, Mr. McGee has been clerk of the Council for Canada, holding a mission under the Great Seal of Dominion empowering him to administer oaths of allegiance and to receive the Governor General's Letters Patent under the Great Seal of Canada. He was also Deputy Governor of the railway the Government of Canada. He was born in Wexford, Ireland, in 1834, was educated at St. Patrick's College, and in 1863 came to Canada in the instance of his brother, the Hon. Thomas D'Arcy McGee. THE BANK CLEARINGS New York, Feb. 16—The following are the weekly clearings for Canada as compiled by Bradstreet's, for week ending Feb. 14, showing an increase as compared with the corresponding week last year. Total, \$22,645,246, decrease 20; Toronto, \$21,539,575, decrease 2.5; Winnipeg, \$8,866,664, increase 43.2; Vancouver, \$2,362,653, increase 15.8; Hamilton, \$636,521, increase 45.3; Quebec, \$2,284,741, increase 56.2; Montreal, \$10,604,741, decrease 14.7; Halifax, \$514,314, increase 41.8; St. John's, \$1,181,955, increase 15.7; London, \$1,075,116, increase 8.5; Victoria, C. \$841,704, increase 13.4; Calgary, \$1,201,261; Edmonton, \$755,987. FRESHETS IN THE SOUTH Raymond, Alta., Feb. 16—Some families have had to move on their houses on account of the water. The water company has seen to the same who propose opening a channel to the college drain of the water which has flooded the west end of the town. MAGRATH, ALTA., Feb. 16—The mill here has four feet of water in the basement and the bolts have been cut to prevent them bursting. The three mill pumps and a 25 hp pump borrowed from Raymond all in use. There is lots of water here. A WHOLESALE DEALER. Fort William, Feb. 15—Twenty barrels of beer were confiscated by Inspector Davidson this afternoon from an Italian named Adolphe. Italian was peddling his beer at the coal dock district contrary to the law. He was brought before the magistrate and a fine of \$40 and costs imposed. MOUNTED POLICE KILLS TORONTO, FEB. 16—A murder-suicide occurred on Richmond street this afternoon. John J. Harvin, formerly a member of the North-West Mounted Police, shot Mrs. M. Charlton, a woman with whom he lived on Richmond street, and then shot himself through the head. The woman has a live wife living here and the victim was the widow of a former hotel keeper, Robert Charlton, one of the wood turners in Cameron & Co. woodworking shop across the road from the house, saw two shots fired at the woman's body. She was sitting out of the door on the street when he put the last two bullets in her. Charlton telephoned for the