

BANQUETTED THE HON. C. W. CROSS

Distinguished Honor Done Attorney-General by Citizens of Morinville. Over 100 Present.

Morinville Wednesday did honor to itself in the tribute which it paid to one of the foremost men of the province. Hon. C. W. Cross, the citizens of the northern terminus of the C.N.R. in order to show their appreciation of the attorney-general of Alberta in the legislation which he had put on the statute books for the benefit of the province, decided to tender him a banquet with the most pleasing results.

The banquet was held at the old Roman Catholic church, which had been beautifully decorated with flags, bunting and Chinese lanterns for the occasion. There were present over one hundred persons. There were present from Edmonton H. W. McKenney, M.P.P., W. F. Bredin, M.P.P., P. E. Lesieur, James McGeorge, E. F. Chauvin, W. B. Ibbotson, Wilfrid Garney, Leo Savard, Louis McDowell, O. Foster, J. E. Theriault, Jos. Dechene, Robert Hockley, Frank Gray, F. M. Webb, A. Ringette, A. E. Voyer and others.

The banquet was presided over by Omer St. Germain, president of the local Liberal association, to which is due much credit for the success of the function. On his right were the guests of the evening, Hon. C. W. Cross, John A. McPherson, M.P.P., and Rev. Father Normand, of Lac Ste. Anne, while on his left were H. W. McKenney, M.P.P., Rev. Father Ethier, Lesieur, and W. F. Bredin, M.P.P.

The toast to Canada was proposed in eloquent speeches by Rev. Father Ethier, of Morinville, in French, and by Peter Gunn, manager of the Hudson's Bay Co.'s post at Lac Ste. Anne, in English.

The toast to the Province of Alberta was proposed by W. F. Bredin, M.P.P., for Peace River. The far northern member coming from that much talked of but little known part of the Dominion, gave an eloquent eulogy of the great country to which would soon be added the great districts of the Athabasca and McKenney rivers with their magnificent resources as yet untouched. Canada was only on the eve of development and he hoped she would ever remain as she was today, the brightest gem in the British Empire.

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CHARTERS FOR TWO RAILWAYS

Petitions Presented for G. T. P. Branch and Another for Short Line to Boundary.

Applications for two important railway charters in the southern part of the province were received at Wednesday's sitting of the legislature. John Marcellus, member for Pincher Creek, presented a petition for the incorporation of the Southern Alberta Railway Co., which is to run due west from Pincher Creek to the international boundary line. The distance will be about 54 miles.

Malcolm Mackenzie, member for Macleod, presented a petition on behalf of D'Arcy Tate, solicitor for the G. T. P. for an act to incorporate The Alberta Southwestern Railway company, with power to operate and maintain a line of railway from a point on the line of the Grand Trunk Pacific branch line between Calgary and Lethbridge, such point being in a northerly direction from Macleod, thence to or near Macleod and westerly from point at near Macleod to or in the vicinity of Pincher Creek, thence in a westerly direction to the western boundary of the province, a distance of about 100 miles.

H. W. McKenney, member for St. Albert, presented a petition respecting the town of St. Albert for amendment of the town charter. Hon. C. W. Cross presented a petition for the amendment of the Edmonton city charter.

W. F. Puffer, member for Lacombe, presented a petition for the amendment of the Fairview Cemetery Co., Lacombe. Jno. T. Moore, member for Red Deer, presented a petition for the extension of time of the Red Deer Radial Railway Co. charter.

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TO SPEAK TO YOUNG LIBERALS

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OPPOSITION IS SPLITTING HAIRS

Debate Question of Safeguarding Tenders, Already Dead With By Order-in-Council.

Ottawa, Jan. 27.—The first full dress debate of the session, other than the debate on the address, took place this afternoon on the motion proposed by Dr. Reid, Conservative member for Grenville, "That in the opinion of the House tenders received in any department of the government should be immediately placed in safe custody under seal so as to prevent any possibility or suspicion of tampering, and should be opened in public at a time and place mentioned in the advertisement, and persons so tendering or tampering with tenders should be at liberty to attend at the said time and said place and see such tenders opened and recorded, if they so desire."

Dr. Reid supported his own proposal by criticizing the government order in council which authorized the opening of tenders in private rooms. He declared that the order in council provided for two officials designated by the minister. The land commissioner had been assisted by two stenographers in opening the tender limits tenders. Under the order in council the minister might designate any two persons. He did not see why the tenders should not be opened in public. That was the American practice. If secured in council, any member could ask for the papers and supply the bids of opponents. If tendered by the minister, he suggested the lowering of the limit above which tenders must be called for to \$2,000.

Government Desires Safeguards. Hon. Wm. Pugsley asserted the desire of the government to secure thorough safeguards. He explained that it had been intended to specify that one of the two officials who should be present at the opening of tenders should be the deputy minister. However, in the opening of Intercolonial railway tenders at Moncton this had been impracticable. The opening of tenders for the Grand Trunk Pacific railway was not so convenient, but it would also not be in the public interest. If tenders were to be opened in public, they might withdraw by collusion, and the government would then be required to let the work at a higher figure or ask for new tenders. American precedents had been quoted. It would have been more to the point if the precedent of the British or Canadian government had been cited. He did not see that there was any need of a change. No proof had been given of tampering. He would not be in a hurry to change the present practice.

F. D. Monk (Con., Jacques Cartier) said there was a general suspicion about the tenders which were not fairly dealt with, and the mercantile world was suspicious. (Lib., North Wellington) said if there was a feeling of suspicion in the country it was due to the fact that tenders were not fairly dealt with by the opposition party. Mr. Guthrie moved in amendment to Dr. Reid's motion that the method of opening and opening tenders, as embodied in the order in council is in the opinion of this House a proper method of opening tenders.

Hon. John Haggart (Con., South Lanark) contended that when he was a main contractor he had made private bids and purchases were made by private bids. He was the contractor tendered in law. Objection to the publicity of the opening of tenders was never made by the contractor when it was necessary in the public interest. Mr. Haggart declared that the prevailing opinion of the country was that the contracts were awarded through favoritism.

Dr. Sproule (Con., East Grey) said the order in council which Hon. Mr. Pugsley read in the House on Monday which is designed to guarantee the opening of tenders, was an admission that things had not been right in the past. Dr. Sproule asked the minister of public works if he would deny that there had been collusion in connection with the McAlvay dredging contract which figured in the St. John election. Mr. Pugsley replied that so far as he had been able to ascertain from the records, there had been no collusion. There had been, he declared, a great deal of interference with tenders. Many members sitting on the government side of the House were interested in them, indirectly.

In Middleboro, the new Conservative member for North Grey in his maiden effort, said that the decision of the government to make a change made it evident that the opposition charges of last session were not unfounded. Things, he said, have not run on such a state that it is practically not a Conservative in Canada who has an interest in drawing companies because they knew that contracts go only to Liberals.

CHINESE EMPEROR HAS SMALLPOX

London, Jan. 28.—Cabling from Peking, the correspondent of the Times says that the infant Chinese Emperor is suffering from confluent smallpox.

Southern Alberta Deputation Waits on Provincial Cabinet Asking for Railway Facilities in South Western Colonization Lines are Undertaken.

That the first consideration of the Bathurst Government, in the carrying out of the railway policy, should be the settled portions of the province, not for colonization roads, was impressed on the members of the Southern Alberta deputation. Nearly all the members of the deputation are in the city attending the municipal convention and while here the representatives from the south decided to approach the government with the request that they be given the right to open the Intercolonial railway tenders at Moncton this had been impracticable.

Mayor Milne made a request on the part of the citizens of Medicine Hat for a grant of \$1,000 towards the entertainment of the representatives of the Canadian Medicine Hat Association, who meet in convention in Medicine Hat this coming summer. The grant will be used for the purpose of showing the delegates, the municipal ventures in the leading cities of the province.

William Cousins spoke a few words on behalf of the Express Club at Medicine Hat. He said it was a well conducted club in every way, and urged that the requests of the temperance people to prohibit the sale of liquor there be not granted.

The House adjourned at 3.30 o'clock. WHAT CONGRESS IS DOING. House Will Oppose the \$100,000 Salary for President.

Washington, Jan. 27.—Secretary Post made his farewell appearance before the foreign relations committee to explain the fisheries treaty. The foreign relations committee reported favorably the nomination of Robt. Bacon and John C. O'Loughlin, as secretary and assistant secretary of state.

Senator Clark introduced a resolution directing the inter-state commerce commission to report on the number of deaths by train accidents, resulting from the insecure appliances. The senate was in executive session to consider the Canadian boundary treaty. The arbitration treaty with Brazil was recommended for ratification by the senate committee on foreign relations.

HIS COOLNESS AVERTED PANIC

Manager of Chicago Theater Talks Calmly to Audience of Fire Next Door.

Chicago, Jan. 28.—There were five minutes last night when Harry J. Powers, manager of the Powers Theatre, sat in the front row of the Auditorium wondering whether he was playing in good or bad luck. Fire had been discovered in the building next door, 145-147, Randolph street, and was making rapid headway when Mr. Powers stood in the centre aisle of the theatre and addressing a large audience said: "There is a fire in the neighborhood but there is no danger of the theatre being damaged at once. Do not be alarmed at any sound you may hear or even if smoke enters the building."

Just at that moment Robert Edson, star of the company playing at the theatre, appeared on the stage. Mr. Edson knew of the fire and knew that men had been stationed at every exit ready to throw open the doors on all sides in case of emergency. Mr. Edson recognized the coolness of the manager and the star shouted back, "Go ahead. Don't stop."

Under these conditions the play proceeded, while the pumping of the fire engines and the shouts of the crowd were distinctly heard by the audience. J. L. Caulfield, treasurer of the theatre, who was in the box office of the Iroquois theatre at the time of the disaster there, took his stand at the main entrance and prevented any persons entering or leaving the building. He said later that he expected to be mobbed and felt lucky to get off with a broken hat. There was just one person who left the theatre, a woman.

Two Fatalities in Hotel Fire. Two Homesteaders Cremated When Big Falls Hotel Burned.

Big Falls, Minn., Jan. 28.—In a fire which destroyed the Auditt hotel and saloon here last night two men were killed in the flames and two other persons are probably fatally burned. J. J. Carter and J. E. Lohman, home-owners, were killed. The fire started in the kitchen of the hotel, and spread to the saloon. The building and contents were a complete loss.

Sale of B. C. Agricultural Lands. Vancouver, Jan. 27.—A tract of 11,200 acres of agricultural lands in Nechaquo valley, along the line of the Grand Trunk Pacific railway, was sold this week by G. M. Davis, of Victoria, to Trafford Hutcheon, of Seattle, representing an Iowa syndicate, which will dispose of his holdings to prospective settlers from the Western States. The condition was \$140,000.

THE THIRD ANNUAL CONVENTION OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES OF ALBERTA. Men who Control Schools in Province in Conference in Strathcona.— They Seek to Widen their Information on Questions Pertaining to School Management. Premier Rutherford Greets Delegates. President's Address Outlines Aims of Convention. H. O. Malcom, Innisfail, Reads Interesting and Practical Paper on "The Trustee."

AID FOR C. N. R.'S B. C. EXTENSION

D. D. Mann Confering With Premier McBride—Start From Edmonton in a Year.

Victoria, B.C., Jan. 28.—D. D. Mann, vice-president of the Canadian Northern railway, who is here, stated last night: "We have nearly 5,000 miles of track and are naturally anxious to reach the Pacific coast. I am here to confer with Premier McBride in regard to our plans. I am not yet in a position to make any definite announcement. However, I look for a satisfactory result to our negotiations, which will enable us to commence construction, within a year, on our British Columbia extension from Edmonton. This being a mountainous country we shall necessarily require assistance from the province, but our requests will not be unreasonable nor excessive."

During the debate on the reply to the address from the throne in the legislature today, Premier McBride referred to the C. N. R. as another rapidly approaching transcontinental line. He made no further reference to it, but pointed out that construction from Edmonton within a year would mean the linking of Winnipeg and Vancouver but a short time after the completion of the G. T. P.

C.N.R. Acquires Terminal Site. Vancouver, B.C., January 28.—Confirming a report published here a few days ago that the Mackenzie & Mann line would take a southern course from Kamloops through Aspen Grove and Coldwater and join the Great Northern line now under construction from the boundary, comes the news that D. D. Mann, while in Vancouver on Monday, completed a deal for three and a half million dollars worth of water front for terminals on False Creek, immediately adjoining that recently acquired by the Great Northern and Northern Pacific for joint terminals.

CALGARY MAN SELECTED. George M. Smith Will be the Rhodes Scholar for This Year. Regina, Sask., Jan. 27.—To George M. Smith of Calgary, falls the distinction of being the student selected this year as the Rhodes scholar representative of Saskatchewan and Alberta. Four years' resident in England and twenty years of age, Mr. Smith is a fourth year undergraduate in the University of Toronto, where he will take his degree this coming May, and is proceeding to Oxford next October. The committee of selection had some difficulty in arriving at their decision, of the seven applicants having good records and three or four of them having quite an exceptional showing in their credit, but after careful consideration of all information at their disposal, the committee unanimously decided in favor of the selection of Mr. Smith as such as to warrant his selection.

During the sessions there were very many useful papers read and valuable suggestions thrown out in the discussions. The trustees one and all appeared anxious for greater information to assist them in the better discharge of their duties and great good will doubtless result from the conference.

Addresses of Welcome. The chair was occupied by the president, Dr. W. D. Ferris, of Edmonton, and the secretary was Dr. A. M. Scott, of Calgary. When the delegates assembled the proceedings were opened with addresses of welcome by the premier and minister of education, Hon. Dr. Rutherford, Mayor Duggan, representing Strathcona, Dr. Broadbent, representing the university, and Archibald Gray, of the Edmonton school board, representing the sister city of Edmonton.

The premier in his address reviewed the educational conditions of the province during the last three years and outlined what his government had done for education in Alberta. Dr. Broadbent paid a tribute to the ability of the president of the university, Dr. H. M. Tory, and closed by extending an invitation to the delegates to visit the university in the afternoon at the close of the session. The addresses of welcome were replied to by Rev. A. R. Aldridge, Vermilion; S. F. Jackson, Ponoka, and Dr. A. C. Finston, of Innisfail. The President's Address. The address of the president, Dr. Ferris, followed. It was as follows:— It gives me great pleasure as president of the Trustees Association to welcome you to this the third annual convention which has been held since our organization. It is particularly gratifying to those of us who are interested in this work to see the number of men, who out of busy and strenuous lives, are willing to give

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