



The Poet Who Said, "Oh, East is East and West is West, and Never the Twain Shall Meet," Might Have His Troubles to Say Which of These Pictures is Nova Scotia and Which is Saskatchewan.

The Talk About Secession

Opinions of the Press and the Poet

BEFORE a committee of the Dominion Senate, Mr. F. W. Green, from Saskatchewan, gave evidence regarding the agitation among Westerners over what are alleged to be unfair conditions imposed on the West by the East. Mr. Green's evidence is summed up briefly by the Ottawa correspondent of the *Manitoba Free Press* as follows:

"Mr. Green put on record a great deal of documentary evidence to show that the grain business of the West was under the control of big interests. Reciprocity with the United States would have done away with this, as it would have brought the competition of that country into the situation. Mixed farming could never proceed under present conditions, for full production meant a glut on the local market. There was, he said, a fearful restlessness in the West, a feeling that its interests have been bumped and sold like chattels. The West felt betrayed and sold from the Eastern majority; Saskatchewan felt that the withholding of her lands, the handing of them over to Manitoba, the strutting off of its market without money and without price was an imposition, which it felt very keenly indeed."

Too Well Off to Secede

(From *Toronto News* correspondence.)

"My own belief, based on a tolerably careful inquiry throughout Alberta and Saskatchewan, is that the advocacy of secession is nothing more than a momentary outburst of Liberal disappointment at the defeat of Laurier and his failure to upset the Borden Cabinet on the Manitoba boundary question. Western Liberals as a body, like all other Westerners, were angry at the attempt of the Eastern Liberal Press to induce the Quebec Nationalists and Clericals to resurrect the Separate school controversy and impose once again upon us the 'impracticable' pedantries of men who live in the past."

"It is difficult to foment discontent in a community of farmers who own the soil they till, who are self-governing in local affairs, and, on the whole, very comfortably off. The best practical answer to the cry that the West is being sacrificed to the East and therefore is no longer a good country to live in, is furnished by the Americans. In February the receipts from land sales at the Canadian Pacific Colonization Department at Calgary exceeded by over half a million dollars the receipts for February, 1911. These lands were bought almost entirely by Americans, for the British-born immigrants and those from Continental Europe do not begin to arrive until

Prodigal Still.

By ROBERT J. C. STEAD.

Mr. Stead was formerly a resident of Manitoba and now lives at High River, Alberta. With his poem he sends a letter in which he says: "Some years ago you published a poem of mine in which I used the lines, in the figure of Western Canada addressing the East,

*'Yet nurture the child that is born you
Ere other arms entwine.'*

and these lines now seem to have been almost prophetic. As I say 'Loyalty never yet came by force,' and we must have a broader and more sympathetic attitude between East and West if Canada is not to break at her Laurentian Rip."

THE Prodigal Son has turned his face
To his Father's house and his Fatherland,
And he seats himself in the highest place,
And the viands are served at his command;
His face is fair and his heart is free—
And great is its burden of good or ill—
But little of reverence bringeth he,
For the Prodigal Son is prodigal still!

THE Prodigal Son comes not in rags,
Nor stained with the tears of a sad estate;
He comes with a flourish of foreign flags,
He comes in the pride of the newly-great;
His purse is fat and his arm is strong,
And if he sin he will pay the bill;
He brings his creed of Right and Wrong;
For the Prodigal Son is a prodigal still.

THE Prodigal Son at the Father's board
Feasts as only a prodigal can;
He knows where the richest wines are stored,
And he helps himself—as becomes a man;
And the Brother may look with eye askance
At his kinsman's nerve and his kinsman's will
As he drops the Sure to seize the Chance,
For the Prodigal Son is a prodigal still.

THE Prodigal Son has come to stay,
And Father and Brother must face the fact;
And him they cannot coerce, they may
Convert by generous, graceful tact;
The heat in the blood must run its course;
The fever must burn or the fever will kill;
Loyalty never yet came by force:—
And the Prodigal Son is prodigal still!

March. The Canadian Pacific lines from the boundary are crowded night and day with special trains bringing in Americans with cattle, implements and household effects; and the official estimate that 150,000 of them will enter this year is probably under rather than over the mark. The bank managers say that they possess \$1,500 in cash or effects for every man, woman and child; if so, here is a stream of over \$200,000,000 of new wealth, or sufficient to put out the fires of secession if they were raging several times fiercer than they are. A good crop this year will, of course, give the agitation its quietus.

"It is not probable that the agitators mean what they say about turning the West into a separate British Colony. They must be aware that the Imperial authorities would hardly sanction the dismemberment of Canada by recognizing the seceding portion as an integral part of the Empire."

Free Markets for the Farmer

(*St. John Telegraph*.)

"It is useless for Conservatives to expect that the agitation in favour of reciprocity is going to die out. On the contrary, its force will be redoubled, not only in the West, but in the East. While the Federal Government and several provincial governments are discussing aids to agriculture and legislative schemes to benefit the farmer it is more widely recognized day by day that the simple and natural way to stimulate agricultural production is to give the farmer an increased, a free, and a steady market for his surplus products, at all seasons of the year, at competitive prices."

"This is an issue that will not down. With the exception of Ontario, a majority of Canadians voted for reciprocity last year. There is no way in which they can be led to forget the facts. If the manufacturers are to continue to enjoy reasonable protection, and in some cases unreasonable protection, the agricultural interest, which is the most important in Canada by all odds, will have to be given justice."

No Secession in Alberta

"SO far as this talk of secession is concerned I would like to say that there is no such feeling in Alberta," asserted Mr. Duncan Marshall, Minister of Agriculture for Alberta. "The people in Alberta are in favour of reciprocity and low tariff, but we are going to fight it out on Canadian territory and we are going to win."