

THE WEST

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The West Company, Ltd., Regina, Sask.



WEDNESDAY, June 12, 1907.

THE TEST CASE

It is apparent from the comment of the Free Press on the contention of the Catholics in this province with regard to secondary education that they have not grasped the point involved, for they say:

A test case in this regard will be an entirely different matter, of course, from the test of the constitutionality of the Saskatchewan Act, which Mr. Haultain talked of. It will simply be a test of the validity of the secondary school legislation, that is, whether the act or not it violates the Saskatchewan Act.

A test case respecting the legality of the secondary educational act would be only one feature of the school question as it is today and one that has developed out of the school clause of the Saskatchewan Act, which according to the provisions of the North-West School Ordinance cannot be administered as proposed, for under the Territorial law there is provision for Catholic high schools, and it is apparent from the plain provisions of the North-West School Ordinance that if the Saskatchewan Act is good law the Catholics have a right to separate high schools, but if the autonomy act is unconstitutional then the secondary educational act of last session is good law. Of course without the point regarding the high schools being raised at all, the act to supplement the revenues of the crown levies a tax of one cent an acre on Catholics and Protestants alike for school purposes and this is ultra vires of the legislature if the Saskatchewan act is constitutional.

These are points aside from the main point which Mr. Haultain has always raised, but of course they all arise from the same cause.

RECIPROCAL DEMURRAGE

The question of reciprocal demurrage has had a prominent place in the discussion at all recent gatherings called for the purpose of considering the grain industry, and we believe that an advanced step was reached when the Winnipeg convention a few days ago decided to have the matter properly brought before the railway commission at their next sitting in the west.

It looks well for the future interests of the shipper when the farmer and such representative men as Mr. Peters of the C.P.R., and Mr. Shaw of the C.N.R. gather with them to discuss matters of transportation, and while there is a great deal to be said in favor of the demand for reciprocal demurrage the point raised regarding the lack of rolling stock perhaps should be considered as affecting the working out of the demurrage principle. If, however, after the matter has been taken up by the railway commission some pressure is not brought to bear on the railway companies to supply cars when demanded, then the farmers will not rest satisfied until the reciprocal demurrage principle is recognized.

Railway statistics in the United States show that there is a great deal in the argument of Mr. Peters when he says that the railways would be acting against their own interests not to move loaded cars as rapidly as possible, for we find

some facts on this point in a very able article written by C. S. Sims, assistant to the president of the Erie Railway Co., for the "American." Mr. Sims says that a constant effort is being made to reduce the non-productive mileage, and to reduce the time a car is not moving.

Other facts stated, however, favor reciprocal demurrage argument, for Mr. Sims says that the greater part of the time a car is not moving, or is actually earning money only about a quarter of the year, and the average life of a car is between fifteen and twenty years. He attributes the lack of earning power of a car to many reasons, among which are, over loading, standing under load, poor equipment, and inadequate track and yard facilities.

The freight earnings on all the roads in the United States in 1905 were 69.4 per cent. of the total earnings of the roads. The average car earned \$795 and moved 8,302 miles, or 22.7 miles daily. The average car carried 739 tons. There were in that year an average of 8.1 cars to the mile of track.

Such statistics as these will have to be produced as evidence before the railway commission in connection with the reciprocal demurrage arguments, and the figures such as the above pertaining to Canadian railways will throw a great deal of light on the transportation question.

OBNOXIOUS DISTINCTION

Elsewhere we publish a minute of the regular meeting of District Council 9-R-2 in which a resolution appears criticising severely the supplementary revenue act passed by the legislature during last session. Time and again the feature very appropriately named the "obnoxious distinction" made between the cities and towns and the farmers and ranchers, has been brought to the attention of our readers, and an added grievance to the local improvement councillors is the fact that through them the school taxes have to be collected without remuneration being given.

The councillors think that to collect this tax is outside their jurisdiction, and the imposition is such an injustice to their fellow farmers that they resent the position they are placed in as tax gatherers by an unscrupulous government which has resorted to direct taxation and then authorize the local improvement councillors to do their dirty work.

The stand taken by the council of L.I. 9-R-2 District is an ultimatum, "Unless the Supplementary Revenue Act can be administered without interfering with the work of the local improvement act, this council is prepared to resign."

These objections to the provisions referred to in the supplementary revenue act are general throughout the province.

JACK FROST CAN'T WIN

If ever there was in unassisted Nature a forced growth, we have it at the present time. The earth is like a hotbed and the reaching upward of the wheat is almost discernable. The frequent light showers and the warm sunshine are ideal conditions for a late sown crop and the wheat is thus making wonderful headway. If the farmers controlled the weather they could not have agreed on a finer weather program.

Some say that anticipating less rain in June they have sowed a half bushel more per acre, so that the crop would ripen quicker, and while a little more difficult to harvest would ensure a good yield. The present conditions indicate a heavy crop of straw and later maturity, while the yield probabilities have increased about twenty per cent. This apprehension, however, about a later harvest is only a conjecture, but it goes to show that the farmers' minds are hardly less restless than the growing wheat itself. Yet it is not doubt, but mere speculation.

The new comer wonders, and the old timer prophesies, and inspires the former with confidence, for the latter has lived through the days when only

faith in the future kept him in the country. Looking at the crops at present, however, and betting on the race between the frost and the wheat, the latter is selling favorite, and from their places at the quarter, Jack Frost can't win.

LEST WE FORGET

The Montreal Star recently conclude a lengthy article on the dilapidated monument in Victoria square in that city, by saying:

While the good Queen Victoria lived and for some years after her demise, the monument was regularly decorated on the anniversary of her natal day, with a beautiful wreath of flowers. Very strange to say and it was remarked by many that on Friday, Victoria Day, the statue was destitute of a single flower, even the daughters of the Empire and the Army and Navy veterans, let alone the officers and men of the militia and the mayor and councillors forgot on this important day to place a few flowers on the pedestal. There were plenty of plants in bloom in the city greenhouses for the purpose. It brings to mind the "rite saying" "how soon we are forgotten."

In the absence of other subjects the Canadian Clubs in the west have been discussing the use of the American flag in our theatres, but now our national clubs out here may very properly take precautions against such a reproach to the west regarding the observance of Victoria Day, as the above quotation is to the residents of Montreal.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The Presbyterian general assembly at Montreal approved of the employment of women in the work of the church, and a committee will report on a definite scheme at the next meeting of the assembly. It was pointed out by Judge Forbes that the Protestants have no institutions like that of the "Good Shepherd" maintained by the Catholic church. The first institution of this kind was founded in 1838 and today there are 150 houses in which upwards of four thousand sisters devote themselves to the care of fallen women and they have assisted some twenty thousand in the struggle of life. The Presbyterian church in deciding on this step has shown a proper grasp of the social problem, for too long have the Protestant churches ignored their duty in this respect and "passed by on the other side."

PRESS COMMENTS

The row that might have been expected at the Grain Conference was not long delayed, after the delegates got down to business. During the morning session, yesterday, the grain exchange representatives threatened to withdraw, if a certain resolution were presented. At the afternoon session these representatives did withdraw when another resolution to which they objected was adopted.

No one should be surprised by this action. The Tribune was informed some time ago that the exchange contemplated taking it. According to the Tribune's informant, the advisability of ignoring the conference and sending no delegates was first discussed. It was decided, however, so the story goes, that this would antagonize the general public, and would therefore be unwise. Delegates were therefore appointed to attend, but it is claimed that at the time they were appointed it was understood that they should withdraw in protest, if they should be overruled.

Whether this story be correct or not is of little importance—the interesting fact is that the representatives have acted as men who had no agreed would act.

By their speeches they gave the impression that they attended the conference ready to discuss the questions fairly and squarely and prepared to give and take—yet, as soon as they got down to business, it became obvious that they were prepared only to take.

Every resolution presented they regarded as a reflection on their integrity, an insult that it was difficult or impossible to endure. They were willing to concede nothing, while professing to believe that "great good" was to be expected from the conference. It is to be supposed that the "great good" they expected was to be the unqualified and unanimous endorsing of the grain combine by the delegates. Disappointed in this high expectation, they indignantly withdrew from such

High Standards. The high standard of workmanship demanded by the makers of the New Scale Williams Piano have attracted to them the very best of skilled labor. Every workman in their large factory at Oshawa is an artist in his particular line, and the pride they all take in the product of their united labor, "The New Williams" is one of its best guarantees of excellence.

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an unreasonable and unappreciative assembly. It is no doubt thought that this will embarrass the conference. As a matter of fact, it should have no such effect. It has all along been known that the exchange is satisfied with itself and it is determined to oppose all suggestions of reforms. The presence or absence of its representatives at the conference, can not, therefore, be regarded as a misfortune.

The farmers' delegates and the other representatives of the people of this province know what is needed to put the grain business of Manitoba on a healthy and fair basis. The resolutions presented by them will be endorsed by ninety-five per cent of the public. Whatever those resolutions may be, they would be opposed by the grain exchange. Its opposition, may therefore be taken as entered in all cases—and the resolutions carried over it.

It might be thought that the exchange would suspect that the unanimous demands made by men representing all the interests of the rural municipalities of Manitoba have something behind them—in other words, that the need for reform really exists—but this is not the case. The exchange is too thoroughly satisfied to be open to reason—too highly elated by Judge Phippen's decision to appreciate the fact that this decision is not necessarily eternal and that, in this country, the majority must rule.

Pride however, goeth before a bump. (Toronto Citizen.) The Chief Justice of Canada, the chairman of the Transcontinental Railway commission, and the chairman of the Ottawa Improvement commission, all residents in beautiful homes on Daly avenue, with grounds extending a whole city block, which they might have kept for the enjoyment of their own families, have set a splendid example in civic duty to the less distinguished citizens of the capital by removing the fences from their properties, thus making an apartment for the benefit of the city. There are hundreds of other instances of civic patriotism in various parts of the city.

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METHODIST

Many New Field Immigration on the C...

The Saskatchewan Conference opened in the Methodist Church on Wednesday at 9 a.m. the first joint meeting of ministers and laymen held since the conference of 1905.

The addition to the conference are Rev. B. D. Rev. O. Darwin, Rev. D. B. A.; Rev. S. W. and Rev. F. P. Riddell, stered to other conference. A. H. Hoare, B.A., Goard, B.A., and Rev. son.

This year's ordination posed as follows: W. J. R. Vassey, W. P. S. Brecken, B.A., B.D., M. On Wednesday evening the church were an address and a reform movement. Rev. J. C. Switzer, B. gentleman traced the temperance movement, tude of the Methodist question. He cited as Canada each year the 6000 victims. Speaking he urged that organ must be done and the element must become the local politics. In have, as is said against ed their principles and He believes that the portune to get to work vince when the country tancy.

New President Thursday morning with a prayer meeting. D. A. Stewart. The election of officer the election of Rev. R. of Souris, President, halloo.

Rev. J. T. Harrison was elected secretary. Rev. W. S. Reid, B.A. bert, was elected secretary stationing committee.

Rev. J. C. Hartley, I and Rev. D. C. Robinson, tod assistant secretaries. Rev. C. Cross, B.A., media, was appointed tary.

Rev. J. B. Taylor, was appointed statistical. The election was presided the former president, Rev. Hattie of Carnduff, who work of the church for As president of the conf experienced a special big realised more than ev work of the church.

The New Pres Rev. R. A. Scarlett the new president, and twelve years ago he was the same building in now elected to amusest case. Dealing with the church he claimed that greatest responsibilities cope with the situation the big tide of immig opens up such a large field young he thought that should encourage healthi social exercises, but pl not be carried too far. very serious responsi church to direct the young in the path of v Mr. Scarlett believes should not be considere sphere of the church, that it is the duty of ch to see that men of g are elected to our legs When the church does the polls we are amon public life. The last president was for a uni the question of tempera

Civic Welcom At this stage Mayor Ald. Cowan on behalf extended a welcome to of the conference, which to by J. W. Higginbot den.

Sister Green Rev. E. A. Henry pa church extended a greet people and was very ed. His personal relat Methodists have alway and he and Mr. Brown together very harmoni a helpful manner for and pastors. He was that the evangelical drawing closely together enes of doctrine is bel This greeting was replie D. J. Chegwinn of Moos

Supernatant Rev. Dr. Griffin spokt on the supernatural in some discussion ov istration of the church.

From the report of t old fund for July 31, Griffin read to the cont peared that the capti manent fund for 1907, the annual fund to the cash on hand, on the mentioned, to \$47,639, and parsonage fund sh up to July 31 amounti 64 and a balance in bank of \$988.57. The terence fund showed re 948.99. Deposit loans above date amounted making the total inc 106.90.

Evening Meet The annual conferen meeting was held on ening in the Methodist

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