

ALBERTA'S NEW CABINET: A BRILLIANT PREMIER

Katharine Hughes, in the Toronto Globe, sketches the Lives of the Members of the New Government of the Province.

Arthur Lewis Sifton, premier, provincial treasurer and minister of public works; Charles E. Mitchell, attorney general and minister of education; Duncan Marshall, minister of agriculture; Archibald McLean, provincial secretary—this is the personnel of the newly formed cabinet of Alberta.

It takes over the reins of power from the first administration in which the Hon. Mr. Rutherford—one of the most kindly and upright of men—and his brilliant young colleagues, Hon. Charles W. Cross, Hon. W. H. Cluett, Hon. Duncan Marshall, Hon. Mr. Buchanan, Hon. P. E. Lessard, were the ministers—the last two without portfolios. They were appointed without considering the present disputed question of a railway bargain—retires with a record for progressive legislation of which any government in Canada might be proud.

In the new administration, not alone by his position, but by his personality, Premier Sifton is the outstanding figure. In fact, if the recent political disturbance in Alberta had been productive of nothing else than the re-entry of Arthur Lewis Sifton into public life, it would still be notable. For the West everywhere recognizes in him a man unusually endowed with political and administrative ability, and on his retirement to the Bench in 1907 there were many regrets expressed that a man so eminently fitted for public life should have withdrawn from it.

Premier Sifton is a son of the Hon. John W. Sifton, at one time Speaker of the Manitoba Assembly. He was born near London, Ontario, on October 26, 1858, and came west in 1875, when his family moved to Manitoba. Returning to Ontario in 1880, he attended Victoria University, taking his degree there in arts in 1880. Completing his law studies in Winnipeg, he first practiced his profession in Brandon, where in his early twenties he was actively interested in municipal affairs, and a member of the council.

In 1885 he moved to Prince Albert, and in 1889 to Calgary. In 1890 he was elected to the Legislative Council of the Northwest Territory, and in 1901 was selected as Commissioner of Public Works. In 1903 he was elected to the Bench as Chief Justice of the Northwest Territories, and in 1907 he became Chief Justice of Alberta. He was married several years ago and has two children, the youngest of whom is a promising student at Western Canada college.

In 1905 Mr. Sifton refused to consider the offer of leadership of the Liberal party and the Provincial Premiercy which went to Arthur Sifton, the party now divided against itself on the question of a colonization railroad. Mr. Sifton has yielded to the insistent demands of his constituents, and his wings of the party have pledged their hearty support to him as Premier. He has several times in the past offered to resign his seats and recommend the new Premier to their constituents.

Among the genuine men, Mr. Sifton is "by the very nature of him a son of Order, not of Disorder," and he returns to the Bench with a wealth of experience on the Bench, which has deepened the constructive quality of his mind. Insurgency and agitation are made good by little likely to disturb his administration, which will be at once tacit and dominant. The new Premier is a sturdy, bold, and unflinching man. He is clear-sighted, urbane and decisive, and the steel of his sway, while pleasantly covered with velvet, is none the less present. In fine, the fitness of the man for the place is apparent to everyone, for among public men of the west, Arthur Sifton's executive ability and political tact, his honesty and shrewd discernment of values are unquestioned, while his accurate knowledge of western conditions and his powers of initiation peculiarly fit him to administer a new province in a new country, where new problems may always be expected.

It is an invaluable quality, too, in the new Premier of Alberta, that he knows his own mind, and knows men. As a public speaker he has few rivals in the west, or it may well be said in Canada. For while his speeches reflect the same power of thought and intellectual brilliance as those of his brother, the Hon. Charles Sifton, his own voice is a vastly more magnetic speaker, and can carry any audience with him. He has, too, the powers of criticism, of ridicule and rapier-like satire which—fortunately for his opponents—are not often used. As a judge his career has been one of undoubted efficiency. His accession to the Bench resulted in a new and quite severe attitude toward cattle-stealing, which was then the most common crime in Alberta, and one that threatened to become as grave an evil as the crime of assault in the country districts of Ontario. But by a rigid enforcement of existing laws the Chief Justice and his aides practically succeeded in suppressing this peculiarly western form of lawlessness.

Alberta lawyers have been wont to assert that Judge Sifton's powers of penetration and lightning-like decisions made the arguing of a case about unnecessary after a certain point. This has been frequently commented upon throughout his term on the Bench—most markedly so, perhaps, in the lumber company case, which has been a trial lasting ten days, judgment was given from the Bench by Chief Justice Sifton against the combine.

His faculty of readily grasping the essentials of a question and discarding time-wasting prolixities or unnecessary red tape was conspicuously demonstrated on the Bench. One instance was in the case of Ernest Cahel, the young desperado, an amateur boxer, who was found guilty of murder, escaped from the police. Finally captured, he was

A CANADIAN CITY WITH NOVEL TAXES

Edmonton Puts No Tax on Improved Land. Tax According to the Square Foot of Floor Space—A System That Works.

Edmonton, July 4.—The city council, in its meeting last night, passed a resolution authorizing the city engineer to prepare a plan for the taxation of improved land according to the square foot of floor space. This is a novel system of taxation, and one which is being tried in a number of cities in the United States.

The city is Edmonton, capital of the province of Alberta, Canada—located one thousand miles west and north of Winnipeg. It is now what Winnipeg was twenty years ago—the outpost of civilization, connected with the east by a rapidly growing network of railroads. The city is now a city of 23,000 inhabitants, and is one of the fastest growing cities in the west.

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WILSON'S FLY PADS

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BENNETT TO RETIRE FROM POLITICS SOON

That He Will Quit—Declines to Say Resignation Will Be Presented at Conservative Caucus Next Week.

Calgary, July 28.—The rumor has been spread about the city that Mr. R. B. Bennett intended to resign at an early date, probably before the Conservative convention which is to be held here on July 5th. Doubtless the rumor has been caused by the fact that it was announced that a provincial leader would be appointed at that meeting, for though Mr. Bennett declines to call himself the leader, he is really the leader of his party in the legislature, whether he calls himself that or not.

The rumor has been strengthened by the fact that Mr. Bennett has taken no part in the bye-elections, although Conservatives are very actively engaged in contesting the elections both in Medicine Hat and Vermilion.

"I have not resigned," said Mr. Bennett. "I have not told any person that I intended to announce my resignation at the Conservative caucus, which I believe will be held here next month. I know nothing of such a meeting except what I see in the newspapers."

The rumor is now to me except that I intend to retire from politics at an early date. I cannot say when that will be. That is all that I can say about it."

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