

THE EDMONTON BULLETIN (SEMI-WEEKLY)

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BULLETIN CO., LTD., DUNCAN MARSHALL, Manager.

MONDAY, JANUARY 6, 1908.

THE DELINQUENT.

The decision of the C.P.R. to divert cars to the carrying business of the United States is one which under present circumstances might with propriety be made the subject of Parliamentary consideration, and of Parliamentary action when the time for effective action arrives.

Under circumstances, as they ought to be, it would be the business of the C.P.R. and the C.P.A. alone if they saw fit to place a large number of cars in the business of handling international trade.

But circumstances are not what they ought to be, nor reasonably near that ideal. The C.P.R. does not handle its home business efficiently, but does so, and apparently has no intention of doing so.

This is the ground upon which the people of Western Canada base their grievance. Were our own interests properly conserved, or even were they not prejudicially affected, we would take very proper national pride in the expedition carried into the enemy's country by a Canadian company.

When our interests are slaughtered, that the C.P.R. may grasp for foreign trade; when our grain is piled in heaps on the prairie in mid-winter because we cannot get cars to ship it; when a hundred cars of coal are needed in the prairie towns while C.P.R. cars laden with Canadian coal are rolling southward to Spokane.

There is a general impression that the first business of a railway company is to build and operate a railway. This at any rate was the theory on which the C.P.R. was based.

Eventually competition will bring relief from this grievance, but it must be many years before competition can be secured throughout the entire territory now occupied by the C.P.R.

The falling of Parliament might be able to bring a wholesome pressure to bear on the delinquent Company. The powers of the Railway Commission might be broadened to give that body a restraining grip on the matter of car distribution and diversion.

THE RACE.

Clearly the City of Edmonton and the Canadian Machine Telephone Co. are indulging in a speed contest; and at present the Company seem likely to finish a very poor second.

The relation of the city and the Company appear to be those of the hare and the hound, the city steadily traversing the pathway of progress at a speed that puts all our forecasts in the background, the Company following somewhere in the rear, trying to overtake the city's growing need of telephone service.

It is to be hoped the Company's disappointment will not deepen into discouragement, for though the present seems unpromising, all things are possible to the resolute; and who knows but that some day the Company may have accumulated enough telephone appliances to meet the city's immediate needs?

Meantime the telephone users of the city and those who would be prospective system becomes an operative reality, the service it will provide will be somewhat more speedy than the process of its construction.

The Bell Telephone Co. have sold their Manitoba system to the provincial Government. Unless the price offered them was too tempting to be refused, this sale can only mean that the Bell Company are to abandon the central provinces.

In quitting Manitoba the Bell people abandon what ought to be their stronghold west of the Lakes. They have been established in that Province far longer than in the newer provinces.

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Unless the Company have been bribed to let go their Manitoba system by a price out of all proportion to its value, their sale can only mean that they are to evacuate the central province entirely.

Handsome as the price is they would hardly consider it an inducement for the abandonment of their plans for a telephone monopoly in central Canada similar to that they enjoy and abuse in the eastern provinces.

What destroyed the hope of the Bell Company of perpetuating a telephone monopoly in central Canada? Was it Premier Roblin's policy for a provincial system? Hardly. The Bell Company have encountered opposition before without throwing up their hands; and opposition in the shape of telephones and copper wire instead of the harmless plans and specifications with which Premier Roblin has been juggling for a year or so.

The construction of a Government telephone system was a slogan of the Rutherford administration in the provincial elections; and when returned to power they lost no time in carrying their plans into execution.

Recognizing what was done in Alberta, the Manitoba Government soon announced their intention of doing likewise, and the Saskatchewan Government also fell in line.

The Manitoba sale is the beginning of the end of the Bell Company in central Canada; an eventually, it will lead the way for government ownership in all three provinces.

A representative of the Dominion Securities Limited requests the Bulletin to correct a statement made in these columns some time since. If effect it was said that he had sold a block of debentures to a firm who had been forced to wait until they were secured.

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Dear knows there has been enough trouble in the Pacific no doubt brings us would take a notion to cheer up. This pessimism has been more a problem of opportunity for advertising brighten up, the business men are commencing to realize how unimportant the "blue ruin" cry has been.

It should be added that the financial ability of the Dominion Securities Corporation, Limited, to borrow the money was never for a moment questioned; neither was their intention to borrow it.

With the colon bacillus in the city water Toronto concluded that it could not stand for Doc. Neblitt in the city hall.

Premier Roblin offers an amendment to the established method of ringing out the wild bells by the Bell ring.

Canada's mint begins business today. Another money-making institution has been successfully launched in this season of alleged financial stress.

During the ten years the board has been at work in settling 32 labor disputes and in 1907 six success. Of these latter 140 were in the west.

Justice without delay. Lethbridge Herald—The value of the district court has been shown in the last year's session.

The rate of taxation. Toronto Globe—The question for the people of Canada is, what is the rate of taxation? Mr. Foster avoids this issue, but it would put him out of court.

Hayashi proposed restriction. Toronto Globe—It must not be forgotten that the United States is asking to adopt a restrictive policy in the matter of Japanese emigration.

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Something in a name. Calgary Albertan—The Edmonton Bulletin is urging that the three prairie provinces be called the "Great West."

More Chinese railways. Amoy, China, Jan. 1.—Active construction work has begun on the telephone lines which are to connect Amoy with the other cities of this province.

Decrease in entries. Ottawa, Jan. 1.—The number of homestead entries for ten months to October 31 was 25,908 a decrease of 12,208 as compared with same period a year ago.

Mr. Lemieux's mission. Montreal Witness—The alleged failure of Mr. Lemieux to solve the gigantic question of the clash of races meeting across the Pacific no doubt brings great comfort to politicians who have in parliament been making out of this a political problem.

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THE FIRST. Toronto Globe—The great merit of Liberal finance is that with a lower rate of taxation Mr. Fielding is able to raise a greatly increased revenue.

A PRACTICAL IMPERIALIST. Ottawa Free Press—Mr. R.W. Perks, M.P., who has visited Ottawa twice within the last year, continues to give practical proof of his faith in the future of the Dominion.

BOOK REVIEWS. Stan Sanderson; by Hallie Ermine Rives (Mrs. Post-Wheeler).

By way of explanation, would say that in the first instance the titles were taken out in the names of Charles, and Charles, and the last two titles were only transferred to the City by Mr. May, were registered.

AS TO LOCAL IMPROVEMENT WORK. Editor Bulletin. Sir—The writer has been asked if the local improvement districts as we have them are a success.

It appears to me that all brush work, grading and culvert building should be let by tender and contractors required to make their work to the satisfaction of a government inspector before such work is paid for.

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London, Jan. 2.—Some alarmist stories have been appearing this week with reference to the prime minister, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, to the effect that his sojourn at Biarritz has been productive of no good and that in all probability he will not be able to return to London for the meeting of parliament.

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CORESPONDENCE

EAST END PARK DEAL. Dear Sir—As some remarks were made during the particulars in connection with the purchase of the East End Park, which reflected on the council of 1906, of which I was a member, and was a keen interest in the recent election, I would ask you to kindly publish the following data, which gives all the particulars in connection with this deal, and will prove conclusively that the council of 1906 were perfectly honest and straightforward and that an apology at least is coming to them from the party who made the remarks referred to.

Edmonton, January 27, 1906. Three months after date we promised to pay to the order of the Imperial Bank of Canada, here \$25,000 (Twenty-Five Thousand Nine Hundred Dollars) with interest at the rate of five per cent. per annum, value received.

Edmonton, January 27, 1906. Imperial Bank of Canada. Pay to the order of James Kirkness \$25,725 (Twenty-Five Thousand Seven Hundred and Twenty-Five Dollars Nine Hundred Dollars). (Signed) R. J. MANSON.

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