

The Albertan

W. M. DAVIDSON,
Editor and Manager.

THE TELEPHONE QUESTION

Some persons seem to be a bit alarmed about branching out into the telephone business against so keen and vigorous a competitor as the Bell Telephone Company. The same fears were expressed when Calgary undertook the matter of an electric light concern.

The electric light company is a harder rival than the telephone company for the reason that the company owning the electric light plant is a very strong one, and all its interests are in Calgary and it has many friends. But the Bell telephone company has practically no outside interests in Calgary, and a consumer is not a large employer of labor in Calgary, and has no friends.

There are not very many examples of a municipal company competing successfully with a private electric light company, but there are hosts of examples of a municipal telephone system competing successfully against the Bell Telephone Company.

In Grand Rapids there was a fierce fight between the people's system and the Bell with the result that at the present time the Bell has 3,400 subscribers, while the people's has 8,000 subscribers. The fight in the district shows even more plainly that the public system has the other system beaten to a finish.

This is one illustration. During the next few days the Albertan proposes to mention a few more in order to show that the remedy for this telephone difficulty is in the hands of the people.

A PUBLIC LIBRARY

From time to time some person advocates the establishment of a public library for Calgary. No one denies the need of it, but the city council of the past have not seen their way clear to undertake it. The city can find money for other less deserving things such as the Hornby lake and things of that kind, but it never got around to the matter of a public library. The people want a public library. It is safe to say that no city in Canada the size of Calgary can do without it. If they are without a library it is a poor advertisement for them.

Though the people of Calgary want a public library, they have been accustomed to regard an institution has ceased to be indispensable. With people coming into this city it is quite different. They have been accustomed to reading rooms and libraries and they feel very much the need of some such service. The lack of it is very keenly felt. They size up the city by service such as these.

The establishment of a public library will not cost very much. With a new city hall, provision can be made for it. Until then a library might be located in some convenient place. Because previous councils of this city have seen fit to neglect this matter is not a reason that this council should take similar action but rather that this council should adopt a strenuous policy.

MISREPRESENTATION WORKS AGAIN

The Calgary Herald is attempting at this late hour to make more trouble about the census. In its numerous dilations and exhortations it does not stay with the facts.

For instance the Herald says that at first the population of Calgary was placed by them at a certain figure, that it was later on placed at 14,000, and that still later it was reduced to the first figure.

That is not true. The population of Calgary was in the first instance placed at something near 12,000. A little later a bulletin in the Labor Gazette placed the population of Calgary AND SUBURBS at something over 14,000. The official bulletin now places the city of Calgary without its suburbs at 11,967.

The Herald complains because the population of Edmonton was reduced. The first bulletin referred to the population as turned in by the enumerators. It was not given out as a final count. It was found that some persons had been enumerated by more than one assessor and also that some were improperly enumerated. Upon revision these names were removed from the list. Is there anything wrong about that? It shows the care that was taken by the people in the census department.

The Albertan is inclined to believe that the enumerators in Calgary were not as quick counters as they might have been, but once the list was turned in to the department the work was pushed with vigor, care and despatch.

MEMOIRS OF KUROPATKIN

When General Kuropatkin wrote a book about the war with Japan he ought to have known enough not to attempt its publication in Russia. The whole edition has been seized by the government and confiscated. It is to be hoped, however, that he has preserved the manuscript or the proofs, for nothing could have so whetted the public appetite for this book as the attempt at its suppression. Military critics will be all anxious to know what the defeated commander of the Russian army in Manchuria has to say of operations which are still but vaguely understood. His would be an inside view of the causes of Russian failure in the most extraordinary campaign of modern times. The world is pretty well convinced that the cause of failure was as much owing to defects in the Russian military conditions as to Japanese courage and superiority in organization. Greater capacity may be conceded to the Japanese commanders, but they had an enormous advantage in the fact that they had no insubordination among their officers, while Kuropatkin was hampered throughout by the jealousies and disobedience of his underlings. In one instance a general of division threw up his command in the face of the enemy and retired, like Achilles, to sulk in his tent, instead of per-

forming the duty entrusted to him. Perhaps no commander of an army in the field was ever placed in a more trying position than that occupied by Kuropatkin. From the Yalu to Mukden insubordination was rampant. He had to fight the enemy in front, plotters in the rear and the demoralization caused by unfaithful subordinates. All this is well known, but there must be a great deal more not yet revealed. It is, therefore, to be hoped that Kuropatkin will find a publisher in London, Paris or Berlin.

THE LAST OF THE KNOCKER

The knocker is dead or is so discouraged that he never shows his face. You never find the chronic grumbler in evidence these days. He with the ice exterior has melted away before the advent of good times, and general prosperity.

There was a time that the first south naturally, the prospective resident moved into this country, was some person who told him that the Calgary country was too dry and that the northern country was too wet, that grain wouldn't grow here, and if it did grow in the north that it would freeze.

When a man came into the city he would find some depraved person who would tell him that Calgary would never amount to anything because there was nothing at the back of it, and though it was at the front just now, yet it would shirk in a few years and then conditions would be worse than ever.

But the knocker is dead. He has passed away. No person rises up to make such absurd comments about either the north or the south. There is nothing but prosperity and progress.

When the Hundred Thousand Club was organized, there was a great opportunity for the knocker to come out and say things, but he kept under cover and every person believes that the 100,000 idea is the proper thing and that we shall all see it before he gets many years older.

Either the knocker is dead, or to be in the Calgary fashion just now he has been converted, changing his nature under the glorious gospel of prosperity.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Not so many false fire alarms lately.

Alberta has the greatest climate in the world, but sometimes it has a strange way of showing it.

Judging from the start made by the Calgary ball club, Thyme proposes to wait for no baseball man.

Decidedly cold for Saturday and Sunday, says the weather man, but then you know the weather man is very frequently wrong.

The Bell Telephone Co. might have saved some money in telegraph tolls by informing us that the Calgary telephone service is not up to the mark.

For a description of the weather, refer to the terse narrative of the Kentucky editor who said, "first it blew, then it blew, then it snowed, then it froze."

If every criticism of the Bell telephone system was a bright shining piece for the company, the much advertised new building could be made of solid gold.

Calgary can never hope to have good civic administration without able and efficient administrators, which do not develop under the out-of-date committee system.

Now that more people are in need of coal, there is not so much coal or as many ears to carry the coal, according to the argument in the Calgary Herald.

Conditions must be rather alarming in Nebraska when farmers there decide to come to Canada to get to a country where the railways do not own everything in sight.

Calgary people have heard the old jolly of the "unprecedented growth of Calgary" used by Manager Paterson of the Bell company. It has ceased to be workable.

If the coal situation is due entirely to the demands of the people for coal, the Calgary Herald might be a public benefactor by persuading the people that they do not need coal.

Despite this severe weather, no person who has resided here for at least two or more years ever questions the fact that Sunny Alberta has the best climate in the world.

Now that the Calgary baseball team has got the first partner in the old firm of Thyme and Tide, we shall expect the second member to roll in at the end of the season when the pennant needs to be tied to a Calgary flagstaff.

The Calgary Herald objects to a close season because it would put so many good dogs out of business. By the same token if a man brought in blood hounds, the Herald would insist upon an open season for slaves.

Judging from a statement made by a speaker at a Toronto banquet Mackenzie & Mann bought the Prince Albert branch after about eight hours consideration and judging by their propensities, they bought it after about eight seconds consideration.

The Calgary Herald argues that the census returns are 64 per cent. right and 26 per cent. wrong because its editorial writer is 26 per cent. sane and 64 per cent. strange but that if its writer ever gets to be 64 per cent. sane and 24 per cent. strange then the census returns will be 64 per cent. wrong and 26 per cent. right.

The Edmonton Journal which last week explored the fact that Edmonton's bank clearing district was limited to an area of about one-fifth that of Calgary's, this week goes still further and says that Red Deer and some towns further north

have the inequitable habit of clearing in Calgary. Last week it said cents, that is \$1500. Any retail bookseller in Calgary cannot afford to sell the book at 25 cents, for if he bought the books from the publisher he would have to pay 20 cents for every book he bought and two cents extra for freight to Calgary. Any candid person can readily tell what the profits on the books are after the cost is deducted. C. C. Coe had better take a course in some night school or a study simple multiplication, or better still, attend the union meetings and study "what is truth."

The object of the union meetings in Calgary is to do good, and we ask all well meaning people to co-operate. Our motto is: "Help everybody and hinder nobody." If persons had been in the study of one of our pastors yesterday and had seen a young man signing the pledge and asking the pastors and evangelists to pray for him, and if they had seen that poor wreck of humanity who wandered into the church last night, after spending all his wages over the bar, and for whom I provided a bed, breakfast and this morning following and praying with him, and then, after getting to swear off from strong drink, secured him a job, they would say that the evangelists have humanity and should have our sympathy and help.

Winter Birds in Alberta

Calgary, Jan. 11.

Editor Albertan:

Citizens of Calgary are not so given to gathering coin as to be quite oblivious of the presence of these beautiful plumaged birds indigenous to New Mexico, which you mention in this morning's Albertan, to be seen in and around the city.

This is the third winter I have observed the strangers about town. The first one I observed was on the wing; it looked like a wild canary of abnormal size. I drew your attention last summer to the humming birds, to be seen in our gardens, and this winter quite a few blackbirds are still with us. If the instinct of birds, natives of the south, draws them westward, what's wrong with sunny Alberta winters? The sight of them feeding on the maple seeds in front of our doors and windows at this season is worth many members to the 100,000 club.

Mr. Hunter Replies

Dear Mr. Editor:

We have found our Canadian papers, as a rule, treat us very kindly and fairly, as they believe in British fair play. Among our very warmest friends from coast to coast are newspaper men. It is a very rare thing that I ever take any notice of letters signed by fictitious or forged names, or to what the old lady called "synonymous" letters. I may now say, however, that I am willing to stand by what I say, but not by what a reporter may represent me as saying. Take, for instance, the report of Sunday, that has been so much criticized, where I was reported as saying, "Barkeepers are the worst men on earth. I would not wipe my feet through their devil's would have no use for them." Let me say, I have not mentioned barkeepers in public in Calgary. I was discussing the billiard room, the ball room and the bar room. As to the bar room, I said, it is the "devil's back kitchen," and a man who would by vote or voice open a slaughter house of hell, a bar room, would destroy his fellow men. I would not wipe my feet on such a fellow though he be a church member. I said not a word about barkeepers. That will come later. Another squib said a man asked me about barkeepers and that I said I would not speak to them. There is not a word of truth in this statement, but it is fabricated out of whole cloth.

Again, in one of the reports I was represented as saying, "All reporters are liars." This is absolutely false. I never said or thought such a thing. Reporters have no better friends than the evangelists and we often have kindly words to say to and of them.

Again, I was reported as saying that I expected to save one thousand souls in Calgary. I have not in Calgary or any other place made such a statement. It is God's work to save, not the evangelists.

Let me refer to the letter signed C. C. Coe, regarding the hymn book. It assumes that the evangelists visit twelve places in a year and sell five hundred at each place; their pin money would be nearly five thousand dollars a year. Even a coalboiler would conclude that a person must be an ignoramus or drunk to write thus. For even at his estimation of 500 books at 12 places would be 6000 books at 25 cents, that is \$1500. Any retail bookseller in Calgary cannot afford to sell the book at 25 cents, for if he bought the books from the publisher he would have to pay 20 cents for every book he bought and two cents extra for freight to Calgary. Any candid person can readily tell what the profits on the books are after the cost is deducted. C. C. Coe had better take a course in some night school or a study simple multiplication, or better still, attend the union meetings and study "what is truth."

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so many are demanded of them.

He continues:

Now for a plea for revivals. Some men are more at home at a peep-show, or a penny gaff, than at a meeting that tends to check the materialistic tendency of a spineless age, and to lift men above the mole and the beaver. In their minds religious revivals create a feeling of disgust and ridicule. We note that that disgust and ridicule is strangely absent when an attempt is made to whitewash houses that breed death and engender vice. Men can conquer. Such critics talk much about the insanity that follows religious enthusiasm, but quietly ignore the insanity that follows enthusiasm in drink and in vice.

And these are the people who applaud enthusiasm in politics and in business—enthusiasm enough to wear out soul and body in pursuit of the almighty dollar, but who are bitterly sarcastic when enthusiasm extends to religion.

In Herbert Spencer's great classic who wandered into the church last night, after spending all his wages over the bar, and for whom I provided a bed, breakfast and this morning following and praying with him, and then, after getting to swear off from strong drink, secured him a job, they would say that the evangelists have humanity and should have our sympathy and help.

Thanking you, Mr. Editor, for your valuable space.

I remain, Calgary's well-wisher,

J. E. HUNTER.

Where is Heaven?

Editor Albertan:

In Thursday's Albertan appears a letter from Robert Burgess in which, among other things, he says that he challenges the evangelists at a present in the city to prove from the sayings of Jesus Christ that heaven is anywhere else but on this earth. I see the saying of Mr. Burgess in the paper, and I am very glad that whether the said evangelists will accept the challenge of Mr. Burgess or not, but would like to submit the following quotations from the New Testament to Mr. Burgess:

Jesus answered my kingdom is not of this world.—John 18:36.

And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto you, that hereafter thou shalt be with me in paradise.—Luke 23:43.

And it came to pass, while He blessed them, He was parted from them, and carried up into heaven.—Luke 24:50.

And the stars of heaven shall fall, and the powers that are in heaven shall be shaken and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory. And then shall He send His angels, and shall gather together His elect from the four winds. Verily I say unto you that all things shall be done.—Mark 13:25-30.

And Jesus, when He was baptized, came up straightway out of the water; and lo, the heavens were opened unto Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon Him. And lo a voice from heaven saying: This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.—Matthew 3:16-17.

I think I have shown by these few extracts that heaven is in the skies by some of the sayings of Jesus, and the accounts of His life. Other parts of the Bible show if anything more conclusively that heaven is not on this earth. In II. Corinthians, 12:4, we read that He (Christ) was caught up into paradise.

In Genesis, 1:6-8, 16-19, we find that the stars in the firmament of heaven, and God called the firmament heaven.

In II. Kings, 2:11 is an account of a chariot of fire and horses of fire ascending in a whirlwind into heaven. In Genesis 11:6-7, it says that the Lord said let us go down, etc.; this clearly means from heaven, as it deals with the tower of Babel, which was being built to reach heaven.

I think I have shown that despite Mr. Burgess' contention that the Bible heaven is on this earth, he is wrong, although he claims to be a student of the Bible. When Mr. Burgess talks upon astronomy as proving his contention he no doubt considers himself on safe ground, for although astronomers have discovered stars millions of miles away they have not discovered heaven.

ALFRED J. BROWNING.

A Plea for Revivals

H. E. M. Cosgrove writes complaining about the literary quality of the sermons by Messrs. Crossley and Hunter. He says:

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