WEEKLY LEADER

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Regina Sask., Wednesday, Jan. 9 1907

MORE LAND FOR HOMESTEADS

The announcement made at Monday night's Old Timers' banquet by D. W. Bole, M. P., to the effect that the Dominion Government will introduce a bill this session for the purpose of throwing odd-numbered sections open for homesteading and furthermore to grant the privilege of pre-emption to future homesteaders and to those who have already homesteaded but not been permitted to exercise that privilege, is one likely to arouse considerable interest, and there is little doubt, a very general measure of satisfaction. Until the bill has been formally introduced and the details of it have been examined, it is, of course, impossible to deal fully with the question. That the principle of the bill, however, as outlined by Mr. Bole, will be acceptable can be at once admitted.

As Mr. Bole pointed out, and as indeed all conversant with the facts are aware, the cream of the at present available land has to a certain extent been absorbed, either by homesteading, grants to railways, etc. Seventy-three million acres of splendid arable land, however, still remain, and by the freeing of the odd-numbered sections a vast area of the finest wheat-growing land in the world will be available for settlement. That the proposed step will give a tremendous impetus to Western immigration goes without saying and both Saskatchewan and Alberta must greatly profit by it. Anything which tends to hasten the settling up of the country is certain to be welcomed by the West.

The proposal to grant settlers the right of pre-emption is on the whole one which the public will commend, giving every homesteader as it will the opportunity of obtaining at a low figure sufficient land additional to his homestead to enable him to farm profitably and make for himself a comfortable income. It is a boon which will especially appeal to settlers of small means and it is these apparently that the government has in view. "They want, in fact," said Mr. Bole, "to make it possible for every settler to make a good livelihood."

SHAND AND STARK

Two mounted police officers, Constables Shand and Stark, with Sam Adams, hunter and prospector, to act as guide, are out in the wilderness of the Upper McLeod on one of those missions for which the police have become famous. They are travelling a round trip of seven hundred miles to rescue a horse rancher named Hornback, who, driven violently insane by isolation and solitude, is living above the big eddy of the McLeod in imminent danger of losing his life from cold or starvation."

The above Edmonton dispatch gives in brief outline one of those incidents in which the annals of our North-West Mounted Police are so rich and which have made the force famous throughout the world. Without rhetoric, with no embellishment we are informed of the setting out of Constables Shand and Stark on a trip not unlikely to be attended with some danger and certain to be accompanied with much hardship and privation. For seven hundred miles these two constables of whom the world has heard nothing before and of whom, when this adventure is over, it may probably never hear again, will face the rigors incident to winter on those northern plains, with all that may chance in the way of blizzards and extremes of cold, and coming back, in addition to the inevitable dangers of the trail at such a season of the year, they expect to have to watch over and care for a crazy man with it whom it may be necessary to use force to bring him in.

Surely the country has reason to be proud of a force made up of such men as Shand and Stark, men who at duty's call, with no expectation of a Victoria Cross or any of that spectacular popularity which often falls to the lot of heroes of the battlefield, take to the saddle and with set teeth and grim determination take all that may befall them with the philosophic imperturbality peculiar to men of the Anglo-Saxon race.

For the most part we hear little of our Riders of the Plains, yet to them undoubtedly we owe it that this vast western country is today famous for its law-abiding qualities and for the peace and general good order which prevail throughout its length and breadth. Shand and Stark are not, we may take it, exceptional men so far as the R. N. W. M. P. force is concerned, but are typical rather of the majority of the members of the force such as may be found wherever the Police are stationed—in the rough, wild ranching country of the Big Muddy to the south, far north where the waters of Hudson Bay beat on inhospitable shores, in the unexplored regions of the vast Peace River country or in the rugged fastnesses of the Yukon away up in the Arctic circle—ready even at a moment's notice to saddle up and hit the trail when the occasion demands it.

CHILD MARRIAGES

An incident is reported from Prince Albert which, for the good reputation of this country, it is to be hoped is of the very rarest ocurrence. According to the local papers a party of three arrived in the northern city one day last week from Macdowall, consisting of a young girl of thirteen, and a man of thirty whom it was proposed that the girl should marry. The father having taken an affidavit giving his consent to the marriage, a license was duly granted. When, however, a minister was sought to perform the ceremony, no minister in the city would be a party to the perpetration of such an outrage upon ordinary decency.

Concerning the brute who was willing that his daughter, a young girl of thirteen, should become a wife at an age when she should still, if not playing with dolls, at any rate be going to school, it is difficult to speak with moderation. Such an inhuman monster is a disgrace to civilisation, and utterly unfitted for the serious responsibility of parenthood. Of the man desiring to marry this girl of tender years it is equally difficult to speak. We can only suppose that he is one of those moral degenerates met with occasionally in all countries and in all classes.

That such a marriage should be possible, however, suggests that the law wants strengthening in this respect. Under ordinary circumstances, of course, there would be no necessity for legislating against the marriage of children with the consent of their parents. No parent deserving of the name, would ever consent to a daughter of thirteen becoming a wife. But legislation cannot ignore the moral degenerate and must make provisions for limiting the outcome of his moral degeneracy. At present in this country, as in many others which claim to be in the forefront of civilisation, provided that the parent consents, there is nothing to prevent such a marriage as was contemplated at Prince Albert. This should not be so.

Possibly in tropical countries such as India where children develop at an earlier age than is the case in the temperate zones, the marriage of a girl of thirteen may not be so much out of place. In a country such as this it should be an impossibility. We legislate the age at which a child may work, we should legislate also regarding the minimum age at which a child may enter upon the most solemn of human contracts. The maintenance of a high physical standard demands the prevention of child marriages. The nation that permits its daughters to become mothers at thirteen and fourten years of age cannot hope to maintain a lead in the race for industrial supremacy and its puny children would become a menace to its very existence.

TEACHERS' SALARIES

As the result of a petition by the teachers of Edmonton's public schools, the school board of that city has just announced its intention of at once increasing the salary of every teacher at present on the board's staff to the maximum figure. The agitation at present being carried on in favour of higher remuneration for teachers appears to be widespread. In Ontario, as in Edmonton, it has resulted in a substantial betterment of the teacher's position. Down in some of the northern States the question is also being discussed, and public opinion there, as in Ontario and Edmonton seems favourable to an upward movement.

The teacher's lot is not always an enviable one, bringing with it much hard work and not always the thanks that it deserves, and remuneration not the most handsome. Yet there is no calling carrying with it more responsibility than that of instructing the youth of the nation. Upon our teachers depends in no small degree, and merely the intellectual standing of the nation, but its moral worth as well. A poor class of teachers will never produce high class citizens.

In the past for some time now there has been a tendency on the part of the intelligent youth of both sexes to shun the teaching profession as being one the remuneration of which was in no way commensurate with the responsibility attaching to it and the training that it requires. The result has been that more and more the profession has been boycotted by the male sex and far from eagerly sought after by the female sex, with a consequent lowering in many instances of the intellectual efficiency of the nation's teachers.

The movement now evident in favour of granting increased salaries to teachers is a step in the right direction and cannot fail to improve the quality and increase the numbers of those entering the teaching profession. No one worthy of his citizenship will grudge the expense. In nothing is a penny wise and pound foolish policy so out of place as in connection with the education of our children. That way lies national degeneration.

SERMONS IN STONE

To a great extent the history of a people can be read in its national monuments. A walk through any of the capitals of the Old World will afford to any intelligent sight-seer a fairly good insight into the story of the nation concerned, outlining as it will by the various monuments that it will reveal, most of the principal events and the men connected with them. This, of course, is more noticeable in older countries than it is in those of the New World, whose history is still, comporatively speaking, meagre. Yet even in a new country such as our own, whose history dates back but a few centuries, it is wonderful what interest is contained in a study of its national monuments.

Elsewhere in this issue will be found the first of a series of articles on special Canadian subjects which deals so far as space will permit with the monuments of our country, and he must be a man lacking in patriotism and without a shred of national sentiment who can read that list and remembering all that they stand for not feel a thrill of pride in his country and his country's history. Written in stone, graven in imperishable bronze, we have scattered throughout our fair Dominion monuments which tell of noble deeds done, of progress achieved, of a people carving out for itself a proud place in the great story of the nations.

If for no other reason than the splendid example that such monuments afford to the rising generation, inspiring to endeavor and prompting to high living, this custom of writing a nation's history in stone is one of the most praiseworthy customs which appear to have been common to all nations with any claim to culture from the very earliest times. Rome had her Forum, crowded with the statuary of her great men; the streets of Athens were filled with the marble monuments of her heroes; Egypt had her twoering Pyramids built to commemorate her illustrious dead; Pompeii, the cities of Syria, of India, of Persia—all have perpetuated in chiselled stone those men of whom they were most justly proud, those deeds of which they had most right to boast.

Here in this western country of ours, but now as it were on the very fringe of its history, there is naturally but little as yet to be seen in the way of national monuments. That they will come, however, with the country's growth is certain and it would be as well if in laying out our parks and public places we kept in view the likelihood that the time will come when we too will want to raise memorials to Canada's great men and to Canadians, noble deeds. There could, for instance, be no more suitable place for a memorial than the Victoria Park of our own city which, if the new City Council is in any way alive to its responsibilities and opportunities, is destined at no distant date to be one of the finest public squares in the whole Dominion. What more fitting in a city called after Victoria the Good and in a park that bears her name, than that some suitable memorial should be erected to perpetuate visibly the memory of the greatest soverign who ever ruled the vast empire to which we are proud to belong? The form that such a memorial should take is immaterial, though a marble drinking fountain, upon which might be attached a bronze medallion of our late revered and beloved Queen, would perhaps be as suitable a form as any that it might assume. Such a scheme might well be inaugurated by the school children of our city, who, if they could not bear the whole expense of the project, might nevertheless make themselves largely responsible for its successful carrying out.

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SCARTH STREET . . . REGINA

At Boissevain, Man., on December 28th, Premier Roblin is reported by the Daily Telegram of the 29th ulto. to have said in the course of his speech:

"How differently they treat Alberta and Saskatchewan. Manitoba gets $100,000.00 a year for her lands. What do Alberta and Saskatchewan get? There is a provision by which they get one and a quarter millions for all time to come. That is an evidence of the differences in the principles upon which the Provinces of the North-West are dealt with. In addition to this million and a quarter what do we find? We find that in lieu of their public lands they are to get annually for five years $93,750.00 for public buildings. Surely, surely the lines of our sister provinces have fallen on pleasant places, while those of Manitoba fall on exactly the opposite."

The decision arrived at last week by the Regina Grain Growers' Association to render financial support to the prosecution now being carried on in Winnipeg in connection with the alleged conspiracy by certain members of the Grain Exchange, is one that should at once be copied by all similar associations throughout the country. Indeed there seems no reason why such a movement should be by any means confined to the grain growers---it should appeal to every business man in Saskatchewan.

The whole country is vitally interested in the fight now being carried on and which, even should it so far as the decisions of the court are concerned, be unsuccessful, cannot fail to be of value to the community at large. We are all interested in the farmers of our province getting the best possible price for his produce and in reaping the fullest returns for his labor. Every additional cent per bushel that the Saskatchewan farmer gets for his wheat is for the benefit of Saskatchewan as a whole, so that taking the very lowest ground of action---that of self interest---the prosecution now in progress concerns us all.

BRANDON, Jan. 8.—A special meeting of the City Council was held tonight, when the gas by-law was given its third and final readings and passed. Strong opposition was offered against th eby-law being carried tonight by Alds. Clark and Doran, both gentlemen being in favor of municipal ownership. The contract between the city and company now has to be signed, and it is expected the work on the plant will commence as soon as possible in the spring.

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TEACHER Wanted for new Steinbach Public School. Duties to commence Jan. 2nd. Write stating qualifications and experience to Uron G. Sawatzsky, Aberdeen, Sask. 46-48w.

* * The Regina Business College has closed for the Xmas holidays, and will re-open on Wednesday, January 2nd. Prospective students are advised to send in their names for enrollment before that date, in order to secure the special cut in rates advertised in another column of this paper.

$10.00 REWARD.

For any information leading to the recovery of one grey mare, about eleven years old, weight 1400 lbs. Blind in both eyes, puff on left hock joint, strayed from section 15-15-19, west of the second.

E. B. MOATS,
Box 221, Regina, Sask.
45-48w.

* * The Federal Business College, after closing a most successful term, both as regards number of students and work accomplished, will re-open for the winter term on Wednesday, January 2nd. In the meantime, all young people who intend to prepare for business life at one of the most progressive and reliable Business Institutes in Canada, should make arrangements with Principal Geo. S. Houston, Stokes Block, Broad St., Regina. 46w

* * A sound business trainfng is a good thing for the farmer, the mechanic, or in fact, anyone desiring to make the most of his opportunities. Many of our young people who have spare time in the winter months could put it to no better use than in getting a little drilling along business lines. Full information may be obtained by dropping a card to the Central Business College, Winnipeg, for their new calendar "C."

WANTED—Teachers holding first or second class Professional certificates wanted immediately. Salaries 950 per month. Write Edmonton ers' Agency, Edmonton, Alta. 32-1yr-w

TEACHER WANTED—Male or female, holding a first or second class certificate, vallid in the Province of Saskatchewan, Catholic; required to teach English and French. Good salary will be paid. Apply H. Stapleton, sec.-treas., North Battleford, Sask. 40-4w.

TEACHER WANTED.—Male or female holding 1st or 2nd class professional certificate for Rose Plain S.D. 447 and continue one year. State salary and experience. Apply to Thos. R. Brown, Secretary, Regina. 45-46w.

TEACHER WANTED — Teacher wanted by the Vaunder School District No. 1312, Vonda, Sask. Male sex preferred with first or second class certificate. When applying state salary wanted and apply to Chas. D. McGregor, Secretary-Treasurer, Vonda, Sask. 44-46w.

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NOTICE.

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that an application will be made to the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Saskatchewan at the next session thereof for an act to amend the act incorporating The Saskatchewan Central Railway Company, passed in the year 1906, as follows:

By inserting in Section 7, Clause (b), immediately after the word "from" the words "a point at or near."

By adding to said Section 7 the following clauses, and thereby authorising the construction of the following lines of railway:

(e) From a point on the eastern boundary of the province between the southern boundary of the province and the northern boundary of Township 11 westerly to a point on the western boundary of the province between the southern boundary of the province and the northern boundary of Township 11.

(f) From a point on the main line of the said The Saskatchewan Central Railway west of Range 23 west of the 2nd Meridian in a northerly and northwesterly direction to a point at or near Goose Lake and thence northerly to a point on Big River between Ranges 9 and 12, west of the Third Meridian.

(g) From a point on the line of the railway at or near Goose Lake westerly to the western boundary of the province.

(h) Branch lines from the line of the said railway as set out in clause (e) to any town on the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway and to the southern boundary of the province.

Dated December 11th A. D. 1906.

J. A. ALLAN,
Solicitor for the Applicants.

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