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SIFTON WAGES WAR ON SASKATCHEWAN LIBERALISM.

(The Regina Leader, Dec. 24, 1917)

WHEN the Leader took the Winnipeg Free Press to task for its bigoted racial and religious campaign against those who did not see eye to eye with it in support of Union Government, that paper sought to rullify the force of our criticism by stigmatizing *The Leader* as a secret enemy of Union government and with striving to stab it in the back. Most people in Saskatchewan no doubt regarded the *Free Press* outburst against *The Leader* as merely an ebullition of anger on the part of an editor who they realized had lost his balance and sanity of judgment in the heat of the election campaign. *The Leader*, however, knew then that the real motive of the attack on this paper was much deeper, and the fact that last Wednesday's, Thursday's and Friday's issues of the *Free Press* contain additional false and sneering references to *The Leader* but confirms our belief in information which has reached us from several quarters and which the conduct and statements of *Free Press* representatives, and the innuendo of *Free Press* articles, further supports.

The Leader has no desire to continue a quarrel with the *Free Press* or any other paper or person, but it is high time that the people of Saskatchewan, and particularly the Liberals of Saskatchewan, should have their eyes opened to the nature of the campaign which is being, and will continue to be, waged against them through the Winnipeg *Free Press* by order of Sir Clifford Sifton, the owner and

dictator of that paper. The attack on *The Leader* is merely a part of a much larger and more or less insidious attack being made on Saskatchewan Liberalism, its leaders and supporters and everything connected with it. . . . Sir Clifford Sifton fears and hates Saskatchewan Liberalism. It is the biggest stumbling block in the way of the Big Interests high tariff profiteers. It would be a master stroke if Sifton could succeed in creating discord in the ranks of Liberalism in this Province and thus divide its forces and weaken its power. The *Free Press* has been set the task. Hence its policy of belittling and casting doubt upon the sincerity and the efforts of every Saskatchewan Liberal who supported Union, while at the same time exaggerating and laying unwonted stress upon the words and actions of those Liberals who opposed Union and vilifying them in such a manner as to arouse the ire of all their fellow Liberals. The *Free Press* had high hopes of partly succeeding by such a discreditable and dishonest campaign in creating trouble in the Liberal ranks in Saskatchewan. It failed, and failed ignominiously. Saskatchewan Liberalism is of the true type. It is democratic, not autocratic. It recognizes the right of free British electors to think act and vote for themselves. Unlike the *Free Press* it does not place every man in the pillory who, conscious in his own uprightness and purity of motives, thinks for himself.