

THE EDMONTON BULLETIN

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BULLETIN CO., Ltd., DUNCAN MARSHALL, Manager.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1907.

ABANDONING HIS ALLIES.

The Orange Sentinel goes after Mr. Borden for his abandonment of the Orangemen after they served his purpose in adding the attack on the Government over the autonomy bills. The Sentinel points out that Mr. Borden maintains in his new platform the objections he made to the land provisions of the bills but has omitted both in his speeches and his program all mention of the school clauses against which he investigated quite strongly, and against which he received the assistance of the Sentinel in an attempt to arouse the Orangemen of Ontario with the cry that the Protestants of the West were being trodden upon. The Sentinel puts it thus:

"The silence that Mr. Borden maintains regarding the educational clauses of the autonomy bills is in the last degree disappointing. It would not be so obtrusive if he refrained from attacking that measure at other points. He gives a definite pledge in his new platform that if he is returned to power he will amend the act, and give the control of the public lands to the provincial legislatures. This puts him in a most equivocal position."

"Mr. Borden has argued on the floor of the house that this part of the autonomy bills is unconstitutional. Yet he seems to have consented to accept it as the final word in federal legislation on the school question in the west. If he is satisfied with the worst feature of this law, why should he desire to amend those of lesser importance?"

"By all precedents of party government it is reasonable to expect the Conservative leader to make the autonomy bills the chief issue of the approaching contest, and to emphasize the educational clauses. His own action regarding the Grand Trunk Pacific railway bill requires him to raise the school issue. It will be remembered that the consent introduced this bill to construct the Grand Trunk Pacific railway without having a mandate from the country. Mr. Borden and his followers in parliament fought that measure as vigorously as they could. They were defeated in the house. That did not satisfy Mr. Borden. He did not accept that legislation as a finality. In the campaign that followed he made it the issue of the election."

"The inconsistency of Mr. Borden's present course is susceptible of explanation only upon the theory that he wishes to maintain a friendly attitude toward the French hierarchy. Having opposed the bill in parliament, he seems to think he has done his whole duty to the west, and gone far enough to satisfy his Ontario followers. This would be most convenient if it could be managed. It would leave him in a position to claim the support of the French Romanist and the Ontario Orangemen, and coalesce these divergent elements of the electorate. He would be counting upon the loyalty of the Orangemen to the Conservative party being stronger than their loyalty to the basic principles of the order. He evidently expects them to condone the encroachments of the Church of Rome in the matter of the schools of the new provinces for the sake of the party. Some of them will. It is our opinion, however, that more of them will not. As we have said in a previous issue the Orangemen of Canada, if they had to make a choice, would prefer Mr. Borden to Sir Wilfrid Laurier. But his new platform is calculated to sap their enthusiasm and make them careless as to which party wins at the polls."

From the standpoint of the Orange Sentinel that paper is undoubtedly correct. So long as the educational clauses could be used as a club with which to belabor the Government Mr. Borden was tireless in wielding it himself and in inciting the Orange Sentinel and those with whom it carried influence to do likewise. But when the west endorsed the school clauses in a way that left Mr. Borden no hope of political advantage from continuing his assaults upon them his concern for the educational affairs of the new provinces showed a marked decline. So long as he could use the Orangemen of Ontario to advantage in a race and creed campaign against the Government he bid that Mr. Borden could make for their support was too strong for him. But the moment it appeared probable that his close alliance with the Orangemen would tell against him in other parts

of the Dominion and amongst other elements in our population that moment Mr. Borden turned the cold shoulder upon those who had aided him. In the platform which he professes contains all that he could think of likely to awaken the public interest of the electorate there is no mention of the clauses which two years ago he denounced as an unconstitutional outrage upon the people of these provinces. In his speeches recently delivered both in the English-speaking centres of the Maritime Provinces and in the province of Quebec, there is no invitation to the audience to rise and strike the alleged letters from the manacled inhabitants of those provinces. From its point of view the Sentinel is quite in order in calling upon Mr. Borden to stand by the allies who stood by him in distress, and in warning the Orangemen that Mr. Borden depends on their party allegiance to overcome their sense of injury because of that abandonment. The unwritten plank in Mr. Borden's platform appears to be "all things to all men" according to their ability to serve the purpose of the hour.

A "SAMPLE SCANDAL."

Some time since the Department of Militia wanted to purchase a rifle range at Keswick, N.S.; \$12,400 was offered for a suitable property but the owners declined the offer. Arbitrators were appointed and appraised the land at \$30,000. A referee was appointed before whom the owners presented the property as being worth \$45,000 and the referee allowed them \$38,000. The Department appealed to the Exchequer Court and Judge Burdidge gave the owners \$25,000. The Supreme Court was appealed to and the judgment was reduced to the amount originally offered by the crown, \$12,400, which was paid over and the range secured.

Now the transaction is paraded by the Opposition press as "A Sample Liberal Scandal." That \$12,400 was paid for the property valued by arbitrators, referees and courts at amounts ranging from \$19,000 to \$38,000 is pointed out as a shining but typical illustration of how the Government is held up in the purchase of property. And that sooner than pay more than the \$12,400 the Government fought the case through successive awards and from court to court to the highest tribunal is represented as showing how willing the Government were to be held up. For having paid one-third of the referee's valuation the Government is denounced as enriching their "friends," at the expense of the public; and for evidence of the Government's anxiety to enrich their "friends" we are reminded that they went to law to prevent being held up and did so prevent being held up. On the whole this is a pretty fair "sample" of the "scandals" invented to discredit the Government; the assertion that it is a "scandal" is not farther than usual from the facts.

INVESTIGATE THE MILK BUSINESS.

The announcement that the city dealers will hereafter give only twelve instead of fourteen quarts of milk for a dollar is anything but pleasant news to hundreds of homes where every increase in the cost of living is keenly felt; and it is especially bad news in homes where milk is a necessity for the little ones, the aged and the invalid.

In making the advance the dealers appear to have acted with singular unanimity as with remarkable coincidental way splendidly regardless of each other's doings, whether they just happened to simultaneously advance prices to the same extent, or whether the advance was the result of collusion and mutual agreement. If the latter, there would be then the further question whether or not their action constituted a combine either in restraint of trade or for the undue enhancement of prices.

The reason advanced for the increase is that the cows are drying up and the supply consequently falling off. On the face of it this looks much more like an excuse than a reason. The dairymen were surely aware of this habit of the cows and might reasonably have been expected to make provision to continue business by exchanging them and securing others which would supply milk during the winter season. That instead of doing so they advanced the price of milk is simply a move to make the consumer pay for the dairymen's negligence or lack of foresight.

The city having turned over the milk business to licensed dairymen may surely insist that the dairymen shall supply milk or prove that the failure to do so is not their fault; and until they prove this they surely should not be permitted to make a shortage of the supply a reason for boosting the price. Otherwise the dairymen by keeping only half as many cows as the business demanded might collect twice as much as they should for the milk they supplied.

It is instructive to note the prices charged in some of the larger cities of Eastern Canada. According to the newspapers these are—Ottawa—7 cents a quart. Toronto—7 to 8 cents a quart. Halifax—7 cents. St. John—8 cents. Rochester—8 cents. Boston—9 cents. Cleveland—7 cents. Buffalo—7 cents.

The recent advance makes the Edmonton price 1-1/2 cents per quart. It will be argued of course that the prices of other commodities in Edmonton are higher than in Eastern Canada and the Eastern States. True, but not the prices of commodities which enter into the production of milk. The standing complaint of the farmers of Alberta is that beef is too cheap—a standing claim that cows do not bring here the price they should in comparison to the prices in Eastern Canada. Moreover the high prices now prevailing in the eastern cities are due, on the claims of the dairymen, to a scarcity of fodder. No such element enters or can enter into the enhancement of the cost of milk production here, for whatever else Alberta has or has not we have an abundant supply of hay and green feed. Cattle and fodder being both cheaper here than in Ontario it is surely not unreasonable to claim that the price of milk should be no higher here than in Ontario cities.

Then too, Edmonton is not Ottawa or Toronto. There the complicated conditions and the volume of the business have divided the trade between the milk-producers and the milk dealers—each of whom counts must collect a profit. In Edmonton the dairymen are both the producers and dealers. They should be able to effect an economy in operation by this combination and deliver the goods at a lower figure than the Ottawa and Toronto price. That they do not do so proves that they are not satisfied even with the combined profits of the producers and dealers in a country where cows and cow-boys cost more money than in Alberta.

COERCION FOR THE SETTLER.

Eventually the truth will come to the surface. Mr. Borden and the newspapers which support him have duly advertised that gentleman's willingness to "cede" to Alberta and Saskatchewan the control of the public lands, but they have studiously suppressed the other half of the proposition that if the Dominion "ceded" to the lands we must "cede" to the Dominion the subsidies we now get in place of the lands. At Chatham, Ontario, last week however Mr. Borden let the cat out of the bag. According to the Mail and Empire his proposal was to turn over the lands "upon a reasonable readjustment." The Toronto World says he declared, "It was the policy of the Conservative party to cede these lands to the provinces and readjust the provincial subsidies accordingly."

Mr. Borden has made it clear therefore that so far as he expresses the policy of the Opposition that policy is to reduce our provincial subsidies and force us to derive our provincial revenue from the sale of public lands. With the speculator in Toronto this policy should be popular. It would open up to him a glorious opportunity for a carnival of land speculation in a country far enough removed that its disastrous consequences would not directly and vitally affect his other interests. He would be able to invade the West, clean up a fortune and go home leaving a few scores of unfortunate settlers pledged to pay tribute to him for a decade or so. The Fosters and the Fowlers should worship at the feet of Mr. Borden. The adoption of his land policy would mean millions to them. Perhaps—just perhaps—that is why Mr. Borden preaches this land policy.

From the settler, the man who wants to become a settler, and the man whose business welfare depends on the success of the settler, however, Mr. Borden can hardly expect enthusiastic approval. The settler in Western Canada is not usually encumbered with surplus capital; he is usually able to find circulation for the capital he has in purchasing stock and implements and in supporting his family until the homestead becomes productive, without having to enrich the coffers of a speculator who has interposed between him and the land he wants to cultivate. Nor are the rewards of the western farmer so

THEY CANNOT GET THE LANDS AND RETAIN THE FEDERAL ALLOWANCE.

Mr. Borden has declared his policy to be to cut down the provincial subsidies of Alberta and Saskatchewan and turn the Provincial Governments out on the prairie to hunt for money with which to carry on business. The Montreal Gazette, the senior newspaper supporter of Mr. Borden now rises to tell us why this should be done. As frequently suggested before, this proposal finds origin not in any overwhelming spirit of generosity toward the new provinces, but in a spirit of parsimonious regard for the federal treasury. There is no money in administering the lands, argues the Gazette, therefore the Dominion would gain if the land was turned over to the provinces and the \$375,000 subsidy now paid each province in lieu of the lands, should be cancelled.

On September 9th in the course of an editorial on "Western Province Lands," the Gazette said: "There is no great profit to Canada in the administration of the Lands of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. They were surveyed and reported on and bought to the attention of settlers, all of which cost much money, aside from the outlay on immigration work which was incurred largely because of the West being in need of people. With the lands will naturally go much of the outlay on their account. Then, there is not so much land available as there once was. The Hudson's Bay company retained a large portion when it transferred its rights in the territory to Canada. The railways received large grants, and colonization companies got some, besides what settlers have purchased or homesteaded. This has come mostly out of the best, the area of which open for occupation is now considerably reduced. In the northern parts of Saskatchewan and Alberta there is untouched a great region, some of it timbered, some of it possibly rich in minerals, but no great part of it yet known to be in every way classable as first quality agricultural land. It may be highly valuable. No one will care to venture a specific opinion that outside of known deserts and within the temperate zone any land in America affords so large a return for what it would receive, also giving up its allowance out of the federal treasury, paid because it was not at the first made owner of its territory. Saskatchewan and Alberta have larger areas, with forest and the promise of mineral wealth. Their lands may be found to be very valuable. They are assumed to return from the federal treasury, as compensation for their deprivation, each \$375,000 a year. This will ultimately be raised to \$1,250,000 a year. As Quebec, with her greater timber wealth than either Saskatchewan or Alberta will likely be found to possess, get only about \$1,000,000 a year from its lands, and out of this pays all expenses of administration, the situation suggests that the western provinces should think well of all their demand will mean, if it is granted. They cannot get the lands and retain the federal allowance for them also."

The concluding suggestion that a "demand" for the lands had gone from the West can only have been intended for the provincial friends of the Gazette in Alberta and Saskatchewan for they are the only people in

INSU-BORDEN-ATION.

In his speech at St. John, N.B., Mr. Borden insisted that Hon. Wm. Pugsley be opposed in the approaching bye-election. A day or so after it was announced that the seat would not be contested. When nomination day came Mr. Pugsley's name was the only one suggested and there remains only the legal formality of declaring him returned by acclamation.

Mr. Borden toured Ontario denouncing the Government and all its works and it is announced that Hon. Geo. P. Graham will be the only man nominated in Brockville. Thus while Mr. Borden tours and talks Liberals are returned by acclamation in constituencies declared

"TO WHOM MUCH IS GIVEN."

A missionary who has recently visited Corea contributes to the Toronto Globe an article on his observations there which turned him from a pro-Prep to an anti-Prep. In large measure this reversal of feeling appears to

"EXTREMELY INDIGNANT."

Comment on the trial of the lumbermen for combine is of course debarred while the case is before the courts. It is permissible however to quote the public announcements of two lumbermen as indicating their attitude toward those who are responsible for the prosecution of this province and the recent data reads— "Nelson, B.C., Sept. 10.—G. P. Wells and W. A. Anstie, the former and present secretaries of the Mountain Lumbermen's association, have just returned from Edmonton, where they were summoned as witnesses in the investigation that is being taken up by the Alberta government into the circumstances of the alleged lumber combine. Both Mr. Wells and Mr. Anstie express themselves as being extremely indignant at the manner in which the investigation is being conducted. They say it seems as if the government had made the matter a foregone conclusion. The crux of the whole matter, according to Mr. Anstie, is that the government is endeavoring to prove a combination between the lumbermen of this province and the Alberta Retail Lumber Dealers' association. It was asserted that no lumber would be sold to any retailer of Alberta unless he was a member of the retail association. This point came out in the evidence of Mr. Wells and Mr. Anstie, both declaring emphatically that the Mountain Lumbermen's association had sold impartially to members and non-members of the Alberta Retail association. This fact, Mr. Anstie complains, has been deliberately suppressed. By the Edmonton press. There has been no attempt, says Mr. Wells, who is not now associated with the lumber industry, to prove that the prices of lumber are too high, the Alberta government contenting themselves with striving to prove the alleged combine aforesaid. The full trial will come up for hearing early in November."

The "plaint of Mr. Wells is that no attempt has been made to prove that prices are too high. Mr. Wells as usual, is impatient. The case is not ended yet.

THE LETTER WAS AS FOLLOWS.

Proposal of George Balfour, City of London, England, Engineer and Contractor, to the City Council of the City of London. Gentlemen—I will put you at actual cost that the street railway you contemplate under way, or upon which has been made, along a track allowance of the price on Jasper avenue, and in your hands or contract will without delay complete lines according to the agreed upon between us. I have received a verbal agreement of receiving a workable plan for myself and associate, and I have to thank you in full within thirty days of the date of my agreement between us been signed.

It would be part of my duty with you that such lines within your municipality a connecting line with shall be placed in operation also to be defined, permission to make a high level bridge being required.

If above basis of an agreement satisfactory to you, I will meet you and go into of franchise.

THE LETTER WAS AS FOLLOWS.

P. Cronin is a Toronto and is the Canadian agent of Balfour, who is an English engineer, contractor and surveyor who owns half a dozen systems in England and Scotland. Mr. Cronin was in Edmonton recently to meet with the City Council. He is now in Toronto and will not return to the three weeks.

From the tenor of the letter the adherents when the question was read, and the decision it was to be decided, it was that there was no decision to be made. The proposition was to be decided by the City Council. "We'll have to give the some considerable consideration," said Alderman Mansour, "many details concerning the ascertaining the city's position to its charter and its franchise. If we can secure the right said Alderman Mansour, "I will act my position. I'll sell city we do not want the city to be in the spring."

"Then I'm prepared to Cronin at once, and would anything him to return to this action would not count anything, and by meeting could better learn his proposition. I think this matter should be allowed to stand," said Alderman Mansour. "We have not decided that consider selling our franchise we'd decide to do so. I doubt there would be many capitalists prepared to make good."

It was finally decided to special meeting of the City Council on Sept. 25, to the whole question. At this statement of the cost of the railway already constructed well as other data will be down by the commissioners city solicitor was asked to papers relative to the city and franchise on hand.

No Remission of Tax. The commissioners present report in connection application of the Whitelaw remission of taxes on business. The importance of arose from the fact that the mention of the commission involved the adoption of a new plan, and the establishment of precedent, in recommending the remissions should be granted case where a business is mentioned. The report was as follows: The facts in this case are: The Whitelaw Company re-business on or about the 1st of May, presumably a month after the business assessment been fixed at \$9,610 upon the measurement of the tax by which amounts to \$128.13. C. W. Campbell, collector, immediately moved into the vacated by the Whitelaw and is now occupying them upon his previous premises to \$6,370 only (including the shop which he still retains at \$280), taxes \$84.83. Under conditions, the business tax amount to \$137.28 (\$10.286 mills for full year).

A. Archibald, druggist, in the previous month of July, had them whilst his new store

THE

Geo. Balfour, English System Off City's Decide Whether of New Principle of Business.

Like a bolt from the blue announcement was made by a communication, at the meeting of the City Council that an established and English capitalist was to take over the street railway of the city.

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ANNOUNCEMENT
I beg to announce that having failed to come to a satisfactory arrangement regarding my lease, I have decided to discontinue my business. I will commence a GREAT CLEARING SALE of High Grade Clothing, Furnishings, Boots, Shoes, and all of the merchandise carried in my stock, which consists of the best makes of serviceable merchandise that money and experience would procure. In order to give the prospective buyer an idea of this sale we will quote a few prices:
Good Fleece-lined Underwear, good value at \$1.25, now 85c. a suit.
Men's Good Working Shirts, in the following well-known brands: H. B. K. Diamond Brand, Faultless Brand, King of the Road Brand, good values at \$1.00 and \$1.25, now 65c.
Good Sweaters, value \$1.50 to \$1.75, now \$1.00.
Men's \$10.00 Suits, \$6.50. Men's \$13.00 Suits, \$7.50.
Men's \$15.00 Suits, \$9.50.
Men's \$12.00 Top Coats, \$7.50. We passed 40 of these Coats into stock last week. They are a bargain at \$12.00. They will be yours at \$7.50 while they last.
Space will not permit to enumerate all the values, but I request every fair-minded person to call and see for themselves, and my staff are instructed to treat everybody courteously and gentlemanly whether they purchase or not. This is not a fake bankrupt or smoke sale. It is a clearing-out-of-business sale, pure and simple, and I take this means to sell my stock to the public as every honest man can do.
Yours truly, S. F. MAYER.
S. F. MAYER
EDMONTON, ALTA.