

## THE EDMONTON BULLETIN

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MONDAY, MAY 20, 1907.

## THE COAL COMMISSION.

The appointment of the Coal Commission by the Alberta Government yesterday is the fulfilment of a promise made by the minister of public works last February in the Legislature, when the West was in the grip of the coal famine. At that time a most serious state of affairs prevailed in the southern part of this province, in the neighboring province of Saskatchewan and in Manitoba. At that time there was legislation before the House, introduced by a private member, to establish an eight-hour law in the province. The Legislature as well as the minister of public works were of the opinion that any legislation undertaken in this regard must be framed with an intelligent conception of the relative interests of the miners, operators and the public. The interests of these three parties will form the subject of the commission's inquiry and upon the report it is the purpose of the government to effect by legislative enactments, as far as it is possible to do so without becoming too paternal or tyrannous, some machinery that will provide for the continuous operation of the mines, and prevent a recurrence of such suffering through fuel destitution as prevailed last winter.

Coal mining in Alberta is a comparatively new industry and one that has such an essential relation to progress and development in the economy of the community, that anything that will bring into operation a system enabling the disputants to settle their differences without the baneful method of industrial war will be hailed with joy by all classes.

The experiences of last winter have profoundly affected public opinion in a manner that will go far in supporting the government in any measure or policy that seeks to obviate and forestall the consequences of strikes, lockouts, car shortage or any agency that restricts the fuel supply. The liberal manner in which Western lands have been administered by the federal government in the interests of the settler, and the new coal regulations enacted recently by the department of the interior has impressed upon the people the force of the truth that land, coal, timber and water are all public utilities, the just exploitation of which is the people's inalienable heritage. For that reason the people will support the authorities to even drastic measures.

The personnel of the commission should give general satisfaction not only to the public but to both the coal operators and miners. The interests of the owners of mines is well represented by Mr. Lewis Stockett, who is manager of the Bankhead mines, and a man who is likely to take a fair view of the question while the people whom he represents will have every confidence in his protection of their rights. Mr. Wm. Hasen, another member of the commission, is president of the Coleman Miners' union and himself a working miner and can be depended upon to look after the interests of the men who work in the mines. It was important that the representative of the mine workers should be not only a man with the confidence of the miners' union, but that he should be a working miner at the present time and so be the better informed by actual experience in a Western Canada mine of the conditions and grievances of the miners here, and for that reason Mr. Hasen has been asked to accept a position upon the commission.

In the appointment of Chief Justice Sifton to the chairmanship of the commission, the government has made a most fortunate selection. The public who have a large interest in the coal mining problems of the province, an interest quite as direct and quite as important as that of either the operators or workers of the mines, will strongly approve of this appointment as it is an absolute guarantee that the report of the commission will be prepared and presented in the public interest and with a view only to satisfactorily settle the present disputes.

Chief Justice Sifton has made an enviable record for himself in his present position. He has not only given satisfactory judgments, but has shown

that he possesses a remarkable general knowledge of conditions in the province and a thorough grasp of every situation that the duties of his office has required him to meet. He has always been disposed to look at matters from the standpoint of plain common sense, and to decide questions in his court upon their honest merits without quibbling over technicalities, and he undoubtedly has both the ability and disposition to properly assume the somewhat arduous duties of Chairman of the Coal Commission.

## LOOKING FOR TROUBLE.

The exposures in connection with the plumbers' combine in Toronto is resulting in a difference between the employers and employees in that trade that will probably culminate in a protracted strike unless an immediate understanding is arrived at. So long as the employing plumbers were able to control the prices to be charged and were able to hold the public up for long bills, they were willing to grant the union almost any concession it asked, as it was easy to make the people pay a little extra when necessary. The result was that the employees got so much in the habit of getting what they requested that their chief fear was that they might ask too little, until the union virtually became a combine itself, and began to limiting the supply of plumbers as well as increasing the wages of those employed.

One somewhat amusing incident occurred in Toronto, where an employing plumber went to see how his workman was getting along on a job and found the latter sitting in the shade, having not yet reached the place where he was to make repairs, and when remonstrated with, told his employer it was none of his business as his (the workman's) time would be charged against the party for whom the work was to be done. The latter statement is true, and shows who has to bear the burden.

Trades unions have done a good work in many instances, but if they were more careful about the kind of service rendered by their members they would not be in danger of suffering from a reaction that is bound to come in the future. Just now, when workmen of all classes are scarce, the unions have the chance to sometimes exact unreasonable conditions, and as surely as they pass the line of fairness now, so surely will they bring upon themselves a measure of retaliation again. There are no strikes during dull times. Just as any corporation or employer has a right to deal fairly by its employees, so have the employees a right to be reasonable in their demands, but above everything to see that they do not protect members of their organization who do not realize that for wages collected adequate service should be given. Public sympathy is generally with the working man, but an arrogant attitude of unions will very quickly estrange it. Men of the type of Sherman, who took a large part in the coal troubles in the south, have large powers for destroying the influence and effectiveness of labor organizations.

## THE HUDSON BAY RAILWAY.

For twenty-five years the people of the West have agitated and advocated the construction of a railway from some central point in the prairie provinces to the Hudson Bay. The agitation began in 1880 or 1881, and in the latter year one or more charters for such railway were granted by Parliament.

When the general Dominion Lands Act of 1884 was framed, special provision was made in that act for giving a land grant in aid of the enterprise. This provision was that for every mile of the line within the boundaries of the Province of Manitoba the company building the line would be given 6,400 acres of land, and for every mile from the Manitoba boundary to the Bay 12,800 acres. This statute is still in force and it is within the power of the Government by Order-in-Council to grant this land to any company building such line.

In the latter eighties an attempt was made to construct the Hudson Bay Railway from Winnipeg. Some 40 miles of the road was actually constructed and ironed, but the company was unable to continue the work, despite the fact that the then Manitoba Government had pledged the credit of the Province in its aid. The section completed was acquired by MacKenzie & Mann in recent years and is now operated as part of their system, but does not form part of their proposed route to Hudson Bay.

In 1894 the Canadian Northern began the construction of the Hudson Bay line from Gladstone, Manitoba. The line was built in a north-westerly direction to the Manitoba boundary and beyond to Prince Albert. From Erwood, a point on the Saskatchewan section of this line, the road to the Bay was begun, designed to run in a north-easterly direction to Fort Churchill. In the summer of 1906 it was entirely placed under construction and partially completed as far as the Saskatchewan river, leaving a distance of 474 miles to be built from "the Pass" to Fort Churchill.

In 1905, the then Government passed an Order-in-Council scheduling 8,000,000 acres of land in Manitoba and Saskatchewan from which the company should be permitted to select its grant in respect of that portion of the line south of the Saskatchewan river; and providing that the land earned by constructing the line from the river to the Bay should be selected along the line itself. By subsequent order it was also provided that the land granted for the line south of the river must be earned by 1908; and, curiously enough, that that north of the river must be earned by 1906. The line having been completed to the river within the time limit the company is, of course, entitled to the land granted in respect of this portion by the former Dominion Government; but the line from the river to the Bay not having been built within the time limit the company's right to the grant made in 1895 expired last summer and has not been renewed.

The situation, therefore, at present is: A portion of the road has been built within the time specified and the Government is bound to carry out the undertakings of its predecessors by making the grant of land promised in respect of this; but the northern portion of the line has not been built within the time limit and the obligation of the Government to make a land grant in respect of this portion has ceased. The power to renew such provision is vested in the Government by the Land Act, and the question before the Government is whether it is better to renew the provision for a land grant, or to retain the land and give whatever assistance is necessary in some other form.

It has not been the policy of the present Government to make land grants to railways, and it is not the intention to renew the land grant provision for the remaining portion of the Hudson Bay road. Thanks to the grants made by the former administration, 32,000,000 acres of the most fertile land in Western Canada has passed from the possession of the public into the hands of the railway companies. The land grant promised by the same Government in respect of the still uncompleted section of the Hudson Bay line would require some 6,000,000 acres more. The Government has the opportunity to annul this provision and to retain the 6,000,000 acres for the settler and this it is proposed to do. How much the settler and the country by this is a simple calculation. The cheapest railway land in Western Canada today is worth about \$5 an acre. At this minimum price the 6,000,000 acres reserved to the country means a gain to the settlers of the West of \$30,000,000. And the gain will be made by the pioneers who most deserve it and who would be the least able to sacrifice it.

But the railway must be built or faith will be broken with the Western country. And the company who have constructed a portion of the road in anticipation of the land grant will doubtless be unwilling to complete the enterprise without assistance of some kind. The purpose of the Government as outlined in the introduction of the new Lands Act is to take the proceeds of the pre-emption sales to recoup the national treasury for the burden assumed in giving such assistance. It was considered fair that the portion of the country most directly benefiting from the construction of the line should contribute in considerable measure to the cost of the enterprise. But it was not considered fair to accomplish this by turning over the land to the company and thereby enabling them to hold up the settler for fancy prices. The pre-emption plan was therefore adopted with a view to using the proceeds to recoup the national treasury for the burden assumed in completing the line. Under this plan the road will be completed, the settler will get the land at a minimum price and the country will not be unduly burdened for the construction of the road.

## BORROWING FEAR.

The Canmore Mail says that it was the provincial government that raised the question of municipal rights versus provincial rights. This is the first intimation that any such question was before the public in any form. The Mail commends the government for its record, but observes that they are making an error in urging the towns and cities to give up their municipal telephone rights. It is misconstruing the public spirit of the Minister of Public Works to make such a statement.

It is no part of the government's policy to compete with the municipalities in the operation of telephones or any public utility that comes under the peculiar jurisdiction of municipalities.

The outstanding features of the government's policy are the establishment of trunk telephone lines, and rural lines for the convenience of the farmers. The decision to operate municipal telephones in towns and cities was only taken up at the solicitation of several towns in the province that were unable or too timid to undertake the construction and maintenance of a local telephone exchange.

One of the first enactments of the Alberta Legislature was the Municipal Telephone Act. This act empowers every municipality to construct or purchase, maintain and operate a system of telephones and lines within its corporate limits. The municipality is further empowered to equip the system with all the necessary appliances for carrying on a telephone exchange business and operating the same as if it were owned and operated by a private person or a corporation. Such a statute gives the municipality full autonomy and freedom. The Government will not install nor operate a municipal system unless asked to do so by the municipality. But on the other hand, it will give a municipal system connection with the trunk line. The Minister of public works is not creating a monopoly; he is smashing a monopoly and expects the municipalities to do their duty with the full faith that they will.

The Mail is borrowing fear when it prays that the government will not pile up a surplus out of the provincial telephones. The government's policy and determination is to give the telephone at its actual cost to the people. Monopoly cannot live under such conditions. An honest service at an honest price is the motto of the department of public works.

## SEED TIME AND HARVEST.

Seeding is well under way in Alberta despite the backward spring season and in many districts is finished. This is somewhat later than usual, and to the inexperienced newcomer, might cause a feeling of uneasiness and doubt as to the result of this year's crops.

It is a well demonstrated truth and emphatically asserted by all those who have intelligently and profitably followed the growing of cereals in Alberta and Western Canada that the shortness of the growing season does not operate against a good crop and that as a rule the best crops have been produced when the spring is not exceptionally early or the seeding done at an early date. These facts attest the theory and the knowledge long maintained by experts that cereals obtain their highest degree of perfection when grown to maturity in high latitudes. This was specifically proved as early as 1876. In that year the wheat that won the gold medal at Philadelphia Centennial was grown at Fort Chipewyan in latitude 59.

Moreover the crop returns of 1900, one of the poorest years in the agricultural history of Western Canada strikingly support this view. In that year seeding in Manitoba was begun in March and completed early in April. In Alberta considerable seeding was done in February. That was probably the earliest spring with the highest temperature that the Canadian has experienced since the agricultural industry has become a factor in its material progress. In 1900, however, was the poorest crop in its history, the average of wheat being 8.9 bushels per acre.

In the year 1881 seeding did not become general in Manitoba till about the first day of May, and a splendid average crop per acre was garnered. In 1894 seeding began in the last of April, becoming general on the 29th, and an average of 20.11 bushels was obtained throughout Manitoba.

In 1886 seeding was exceptionally early, being general after April 1st and the average wheat crop resulted in only 15.33 bushels per acre. Again in 1880 seeding was exceptionally early

and the average was only 12.4 bushels per acre. In 1897 seeding was general from April 1st to April 20th, and the average was 14.14 bushels per acre.

This is the explanation of the confidence of the oldtimer in the West. He is the man of practical knowledge and sanguine expectations, and who believes that the lateness of seeding operations this year in any of the three prairie provinces will have little to do with harvest results. His knowledge acquired by experience has shown that two of the chief factors in the successful maturing of grain are almost invariably present after a late spring. These factors are sufficient moisture which in early spring is wasted, and the uninterrupted and unstunted growth of the young plant embryo to maturity during a short season. Or in other words, moisture and continuity of healthy growth are the important considerations and the lateness of the season does not necessarily interfere.

If the lateness of seeding is ominous of anything it is ominous of good crop prospects and the increased acreage of new land under cultivation has many assurances.

## NOTE AND COMMENT.

The City Commissioner of Public Works is to have a horse. It will probably be a pacer.

The poets of the United States will have to form a union to get themselves recognized.

Hon. R. L. Borden wants Hon. R. P. Roblin among his followers, as if Foster wasn't wicked enough.

There is no doubt the spring of 1907 is bashful, but then as a general rule, bashful fellows turn out well.

If Sir Wilfrid Laurier were in the British Parliament, he would be Prime Minister there, too.

The total assessment of Winnipeg is \$106,188,833, and the assessor places the population at 111,717.

Jacob Riis says 60 per cent. of the children of Boston never saw a robin or a dandelion. Does Roosevelt know this?

Holly Simpson, a Brandon farmer, has 600 acres of wheat sown. He should be long on a valuable commodity next fall.

Mayor Griesbach is following the illustrious example of Sir Charles Tupper, when he says some foolish thing he always blames it on the reporters.

An eight-inch pipe line is to be laid from the Texas oil fields across to the Isthmus of Panama, fifty-one miles long. It would be a more interesting tube if it tapped Peoria.

Roosevelt's big-stick policy seems to have put a conscience in Harriman. He has issued specific orders to the employees of the Pacific to try to be courteous to the public.

Waghorn's Guide gives the population of Calgary as 17,000, and the population of Edmonton 11,163, which looks as though Waghorn was blowing Calgary's horn. The population of both cities at the last census was under 12,000, which has since been in both cases substantially increased. Calgary has reached out for Rouleauville, Hillhurst, Riverside and Brewery Flats since, but there is no justification for Waghorn's figures relatively of the two cities. Calgary is now going to take a census of her own and it will probably be "done" to a turn. In the meantime Waghorn better revise his figures.

The Mail and Empire says a vicious blunder when it declares that the Laurier Government took the Potawawa lands to merely insult Ontario. Such reprehensible charges against public men are out of date in the larger, whiter day of the 20th century.

Mr. T. W. Crothers of St. Thomas was chairman of the Ontario School Book Commission and though a lawyer refused \$2,000 for his services. Now what kind of dementia has this man got?

Sir Wilfrid Laurier, as usual, carried his point in the Imperial Conference, with regard to preferential trade. The Canadian Premier is not only the Beau Brummel and the Bayard among the colonial representatives, but is foremost in council. Canada is proud of him.

Premier Deakin's resolution asking for a one per cent. tax on foreign imports has been voted down. Premier Deakin appears to forget that Great Britain must remain the great

Eighteen millions of surplus—and still growing time is on the bulge.

The farmer who sows plenty of wheat this spring will be in clover next fall.

When the market reports say that steel is firm, there is no doubt about it.

With the perfection of aerial navigation we may expect a large number of immigrants from the Land of Mars.

Contrary to custom, the green bug has had more to do with boosting the price of wheat than the humbug.

Dr. Osler says the best medicine people can have is hope.—Yes, and you can't take an overdose of it.

That school of politicians, who are clamoring for a colonial preference are looking at the empire through a microscope.

Lloydminster feels badly cut up over her geographical position. She is looking now for someone to assume the role of Solomon and the child.

It is rather embarrassing that the birth rate in the city of Toronto should increase just when the milk strike is on.

We shall have to wait some time yet before we are sure whether Arthur Balfour's conversion to preferential trade is a conviction or a fad.

A baseball umpire was mobbed the other day in Cuba. That's as far as the United States Government has succeeded in Americanizing the Cubans.

Happiness depends on little things. For instance, when a man comes into possession of a 29-cent piece, he is not happy till he palms it off on someone else for a quarter.

There is more truth than romance in the little game the school children play:

"Here we go gathering nuts in May. This cold and frosty morning."

Mr. Fielding in his budget speech figured on a surplus of \$13,000,000. Now it turns out he will have \$13,000,000. The Tories never could make such splendid mistakes in their mathematics.

W. T. Stead's campaign for the final pacification of the nations of the earth is warm enough to beat all the swords to ploughshares and pruning hooks.

Eastern newspapers should show a little generosity in giving as much publicity to the salubrity of Alberta's climate as they have done to the unwonted rigor of the present season.

Land is being surveyed around Fort Vermilion as far north of Edmonton as Edmonton is north of the international boundary, this year. This is the tangible and undeniable evidence of Western development.

The Mail and Empire says the cause of the unrest in India is the circulation of seditious literature. The Mail should be an authority on sedition. If the people of Canada were as easily roused as the Hindus, the Mail could keep the country in perpetual turmoil.

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rock in a weary land, the free trade ideal toward which other nations painfully stumble through a wilderness of protection.

## THE MIRROR OF THE PRESS.

(Toronto Telegram.)

The Minister of the Interior has borne with the folly of the Doukhobors. Doukhobor obstinacy cannot be allowed to dislocate plans for the settlement of the country or deprive law-abiding settlers of their rights. Hon. Frank Oliver has shown kindness and patience in his dealings with these people. Now Mr. Oliver is forced to show strength, and the best opinion of the country is behind his determination to uphold law and order.

(Calgary Herald.)

The sentiments expressed by Sir Wilfrid Laurier imply a bond of Imperial union far stronger than any propaganda of a formal or official nature. Its proof lies already in the fact that what has been an occasional Colonial Conference will now be held at regular intervals of four years. By this means the Imperial bond created will be further strengthened from conference to conference by the preparation between while by each Colony of subjects for submission to the conference which relate to the interests of all. The Premier has indeed struck the keynote of the best type of Imperialism.

## MOOSE JAW.

The Board of Trade at its last meeting received an offer of assistance from the Agricultural Society in their efforts to establish a suitable market place.

A bylaw has been introduced in the Council to organize a Collegiate Institute in this city.

Rev. J. G. McKenzie, convener of the committee considering the establishment of a Presbyterian college in Saskatchewan visits Moose Jaw shortly.

The entire staff of fitters in the C. P. R. machine shop here stopped work for a few days last week, owing to some disagreement.

A Pullman car on the Moose Jaw-St. Paul run the other day caught fire. The passengers escaped, but their baggage was lost.

Real estate is very active, and Regina capitalists are investing.

## HURRY.

C. W. Harris, who has been in Michigan for some weeks, returned with a car of machinery and stock for his homestead.

Many homesteaders are settling on their claims at Hurry and are busy making improvements.

Messrs. Cranston and Thompson of Fort Saskatchewan intend buying up cattle here. They have already supplied several head to the G. T. P. contractors.

Mr. Hall is expecting new telephone instruments from Chicago, which will be installed as soon as received.

## AN ANSWER.

To the Editor of the Bulletin:

Dear Sir—In its issue of last Monday the Calgary Albertan comments upon our article of last week, "The Peace Conference." Though the paper has a perfect right to do so, yet it has no right whatever to misconstrue the meaning of the article which it did in writing editorially: "But that a paper published in Canada should use the German argument, that no disarmament should take place until another nation has overtaken our own is somewhat surprising."

We never wrote that. Our opinion concerning the Peace Conference was and is, this: A limitation of armament, a throwing away of all arms—or no disarmament at all. Either this or that. What, for instance, would it avail if a nation had instead of 1,000,000 soldiers only 500,000? The possibility of a war would remain the same. We believe that such a measure would not serve toward one end aimed at, viz., universal peace. The bringing about of that day, of which Tennyson sings:

"Till the war-drums thrice no longer  
And our battle-flags were furled  
In the Parliament of man."

That day has not come yet and we believe that, for instance, Germany is, by force of existing circumstances, compelled to have a large and always prepared army, that will do more to prevent war than a partial disarmament. As the ancient Roman said: Si vis pacem para bellum (If you want peace, be prepared for war).

This is our opinion and it is likely to remain so, even though it does not please the Calgary Albertan, and we are loyal still in spite of the Albertan calling us disloyal. It is a generally known fact that the Germans in Canada, including the editors, are amongst the best and most loyal citizens of foreign birth.

## SPORTS

## EDMONTON O STRATHCONA

Result of the Football Exhibition Park Last Night.

The football match between Edmonton City team and Strathcona Exhibition grounds last night ended in a tie, neither team winning. The Strathconas were late and the tie could not be played on account of darkness.

The game was only exceptional, as neither team expected in the best of condition, although Edmonton kept the ball in Strathcona territory the greater portion of the play. But their kicking on very inaccurate. The Strathconas got away on occasional rushes that looked dangerous, they rarely got farther than a Short.

Strathcona has a fair forward that needs lots of practice if it tend winning the inter-city championship. Bowden, Byers, a Michael played a good defense while Judge, centre forward, the best game on the field.

Edmonton's defence handled thing that came their way style. The forwards were passing and were inclined to long before kicking. They are than the Strathcona men and make a better showing with improvement in the combination. The line-up was:

## STRATHCONA

Bowden ..... goal  
Byers ..... right back  
Carmichael ..... left back  
Welsh ..... right half  
Ellis ..... center half  
Spilstead ..... left half  
Newman ..... inside right  
Sheppard ..... outside right  
Judge ..... center  
Hardisty ..... inside left  
Kent ..... outside left

The teams made a good job in their uniforms. The Eds wore black sweaters with white and black knickerbockers. Strathcona wore light blue sweaters and pants.

Strathcona by good kicking ed the ball down on the Edmonton goal, but Slade saved. Another by Strathcona was wide. Ed forwards pressed around the cona goal, but their kick missed. Edmonton was now ing and outplaying Strathcona the ball well down, the line feeding the forwards well. Strathcona man was always way of poor kicking on goal ed a score. During this half Judge collided head-on and had to retire for repairs. He ed a nasty scalp wound, but resumed playing after having head bandaged.

Strathcona appeared to improve the opening of the second half their rushes for a time worried Edmonton defence. Edmonton pressing hard when the referee blew for full time. It was dark to continue playing to the tie.

## NEW YORK WHEAT.

New York, May 17.—Wheat 26,000, exports 17,363, sales 6 futures.

A weak opening in wheat followed by the fine weather of Argentine shipments, was replaced by the most excited advance the week. Prices climbed six cents a bushel in tremendous active buying, impelled by bull from winter wheat states, but near the close, under profit taking closed 2 to 2 1/4 cents net higher. Closed 106, July 103 3/4 to 108, 106 1/2; Sept. 103 3/4 to 105, closed 5-8, December 105 to 109 1/2, 108.

## New York Calls and Loans

New York, May 17.—Money steady; highest 2 1/2 per cent.; 2, ruling rate 2 1/2, last loan closing bid 2 1/4, offered at 2 1/4.

## London Money

London, May 17.—Consols for 84 7/8, consols for account 83 1/2, 12 7/8; bar silver, quiet, 160 1/2; gold, 150 1/2; 100 per cent. discount rate, short 16 to 14 per cent., 3 months 8-16 to 14 per cent.