The West

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HOW THE ELECTION WAS WON

During the spring session of 1908, Mr. Turgeon introduced an election act which provided for the compiling of a voters' list to do away with the old system of enumeration, which had become obsolete through the rapid increase in population and through the advantage which the present government had taken of its weaknesses to engineer some of the most dastardly election trickery ever perpetrated in any country. The act was welcomed by all as it meant greater purity in elections and also reduced the cost of an election campaign to the candidates. To the Opposition it was especially welcome, as it removed one of the greatest sources of annoyance and expense, the hurried compilation of lists for themselves to protect them against the unfair work of enumerators.

Work had commenced on these lists when the government, without regard to their pledges and without any excuse, dissolved the legislature and appealed to the country. The lists were not compiled and a system of enumeration for this election was used. The country saw the peculiar sight of one set of enumerators compiling voters' lists and another set hurriedly compiling another list to use at the elections, so that they might be held before a decent list was obtainable. This gave the government the employment of about 2,000 enumerators in the various electoral districts of the province and provided an election machine that was far superior to even the famous "road gang" system of portable voters. The enumerators were made up of honest supporters of the government, unprincipled party heelers and doubtful voters, but the first class was greatly outnumbered by the other two. Thus at the expense of the province the government was provided with the means, first, to influence the doubtful voter by the offer of a remunerative job, and, secondly, to let loose upon the community a horde of unscrupulous canvassers, the greater part of whose time was spent coercing voters and misrepresenting the position of the Opposition.

The cost of the voters' lists alone amounted to $80,000, an election fund the sole purpose of which was to bribe the electors. During the last session it was discovered that all this money was spent and the result was one legal voters' list and thirty-nine illegal ones. The attorney-general had to secure legislation to legalize the lists where local option contests were in force and then toward the close of the session it was calmly announced that the lists were to be thrown aside. They had served their purpose in placing in the hands of the government $80,000 as an election fund.

The number employed in the compilation of these lists was about 1000, and after deducting printing and other expenses, it meant that about $50 per head was the reward of the enumerators, or as it was seen during the election, the government agents. It cost $25 per head for the "road gang voters" and it seems almost too bad for the sake of the provincial treasury that the government had not made a specialty of that line and left the voters' list machine alone. By the road gang vote, the government's majority cost the country at least $20,000, but this was only one-quarter of the expenditure on the bogus voters' lists. We find that from these two sources, the government's majority of 700 cost the country $100,000 or $150 a vote. Scott government victories come high, indeed, another such a "victory" and there will be no need of a provincial treasury.

McLEOD BOLTS

R. M. Mitchell, M.L.A., for Weyburn, has a companion in his misery in the person of J. D. Stewart, M.L.A. for Cannington. Both these members are in trouble through the trickery of the government railway policy. The Arcola Star, a paper in Stewart's constituency, and edited by a life long Liberal, has declared war and has placed inself in opposition to Stewart. The Star says:

"During the ten years this paper has been in existence it has lent itself unstintingly without promise of reward to the upholding of the principles of the policy of the Liberal party in Dominion and provincial politics. The editor at the immature age of 18 years polled his first vote for a Liberal candidate, and since then he has effectively and consistently placed the weight of his influence, slight though it be, and his personal efforts, and also sacrificed the business interests of the paper he controls, to promote and aid in the advancement of the policy of the government of which he approved without asking for favors or fearing the consequences

"During our journalistic career which includes the entire time of our residence in Arcola amounting to ten years, we find nothing on our files relative to politics that we have occasion to regret, and we find no sentence that we should like to have extracted from our files. Mistakes we have made but they were mistakes of judgment and not of honesty. Fear of consequences nor hope of favor have ever dictated a line for us in discussing public questions or political issues, yet in all those years the influence of this paper and our own personal efforts have been thrown in the scale on behalf of the Liberal party.

"In all those years there has not been a plank in the platform of any government or any party that in our humble opinion was more worthy of our support than the railway policy of the Scott government. Of this policy of the Scott government the province approved in 1908, and on the wisdom of that policy this journal was prepared to stake its all.

"In the matter of carrying out this policy in this constituency ,we have found it necessary to question the wisdom, not of the policy itself, but on the method of carrying it into effect in the actual construction of a railway line, namely, the C. N. R. Maryfield extension. According to the Scott policy, government aided railways are to be constructed into districts that are remote from railway accommodation. This line by the most obtuse of political blunders has been deflected to serve Carlyle town. J. D. Stewart, the sitting member supporting the present government, is responsible. This is a courtesy that belongs to a sitting member in his position. At a meeting in Carlyle he stated he would resign unless his will be carried out. He heads delegations from Carlyle both to Winnipeg and Regina to urge the carrying out of his wishes in this respect He thus put himself on record as being opposed to the interests of the farming communities south of the Arcola branch. On the floor of the legislature he admits his responsibility for this deflection.

"During the heat of the controversy we through the columns of this journal had the temerity to question the wisdom of his attitude and put up a plea that this branch be run in accordance with the Scott railway policy into districts that are remote from railways and the reasons for doing so were sufficiently lucid to convince the most obdurate individual of the wisdom of it. Not so with J. D. Stewart. The more lucid the Star became in demonstrating the wisdom of the route, it suggested the more obdurate he stuck to his contention and the more hostile he became in his personal feelings towards the editor of the Star. The line was constructed in accordance with his dictates as by virtue of his office he had the power to compel it. Yet a few months later on the floor of the legislature he admitted that the Star's contentions were right and that all the responsibilities for the present situation rested with him

"For the first time in ten years the Star has joined issue with the party that during that time it consistently supported, not because of the policy of that party, but because of the inconsistency of the man elected in carrying that policy into effect. Partly through the support of the Star and the personal efforts of its editor, J. D. Stewart is member of the Saskatchewan legislature. That support was given to carry out a certain policy but because he violated the first principles of that policy he came under the legitimate censure of the Star.

"What is the result? Because of certain circumstances in connection with the appointment of a certain official the editor of this journal's claims came first of all by virtue of past services. Were they considered? No! He was placed by J. D. Stewart in the class of "impossibilities." He was not even given a chance to have his claims considered. He had the temerity and the gall to criticize the local member's actions in his public capacity as member, and because of that temerity and gall he was an "impossibility" for a certain official position which was his by right of claim.

Because of our temerity we have been stung, yet for all the gifts in the possession of our government we shall not take back or retract one single sentence published in the Star with respect to our criticisms. We owe the Liberal party nothing but what the Liberal party owes us is incalculable. We have not deviated one iota from our support of the Scott government policy, yet no government or party ever had a string on us nor on this paper, but from henceforth J. D. Stewart is an "impossibility." He has demonstrated his incapacity and he is going back to the farm.

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NOT GRANTED

The Leader invites the West to withdraw the statements published in reference to the Weyburn railway and judicial district disputes. As is well known, the Leader has no political motives in its policy. They are above base considerations of this kind. The $40,000 a year has no effect upon the high principles that dictate the policy of Scott's organ. With "rare patience and patriotism" they earn the annual subsidy from the government. It would be a brotherly act on our part if we fell down and worshipped at the shrine of Laurier's hired man, Walter Scott, the dictator of the Leader's policy. We can't do it. The Weyburn disputes are too glaring incidents of the government's policy of deception and deceit.

On June 16th, the attorney-general promised in Weyburn an immediate reply to the citizens' request for the creation of a new judicial district. He also stated that while satisfied of the reasonableness of the request, he must submit it to his colleagues. The attorney-general left the impression that the request of the Weyburn people would be granted. The immediate reply was given seven months afterwards. In addition to these facts there is another that has a direct bearing on the case. After the reply of the attorney-general to the question asked in the legislature. Dr. Mitchell, the Liberal member from Weyburn, prevented a deputation coming to Regina, claiming that he had the promise of the government that the matter would be satisfactorily settled after the close of the legislature. The attorney-general left the impression that the district would be created, he promised an immediate reply which was seven months in being produced and the Liberal member for Weyburn stated in December that the matter would be satisfactorily arranged after the close of the legislature. Those are the facts, and the Leader can derive what consolation it is possible from them. How was it that stalwart Liberals told the attorney-general in Regina, January 5th, that his attitude on the matter had alienated the support of the best element in the party from the government?

Dr. Mitchell stated to the Weyburn Board of Trade that the Premier had promised that he would not guarantee the bonds of the G.T.P. railway into the south country if it did not run into Weyburn. Scott denies making the promise. The Liberals in Weyburn state that Mitchell made the statement. The Leader can choose between Scott or his follower from Weyburn. Knowing Scott's political career we would be inclined to accept Mitchell's statement, but knowing Mitchell we hesitate to do so. It is a difficult problem to fix the blame. The two men involved have been guilty of so many misrepresentations that the only verdict possible is to classify both as Dr. Cooks and a just decision will be given.

The statements made by the West were all given on the authority of strong supporters of the government. We know these men and they are reliable and their statements are trustworthy. The same cannot be said of either Scott or Mitchell. The people of Weyburn were deceived. The Leader can fix the responsibility.

EARNING THE SUBSIDY

"A more cynical and shameless confession of Mr. Haultain's breach of the pledges so solemnly given and reiterated could not well be imagined than that made by the junior organ last week in its declaration that Mr. Bulyea 'remained as a spy in the camp of the enemy.' In that declaration The West admits the whole indictment against Mr. Haultain. It admits that the Haultain camp from the time of the convention was a Conservative camp. It admits that all Mr. Haultain's pledges given Mr. Bulyea, given the Liberal members of the Haultain party, given the people of the Territories, were lies and hollow mockeries. Verily the succeeding months proved that it was an enemy's camp in which Mr. Haultain's emphatic pledges of loyalty to the non-party ideal induced Mr. Bulyea to remain. The junior organ' venomous sneer admits the whole point of contention. Nothing hitherto published so positively condemns Mr. Haultain as the organ's assertion that Mr. Bulyea remained as a spy in the camp of the enemy.' How came the Haultain Government to be a Tory camp?—Leader.

This is what the West said:

"Scott has placed Bulyea in an awkward position. According to the premier, Bulyea would not resign office for principle or he remained as a spy in the camp of the enemy."

Readers can readily form an idea of the reliability of the Leader's statements after the above misrepresentation. This is a fair sample of the misrepresentation that the Leader gives its readers each issue. The government organ has to earn its $40,000 worth of "pap" and it is doing its best by misrepresenting statements as above. The quotation from the West is the portion of a sentence. The West makes no admissions as stated by the Leader, nor could any such a meaning be deduced from its statement except by such an unfair journal as Scott's personal organ.

"he Leader admits that Premier Scott introduced Governor Bulyea's name into the debate. The leader of the Opposition and his supporters had carefully refrained from criticising Governor Bulyea respecting the position he occupied even if the occupant had earned the contempt of every citizen of Saskatchewan, who is not a paipted heeler of the present government. When Premier Scott used Bulyea's statements, he forced the Opposition to debate the subject much to Scott, Bulyea and the Leader's discomforture.

Bulyea is not a political issue in this province. The man is forgotten except as an example of a treacherous politician. He failed to leave any impress on the history of the province and his claim to fame rests upon his betrayal of his leader and his province. The premier saw fit to resurrect him and if his treachery has been recalled to the people he can only blame the man who benefitted by it.

"RARE PATIENCE AND PATRIOTISM."

The Leader in eloquent terms pictures the "rare patience and patriotism" of that noble band, who with Fight-With-Zeal Bulyea were willing to forego principle and remain in office. Even the loss of $250,000 with which to encourage the faithful to fight with zeal for Sir Wilfrid and the defrauding of the province was a severe trial, but, these sturdy patriots with "rare patience and patriotism," remained in office until the time was ripe to reap the reward for their betrayal of their leader and the rights of the province, which they had all agreed we should insist on being granted to us. With "rare patience and patriotism" they concealed their views, enjoyed the confidence of their leader, awaiting the call of their master's voice from Ottawa; the call that the time had arrived and the slogan was "pick your jobs, boys, you have sacrificed every principle and now reap the reward of your 'rare patience and patriotism.'"

G. H. V. Bulyea—Lieut.-Governor.
T. O. Davis—Senator.
James A. Douglas—Senator.
Walter Scott—Premier.
Frank Oliver—Minister of Interior.
Geo. De Veber—Senator.
C. A. Fisher—Speaker.
W. J. Finlay—Minister of Agriture.
P. Talbot—Senator.
B. Prince—Senator.
T. McNutt—Speaker.
A. C. Rutherford—Premier.
A. S. Smith—M.L.A. for Road Gangs.
J. A. Simpson—M.L.A. for Champagne.

But in one case "rare patience and patriotism" has not been rewarded. Geo. Brown was allowed to make a speech once, which was considered reward enough for him up to recently. Since then, the machine has made him an alderman. There is no question but that his "rare patience and patriotism" will be further rewarded by either the privilege of making another speech or by a commissionership for taking affidavits. "Rare patience and patriotism" has been rewarded.

A, JUDAS, A TRAITOR

During the budget debate, Glen Campbell, member for Dauphin, referring to the Hon. Walter Scott, used the following words:

"I saw a reference to the Premier of Saskatchewan to the effect that he was to come here and be a member of the cabinet. Well, should I happen to be in the House when Walter Scott re-enters it, I shall make that a red letter day in this parliament, because I will make the charges to his face which I have made behind his back and which are true. I do not say this because I have any personal spite against him. In fact, I do not know him, but I say it advisedly. I have seen the proofs and I believe he is absolutely a Judas, a traitor to the people."

The premier of our province designated in the Dominion Parliament as a Judas and a traitor must be pleasant reading to the Saskatchewan people. Surely Premier Scott will not rest under such an accusation and will force Campbell to retract or prove his charges.

PUBLICITY FOR ALBERTA

Alberta will spend $425,000 during the next fifteen months to attract settlers and industries to that province. The C.P.R. are spending $500,000 on a "Why Not Go To Canada" campaign, which has for its object the settlement of their lands in Southern Alberta. The Dominion government agents in the United States are practically agents for Alberta. What is Saskatchewan going to do? Are we, after the greatest crop in the history of any province, going to lose our just reward and let Alberta reap the benefit? Has the provincial government no money or are they lacking in enterprise? Do they fear the just reproaches of a people who listened to Premier Scott's defence of the autonomy terms claiming that the Federal government would take care of immigration? Another of the false promises of 1905 has been exposed by Alberta's publicity movement. Will the Saskatchewan government permit immigration, which is justly ours, to be diverted to Alberta?

PORTABLE VOTING MACHINE

"You say in yours of the 4th inst., that this is a matter altogether between these men and Mr. Hoyt, but if you let the case go to court you will find that it will be made more than a case between Mr. Hoyt and the men, and it will be in every Conservative paper in the land and will go to prove their charges at the provincial election, that bridge and road gang men elected the government."—Extract of letter from R. Wickham to F. J. Robinson, deputy commissioner of public works.

Mr. Robinson at once authorized the bill to be paid. The "machine" in politics is a wonderful instrument in the hands of the Scott government. Voters transported nearly three hundred miles on full pay and at the government's expense is surely an effective "machine" even if the provincial treasury suffers. The attorney-general passes an act to punish corruption at elections and the department of public works flagrantly violates the act and no punishment is meted out to the offenders. The attorney-general's department is for punishment of offenders, except those who support the government, who are immune.

Mr. Wickham says that the publication of the facts of this case will prove the charges that "road and bridge gangs" elected the government. It does, but there is other evidence as damaging which will be produced. How ungrateful the government was to these men! No pay was forthcoming although the deal had been made by Mr. Hoyt, brother-in-law of Alex. Smith, the Liberal candidate. Surely Mr. Smith should have seen that his brother-in-law's promises were redeemed. He reaped the benefit and gratitude should have made him protect the interests of the "portable voters." Nothing but a threat of exposure would produce the goods.

Premier Scott is head of the public works department. Here is evidence that his deputy was cognizant of a corrupt deal. Will the premier dismiss his deputy, who used public money to defray illegal election expenses? The premier dare not. The gang in the legislative buildings is bound together by a corrupt system. The premier will be as careful of offending any of the gang as he is of fighting shy of Glen Campbell's charges that he is a Judas, a traitor.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Alex. Smith, M.L.A. for Road Gangs.

Brother-in-law Hoyt was Alex. Smith's political life buoy.

Alex Smith—member for Brother-in-law Hoyt and his road gang.

They have a united Liberal opposition in B.C. It consists of Brewster.

The meeting of Scott and Bulyea in Edmonton last week must have been a "touching" scene.

The "unvarnished lie" of the Leader fame was spoken by Dr. Mitchell, Scott's member from Weyburn. The Leader can elect which is the Ananias—Scott or Mitchell.

Scott and Rutherford are going to Ottawa to beg of Sir Wilfrid to give us some of our own lands for a university grant. Sir Wilfrid will surely share the stolen goods with his assistant political porch climbers.

There was no mention of the government insisting on the school lands and funds being handed over to the province in the report of the conference at Edmonton. Their master at Ottawa cracked the whip and his political serfs in these provinces were silent.

At the Liberal convention in Ottawa in 1893 there were six representatives from west of the Great Lakes. At the meeting in Ottawa to make arrangements for their convention, the western Conservatives had fifteen delegates. At the convention there will be at least two hundred from the West. The Liberal delegates in 1893 were Sifton, Watson, Ross, Prendergast, McArthur and Richard.

The delegates to the committee on preliminary arrangements for the Conservative National Convention were banquetted by the Hon. R. L. Borden. Stirring addresses were delivered by representatives from the various provinces. A. B. Gillies, M.L.A. spoke on behalf of Saskatchewan and congratulated Mr. Borden on the hearty response that had resulted from his call to the party to send representatives to make arrangements for the big convention.

PRESS COMMENT

(Mail and Empire)

A terrible condition prevails upon the Intercolinial, according to the statement of ex-Minister Emmerson. There are thousands and tens of thousands of steel rails rusting along the track, says this former head of the Railway Department. There are hundreds of steel structures in the shape of bridges unused. There is rolling stock, cars of every description, lying idle. There is material of every kind lying in and about the right-of-way and the shops that might be utilized in improving the condition of the branch lines. This description of the state of affairs makes it apparent that the waste is awful.

(Phoenix)

The Regina Leader has imported a tinge of bitterness into the discussion it originated about the crop reports of 1909. We are quite content to allow the Leader its cherished honor of being the watchdog of the barnyard, so sic 'em Rover. But so far as The Phoenix is concerned, we were and are in good company on those crop estimates and it is our intention to retain our reputation for safe statements even where there are some department figures to the contrary. If it would please the Leader, we ought it would please the Leader, we might say that we much prefer to accept the provincial figures, but the disparity between them and those of the Dominion department will not down, even for good wishes. But our sour contemporary, who is too blind to see the folly of pounding sand, cannot see the folly of its own bad humor. Its article in reply, from the first sentence, "The Regina Standard and The Saskatoon Phoenix who went," etc., down through its use of such gentle words as "dishonesty," "unpatriotic thing," "absurd," attack," etc., indicate rather juvenile stuff. We strongly urge cold baths and a change of scene. Come up to Saskatoon and see something.

(Main and Empire)

The land grab attributed to Sir Richard Cartwright demands the attention of parliament, and if the facts are as alleged, the knight should be compelled to make restitution. It is charged that Sir Richard wished to add to the attractions of his country home, near Kingston. To do so he secured from the Government, of which he is a member, 175 acres of land, paying for them a rental of 58 cents per acre annually As the rifle butts were near his rural residence, Sir Richard caused their removal and it cost the country $12,000 to meet his wishes on this point. The land leased by Sir Richard at 58 cents an acre represents, according to the rental, a value of $14 per acre. The land bought to comply with Sir Richard's wishes cost the country $100 an acre in one instance and $35 in another. The transaction ought to be ventilated before the Public Accounts' Committee.

(Nor'-West Farmer)

There was recently introduced in the House of Representatives of the United States a bill intended to conserve for the nation, its right in the nation's coal supply. This great neighbor of ours has made some big mistakes in the past in dealing out its coal rights with too lavish a hand, and now it seeks to remedy matters as fully as possible. Canada has, according to a very recent estimate by the Geological Survey Branch, an approximate area of 22,506 square miles of coal lands in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and Eastern British Columbia, and these lands are calculated to contain more than 143 billions of tons of coal of different sorts, mostly lignites and bituminous coals. This is a tremendous amount of coal, so much, indeed, as to make it seem like nonsense to talk about the danger of exhaustion, but when one considers that only 400 million tons of this is classed as straight anthracite and 860 million tons as arthracite and semi-anthracite, it would seem as though of the really hard coal we have not such a supply as should warrant our being too prodigal with it. We are all glad to know that Western Canada is so well provided for in the way of coal deposits, but the fact that the United States is finding it necessary, year after year, to study more closely its coal question, and that we are next neighbor to that nation, should cause our governments and our own Conservation Commission to study how we may administer our coal resources so as to cause as little waste of them in mining as possible.

(Grain Growers' Guide)

The Manitoba Grain Growers' Elevator Committee was called into consultation with the members of the government last week to further consider the proposition o fthe establishment of a publicly-owned system of elevators. The government is working hand in hand with the Grain Growers and is now preparing a bill for submission to the legislature. The bill will first be submitted to the Grain Growers' committee for their approval. The main point in the creation of the system is that of securing proper and impartial control. The government and the grain growers are equally desirous of having this matter placed upon a right basis at the outset, and the co-operation of the two will undoubtedly make the working of the new elevator system as near perfect as possible. The government realizes the advisability of having the commission properly constituted and its authority adequately secured. The legislature will meet in the course of a few weeks and the joint findings of the government and the Grain Growers will be crystalized into law at that time. Co-operation between government and farmers is the surest method for safe-guarding the agricultural industries of the country. In the working out of this new system, no one feature would augur so well for its success as would the fact that the control of the commission should be such that the farmers of the province would have absolute confidence in its action. The farmers are working towards this end, and with the co-operation of the government, it will be secured beyond a doubt.

(Arcola Star)

The blockade on the C.N.R. Maryfield extension continues up to the present without any sign of relief. It seems to us that some pressure could be brought to bear on this company urging them to open up the line and pull out the cars that are loaded and standing on sidings. These cars were loaded by the farmers in good faith, on the understanding that they would be pulled out. It is not our part to place the responsibility but as this

(Continued on page 5.)

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