THE FINAL DRAFT OF THE STATIONS

To Which Methodist Ministers Have Been Assigned--The Conference Closes at Medicine Hat.

Medicine Hat, June 11.—The conference of the Methodist church of Alberta concluded its deliberations last evening. The delegates have all returned home. The final draft of the stationing committee was submitted and approved as follows:

I. Calgary District—Calgary Central, Geo. W. Kerby, Robert Pearson, T. C. Buchanan, John McDougall, D.D., Alfred T. Wilkinson, B.A., Charles R Carscallen, B.A., B.D., William H. Wood, left without station; Calgary, Wesley, Charles W. Bishop, B.D.; Calgary, Trinity, A. W. Coone; Calgary, St. Paul's, R. L. Morrison; Calgary, Crescent Heights, J. E. Collins; Calgary, South, one wanted; Glenville, W. Berry; Westbrook, Henry T. Jarrett; Aidrie, Elmore J. Hodgins; Crossfield, John H. Johnston; Carstairs, W. R. Seeley; Rawdonville, V. M. Gilbert, W. Hollingsworth; Springbank, one wanted; Banff, William J. Haggith; Bankhead, R. E. Randall; Morley, George A. Hipkin; Morley (Indian Mission), Marchmont, Ing.; Langdon, James P. Berry; Strathmore (W.D.); Gleichen, L. P. Porri; Frank Bushfield.

II. Medicine Hat District—Medicine Hat, Allan C. Farrell; Swift Current, Robert W. Dalgleish; Waldeck, to be supplied; Morse, R. S. Thompson; Saskatchewan Landing (S. G. Moyer); Beverly (J. L. C.); Gull Lake, R. M. Clarke; Maple Creek, Geo. W. Johnson; Colley, one wanted; Walsh, Thomas Bell; Seven Persons, one wanted; Bow Island, one wanted; Buffalo Plains, one wanted (S.G.V.); Geo. T. Chenworth, to Victoria college.

III. Lethbridge District—Lethbridge Wesley, James M. Harrison; Lethbridge, Westminster, A. M. A. Lytle; Tabor, one wanted; Warner, one wanted; Huntsville, J. T. Carlton; Sundial (P. S. P.); Macleod, William A. Lewis; Macleod South (W. J. H.); Granum, W. E. Dely, LL.D.; Rocky Coulee, H. Bosomworth; Pincher Creek, Robert E. Finlay; Lundbreck, F. Cook; Spring Point, one wanted; Fishburn (C.B.); Frank (H. H.), J McPhail Waggett.

IV. High River District—Okotoks, G. G. Webber; Linsham, J. T. Guyler; Ridgeview, W. W. Saunders; High River, Thomas P. Perry; Lakeside (T. C. C.); Brant, Wm. McKenzie; Arrowwood (R. H. G. Baker); Cleverville, Charles Geake; Cayley, D. P. Cameron; Nanton, Edward S. Bishop; Stavely, A. H. Leslie; Lawrence; Gordon F. Horsley; Claresholm, Albert B. Argue; Carman Gay, Robt. K. Peck, and one wanted; Bowville, W. Caultin.

V. Red Deer District—Red Deer, Charles H. Huestis, Edward Mitchener, R. Orlando Joliffe, James R. Earl, Robert S. Longley; Indian Industrial Institute, Arthur Barner, principal; Springvale, W. K. Allan; Penhold, John G. Rogers; Innisfail, Thos. Philips; Markerville, Thos. D. Jones; Raven (D. Romilly); Knee Hill Valley (T. Crawford Trotter); Lakeview, Herbert Matthews; Quill Lake Valley, (C.E.R.); Bowden, Horatio M. Mobbs; Three Hills, Chas. Schofield; Olds, T. J. Johnston, J. Wesley Bruce, left without a station for one year at his own request; Murray Valley (G.A.K.); Eagle Valley, (S. W. Gamble); Didsbury, wanted (D.S.).

VI. Lacombe District—Lacombe, Thomas Powell; Blackfalds, T. A. Bowen; Bentley, Prosper H. Neville; Rimby (W. T. L.); Morningside, A. Mosely, Samuel W. Nicholson, superannuated; Ponoka, Ernest J. Tate, Ferry Bank, Thomas E. S. Whitmore; Valley City, John N. Wilkinson; Battle River, Egerton R. Steinhauer, William A. Clark.

VII. Stettler District—Stettler, Austin D. Richard; Erskine, Clark Hawlay; Coalbanks, V. M. Gilbert; Alix, J. C. Anderson; Lamerton, J. Fleming; Whitebrush, P.G.S.; Mayerille, John B. Freebury; Paint Earth, John Goddard; Gough Lake, R. H. M. Bailey; Long Lake, W. V. Sinclair; Red Willow, Thomas Pickering; Brownfield, one wanted.

VIII. Wetaskiwin District—Wetaskiwin, C. S. Laidman; Leduc, Charles H. Shepherd; Millet, R. S. Lee; Pigeon Lake, H. J. Evers; Lewisville, Samuel R. Horsford; Camrose, W. J. Conoly; Bawlf, J. T. Hoyle; Daysland, Angus T. Flynn; Hastings Coulee, J. F. Barker; Killam, W. H. Marshall.

IX. Battle River District—Sedgewick, Wilfred E. Galloway; Harland, P. Halstead; Merna, Geo. A. Steele; Hardisty, J. R. Geeson; Ribston Creek, one wanted; Provost, J. F. Woodsworth; Wainwright, Thomas W. Bateman; Edgerton, H. T. Sockett.

X. Edmonton District—Edmonton, McDougall, Edson E. Marshall, Geo. W. Sparling; Alberta College, John H. Riddell; Edmonton Grace, Aubrey S. Tuttle; Edmonton, Norwood, A. J. L.; Edmonton, West end, Joseph Coulter; Strathcona, Herbert E. Gordon; Sturgeon, R. W. J. Clements; Belmont, J. M. W.; Stoney Plain, F. W. Armstrong; Edison, Robert Telfer; Independence, R. T. Harden; Manola, one wanted; Pine Ridge, N. F. P.; White Whale Lake, W. E. James; Renigar, J. W. Wright; Athabasca Landing, C. Feltham Hopkins; Lesser Slave Lake, one wanted; Peace River, one wanted.

IX. Fort Saskatchewan District—Fort Saskatchewan, Wm. J. Howard; Beaver Hills, H. McConnell; Fair Mount, J. M. Fawcett; Clover Bar, Francis J. Johnson; Lamont, J. B. Howard; Cressford, (S.W.); Tofield, H. J. Munton; Cooking Lake, E. B. Holden, F. J. Ball (W.L.B.); Victoria, F. B. Holden; Galician Mission, Chas. H. Lawford.

XII. Vermilion District—Vermilion, Albert R. Aldridge and G. D. M.; Islay, Douglas Telfer; Dewbury, J. T.; Kitscoty, Robert H. Davis; Rising Sun, J. K. S.; Auburndale, to be supplied; Manville, Stewart Cummings; Innisfree, Burgoyne; Lavoy, one wanted; Warwick, H. Fisher; Vegreville, L. R. Macdonald; Whitefish and Goodfish Lakes, Robert B. Steinhauer; Saddle Lake, J. Artenmus Seller; Clarke Ville, Francis Claydon.

The District Officers.

The following district officers were elected:

Calgary—Chairman, Rev. T. C. Buchanan; financial secretary, G. W. Kerby; S.S. secretary, W. J. Haggith.

Medicine Hat—Chairman, A. C. Farrell; financial secretary, G. W. Johnston; S.S. secretary, R. W. Dulgleish.

Lethbridge—Chairman, J. M. Harrison; financial secretary, W. A. Lewis; S.S. secretary, R. E. Fernley.

High River—Chairman, T. P. Perry; financial secretary, E. S. Bishop; S.S. secretary, A. B. Argue.

Red Deer—ChairmanC. H. Hustis; financial secretary, W. K. Allan; S.S. secretary, Thos. Phillips.

Lacombe—Chairman, Thos. Powell; financial secretary, E. J. Tait; S.S. secretary, P. H. Nevelle.

Wetaskiwin—Chairman, Rev. W. J. Conoly; financial secretary, C. S. Laidman; S.S. secretary, C. H. Sheppard.

Stettler—Chairman, Rev. A. D. Richards; financial secretary, J. C. Anderson; S.S. secretary, I. Pickering.

Edmonton—Rev. J. H. Riddell, D.D.; financial secretary, C. F. Hopkins; S.S. secretary, Jos. Coulter.

Fort Saskatchewan—Chairman, Rev. W. J. Howard; financial secretary, J. B. Howard; S.S. secretary, F. J. Johnson.

Vermilion—Chairman, Rev. A. R. Allridge; financial secretary, L. R. Macdonald; S.S. secretary, R. H. Davis.

Alberta College.

Rev. Dr. Riddell, on behalf of the treasurer of Alberta college, presented the following report, showing that the contributions from the Edmonton district to this institution were largely responsible for the maintaining of the college during the year without a deficit. The report was as follows:—

	Amount Asked for.	Amount Received
Calgary	$512	$383
Medicine Hat	307	307
Lethbridge	286	145
High River	444	234
Red Deer	440	228
Lacombe	198	125
Stettler	106	119
Wetaskiwin	197	113
Edmonton	810	2306
Fort Saskatchewan	145	145
Vermilion	97	79
	$3542	$3684

The contingent fund committee reported receipts of $4,457.85, with a balance now on hand of almost $4,000. L. R. Macdonald was elected treasurer of this committee.

The Sunday school aid and extension committee reported receipts of $231.60. J. F. Fowler, of Wetaskiwin, was elected treasurer of this committee.

Conference Committees.

The various conference committees were appointed as follows:—

On Credentials—Revs. T. C. Buchanan, G. W. Kirby and C. H. Huestis.

On religious training in public schools—Revs. G. W. Kerby, C. H. Huestis, W. E. Daly, LL.D., Dr. Riddell and Messrs. J. F. Fowler, J. F. Boyce, Hon. W. H. Cushing and Dr. Scott.

On Sabbath observance—Revs E. S. Bishop and E. S. Laidman and R. J. Robinson.

On deaconess' work—Revs. C. H. Huestis, G. W. Kerby, A. C. Farrell, J. P. Perry, J. M. Harrison, Dr. Riddell, E. E. Marshall and Messrs. A. T. Cushing, E. Mitchener, J. N. Niblock, E. F. Strathy and Dr. Glabraith.

On Christian Guardian—A. C. Farrell, T. P. Perry, C. H. Huestis, F. J. Johnson.

On evangelistic work—Revs. G. W. Kerby, Dr. Riddell, T. P. Perry, T. C. Buchanan and Messrs. A. B. Cushing, W. G. Hunt, J. N. Niblock.

On foreign work in the south of the province—Revs. T. C. Buchanan, J. M. Harrison, G. W. Kerby, W. A. Lewis, A. J. Grey, W. W. Sanders.

In Strathcona Next Year.

Strathcona was selected as the next place of meeting for the conference, the church in the University city having extended an invitation to the conference to assemble there in 1909.

The matter of providing supplies for the fields made vacant about October 1st next by the students going to their respective colleges came up and was dealt with by a motion requesting Rev. Dr. Riddell and Rev. G. W. Kerby to visit the several colleges and schools in the east to try to secure workers to come to Alberta, thirty being required.

The conference put itself on record as being favorable to having a sub-editor on the Christian Guardian, located in the west.

WENT 93 MILES AN HOUR.

Speed Record for Automobiles Broken at Jamaica.

New York, June 11.—Road records for automobiles were broken yesterday during the races held in connection with the subway opening celebration at Jamaica, Long Island. One mile over a road was covered in 38 3-5 seconds by a car owned by Harry Levery and driven by Herman Kilpatrick. This was at the rate of 93.26 miles an hour.

The car driven by Kilpatrick was not the only one to eclipse the world figures for automobile racing on roadways. Seven other cars bettered the time-honored mark of a mile in 51 4-5 seconds, made by Henri Fortnier at Coney Island on November 16, 1901.

Car after car improved upon the track record for two miles made four years ago, there being no road figures for the distance. The best time for two miles was made by Kilpatrick.

Knock on Union of Municipalities.

Halifax, June 11.—The city council tonight practically decided to send no delegates to the convention of the Union of Canadian Municipalities, which meets in Montreal the middle of July. The majority held that the city derived little or no benefit from these meetings.

Confidence in Portuguese Government.

Lisbon, June 11.—The chamber of deputies yesterday by a large majority adopted the reply to the address of King Manuel on the opening of the cortes, and a vote of confidence in the government's ability to carry out the program announced in the king's address.

CONSERVATIVES ARE FAVORED IN THE MANITOBA LISTS

Provision for Revision is Insufficient; Conservatives are put on the Lists Indiscriminately, While Liberals Have to Make Personal Application; and Whole Object is to Frame Lists on a Partizan Bias.

(Ottawa Free Press.)

In the discussion of the reasons which exist for Federal intervention in the revision of the voters' lists in Manitoba we have already shown that the system of personal registration lends itself to manipulation of the lists by the partizan officials of the provincial government; that the plan of revision is inadequate; that appeals are difficult; and that generally the aim is to load the lists.

No Publicity.

A third factor ,which helps to render the revision inefficient, is the lack of publicity of the work of the registration clerk. He merely posts the result of each day's work on the door of the place, where he sits to receive applications; and, as, in most cases, the bulk of the settlers of his district live from 1 to 200 miles away, this can hardly be regarded as a satisfactory way of publishing the results of his work. If, as is not unknown, the revision is arranged to take place four days after close of registration, a man in the distant parts of the district has no chance of knowing what is transpiring in connection with the making up of the lists; and, when there is no more publicity than such as is in vogue in Manitoba, and the revision is rushed on in a few days, the registration and revision might just as well be carried on behind locked doors, with W. H. Hastings, Conservative organizer, as presiding officer.

There is scarcely time to serve notices of appeal in cases where the post office addresses are known, and no time whatever to hunt up the addresses of people whose post office addresses do not appear on the register. Under the administration of the Hon. Thomas Greenway, the lists had to be printed and published throughout a constituency 30 days before the court of revision could be held; and, if a man's name was wrongly omitted from the lists, he had plenty of time and ample opportunity to find it out and get himself reinstated at the Court of Revision. All sorts of manipulation can therefore take place under the present practice.

According to the Manitoba order in council, issued on April 25, the registration in the provincial constituency of Beautiful Plains is to take place at Neepawa, on June 10, between the hours of 1 p.m. and 6 p.m.—five hours for the revision of a widely extended area, with upwards of 2,000 names. The Gimli registration is appointed to close on June 8 and the revision to take place on June 16. The registratin in the constituency of Lakeside is to close on May 30, and the revision to take place at Macdonald on June 8, between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m.—five hours again for revising a populous area. The registration in Springfield constituency is to close on June 6 and the revision to take place at Beausejour on June 12, between 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.—seven hours to revise another very populous constituency.

In the case of Beautiful Plains, the time mentioned is not enough to comply with the requirements of the law. For the registration clerk is permitted to take two days, after the close of registration, to make up his lists and the lists have to be in the hands of the revising officer, who in this case lives at Winnipeg, three clear days before the revision takes place. The short time elapsing between the registration and revision in Springfield barely permits of the revision being carried out; and the same is practically the case in regard to Lakeside.

How Tories Are Favored.

The law says that every person who wishes to be put on the preliminary list by the registration clerk must attend and make the declaration laid down in the law. This provision is often not carried out in the case of Conservative applicants; and the validity of the registration of names put on without the personal attendance of the applicant was tested before the revising officer at Morris in June, 1906. It appears that the registration clerk had entered on the list three Conservatives who had neither applied personally nor made the customary statutory declaration. The Liberals contended that, as the law had not been carried out, the names should not be allowed to stand. But the revising officer over-ruled the objection; and said that, as it had not been shown that they were not entitled to vote, he would not disallow them. The Attorney-General of Manitoba was elected, in the following March, on the casting vote of the returning officer; but, if these three voters had been struck off, as by law they ought to have been, the Attorney-General would have been defeated. It will thus be seen that the registration clerk can, in the interests of the Conservative party, take applications from those who find it inconvenient to attend, and refuse similar applications from Liberals, who, through the imperfection of the means of communication or pressure of business, are unable to appear at the registration booth.

Doors Shut on Voters.

There is also an instance of the flagrant bias of a revising officer. The officer's name is Bonnar, and, fortunately he was not a judge, but merely a revising barrister, which the board of judges have power to appoint to sit in their stead. Bonnar sat in Winnipeg in 1905, and closed his court while hundreds of people were waiting to be registered. The matter was taken to the Supreme Court on a writ of mandamus to compel the revising officer to re-open his court and give the people a chance to register. The Supreme Court held that Bonnar had the same right as a County Court judge, to keep his court open or adjourn the sitting. The law was right and the officer wrong, but at the next session of the Legislature the government altered the law so that it should not be right again. Bonnar, however, never re-opened his court. Between the time of the application for the mandamus and the time fixed for the hearing, he allowed, with the connivance of the government, his papers to be returned to the government; and thereby surrendered all power to hold any further revision. Consequently there was no redress.

The Moving Spirit.

In the whole series of electoral and registration scandals in Manitoba, since the Conservative government took office in 1899 ,the moving spirit, which has bred them, has been the government itself. The partizan actions of officials have been but a reflection of the administrative methods of the Provincial government. When, in 1903, the attorney-general himself or some responsible official in his department, under took to tear contemptuously from the lists the names of 38 duly qualified electors of Lac du Bonnet, he showed how little there was in the professions of the government that they wanted absolute fairness as between party and party; and, since then, every revision has shown that, whatever may be their professions, they mean to take whatever advantage can be obtained through holding the executive control in connection with the administration of their own edctoral law. Why, if it was fair to tear out the 38 Lac du Bonnet names, did the Attorney-General not tear out the three Morris names, just as wrongly on the lists? Why does he not declare J. F. Mitchell, Conservative member for North End, Winnipeg, unconstitutionally elected? Mr. Mitchell was elected by the votes of 450 Ruthenians, Poles and Galicians, illegally naturalized just before the revision, at which they were put on the list; and, instead of promising an investigation, he says Rudenski, who swore to the circumstances of the illegal naturalization, perjured himself for $25, paid to him by Geo. Walton, M.P.P. But, if the one is a perjurer and the other is a suborner to perjury, why then is neither prosecuted? It will be objected, of course, that Rudneski is gone; but Mr. Walton is still in Winnipeg, and the Conservatives have the alleged cheque and their Polish and Ruthenian friends to back up any action the Provincial government may think fit to take.

It is shown in the foregoing that the law has been amended again and again to enable the Provincial government to take advantage of its position as administrators of public affairs; that the lists, as they leave the hands of the registration clerk, have a partizan bias; and that the Conservative agents at the revision take good care that the partizan bias shall not be removed.

GOOD ARGUMENT.

Vermilion Signal—Hon. Mr. Oliver recently introduced in the Dominion House a bill to provide for the payment of certain monies which had accumulated in the hands of the Dominion government prior to the establishment of the two new provinces from the operation of the Land Titles act over to the latter. To the Hon. C. W. Cross is largely due the credit for securing the transfer of this fund, which amounts to the no insignificant sum of $119,000, from the Dominion to the provincial treasury. During a recent visit to Ottawa the attorney general presented the claims of the provinces to this money so strongly to the minister that Mr. Oliver was convinced of their justice. Hence the legislation referred to. The money will be divided between the provinces in the proportion of the business in connection with which it was received.

TO TEST C. P. R. EXEMPTION.

Vermilion Signal—On another page appears an extract from a speech delivered by Hon. C. W. Cross, attorney general for the province, at Calgary last week. It is a good speech, touching briefly on the work accomplished by the government of which he is a member during the three years in which it has been in office.

There is one matter referred to by Mr. Cross, however, which is of more importance to the people of this province than any other and which is the chief reason for reprinting the speech. It is of especial importance to the settler in the Vermilion district and at other points along the C. N. R. in Northern Alberta and Saskatchewan. As has been pointed out before in the Signal, the chief obstacle in the way of the full development of this territory is the large holdings of non-taxable C. P. R. lands. Almost every other section in a great many townships is held by this company, and owing to defective work on the part of those who framed the charter, not one cent can be collected in taxes on any of this immense area.

The company is not at all anxious to sell these lands; this is very evident from the prices at which they are being held—prices having no relationship to their real present value. For example, C. P. R. lands in this vicinity are being held at $25 per acre, while a little farther out they are $20 and $15. In the midst of this $25 land, the property of the railway company, land of the same character exactly and in some cases more desirable, can be bought from the Hudson's Bay company at $12 to $14 per acre.

The fact is that the C. P. R. is endeavoring to drive settlers away from the Canadian Northern, down to their own lines which traverse the country to the south.

This question of the liability of the C. P. R. for taxes has been threshed out in the courts before and has been decided in favor of the company. However, the Rutherford government is evidently not convinced that nothing can be done and there is hope for the country yet. Says Mr. Cross:—

"The government is not content to leave the matter as it stands. We believe there are contentions to be made which have never been presented in any court of justice and we propose to start a fresh action and take it to the privy council if necessary, and have the matter decided once and for all. It is a very important matter because it means thousands of dollars in taxes to this province."

The matter of the money is of course important, but there is another feature in the situation which is of still more importance; namely, the one indicated above. The C. P. R. is holding these lands at $25 per acre. The company can afford to do this because it costs nothing. Make the lands taxable, compel this octopus to contribute to the cost of local and provincial administration and improvements, and see how long the C. P. R. will be holding their lands at $25 per acre in this territory! No corporation can afford to hold immense areas of real estate at ridiculous prices and pay taxes upon it year after year when it is in demand at figures which,while much lower, would still be fair and yield a very large profit to the fortunate possessors.

It is an outrage that a rich and prosperous corporation should be in a position to adopt the tactics of a thug and obstruct the development of the county by putting its lands beyond the reach of those who would settle upon and improve them, and if the Hon. C. W. Cross and the government of which he is a member can put an end to such an infamy by instituting an action, carrying it if necessary to the highest court of appeal and securing judgment against the company, he will deserve the grateful thanks of everybody in the province. Mr. Cross has shown that he is a man who is pretty sure that he has a case before he moves. He was successful in his prosecution of the lumber combine, although a great many people alleged that nothing could or would be done ,and it may be taken for granted that unless he considered he had some reasonable chance to win he would not undertake the present action against the C. P. R.

People will watch the development of the case with deep interest all over the western provinces.

OLIVER LAND BILL AGAIN.

Vermilion Signal—Hon. Mr. Oliver on Friday last introduced in the House at Ottawa a bill to amend and consolidate the Dominion Lands act. This is the same bill introduced last session by Alberta's representative in the cabinet, which, owing to the absence of the premier at the colonial conference in London, had to be put over for another year.

The bill has been carefully considered in the meantime and some slight modifications have been made, but its essential provisions are the same. It still embodies as its main feature the clauses which created so much interest in the past year, namely, the provision with regard to pre-emptions, but the territory in which these may be secured has been somewhat curtailed and it is anounced that, roughly speaking, it comprises those portions of Alberta and Saskatchewan from their northern boundaries to the United States border between Moose Jaw and Calgary.

The pre-emption provisions of the bill last year aroused a great deal of antagonism on both sides of the House. Hon. Thomas Greenway declared it would injuriously affect Manitoba, because old settlers would be tempted to move from that province in order to secure another quarter section at the low price of $3 per acre. Real e-tate dealers used all their influence with their personal friends among members on both sides of parliament in an effort to have the pre-emption clauses of the bill killed. However, Hon. Frank Oliver, as his friends in Alberta well know, is no quitter, and although it has been asserted over and over again that the bill was dead and would not be re-introduced, he made the statement last fall at different places in the west, including Vermilion, that the bill would be brought in again this session. Mr. Oliver's promises are not at all of the nature of the proverbial pie crust.

The question whether the pre-emption provisions is a good or a bad thing for the west has caused more controversy in this country than perhaps any other problem of a public character that has cropped up in a year. It is a question of great interest and columns have been printed in the papers throughout the west for and against the measure during the past six months. Those who favor it seem to have the best of the argument. It is generally agreed that it will be a fine thing for the country. This year's immigration figures show a considerable decrease from last year's, and there are thousands of well to do agriculturalists across the line who are simply waiting upon the fate of this measure to decide whether or not they will move to Western Canada. It is well understood that no capable farmer in this country wishes to cultivate only 160 acres. If he homesteads he expects to buy an adjoining quarter, but a great many men who would be williing to pay $3, baulk at $12 or $15 per acre. If this bill becomes law it will certainly give a fresh and vigorous impetus to immigration from the United States and bring into this country a large number of very desirable settlers, men with stock and money, to whom farming a half section is no very big undertaking.

The bill is certain to meet with very strong opposition, because the real estate dealers who are loaded up with big blocks of land wish to dispose of it at a large profit and fear that the fact that pre-emptions are obtainable at $3 per acre will prejudicially affect their interests. Their fears, however, are more than likely to be groundless, for the more people come to the country, the greater will be the demand for land and there will be many men who will not care to fulfil the somewhat exacting conditions necessary to the securing of a pre-emption but would rather pay a reasonable price to the land companies and be exempt from any stipulations as to residence and cultivation.

If the newspapers of the West can guage public opinion in this country at all accurately, the people are overwhelmingly in favor of Mr. Oliver's pre-emption measure. It is therefore up to them, as well as to the press, to strengthen his hands by expressing in no uncertain way their endorsement of the bill, so that he may be able to show to the house that in asking that it be put on the statute books he has the people of the three western provinces almost as a unit at his back.

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DR. ROCHE'S DARING MISREPRESENTATION.

One of the best speeches made in the discussion of the Manitoba Election act was that delivered by Hon. Frank Oliver. It was important, because it established to the satisfaction of the House two points upon which there had been a deliberate attempt made to mislead the members. One was with reference to the appointment of registration clerks. Mr. Oliver, by admissions which he wrung from the reluctant Dr. Roche, and by citations from the law, convinced the House that the registration clerks are the appointees of the Roblin government, and are partisans.

A second and even more serious misrepresentation was also cleared up by Mr. Oliver, though this necessitated a hard struggle with Dr. Roche and Mr. Borden, who were apparently determined to mislead the House. Mr. Crawford, the member for Portage la Prairie, had made complaint that in the constituency of Beautiful Plains there were only three clear days for the filing of protests between the close of registration and the opening of the Court of Revision. Mr. Oliver pointed out that this made it impossible for the Liberals to check up the list and protest names that had been improperly registered. Upon Mr. Oliver making this statement there occurred the following passage, as set forth in Hansard:—

Mr. W. J. Roche—Who fixed the date of the Court of Revision?

Mr. Oliver—I do not know.

Mr. W. J. Roche—The judge did.

Mr. Oliver: It would appear from the proclamation which the hon. member for Kootenay had here today that it was fixed by the lieutenant-governor in council.

Mr. W. J. Roche—That is wrong.

If the record were not there in black and white, it would be difficult to believe that Mr. Roche had thus deliberately made a statement which he must have known to be contrary to both law and fact. Section 22 of the Manitoba Election act specifically empowers the lieutenant-governor in council (which means the Roblin government, of course), to fix "the date or dates on, the place or places at, and "the hours between which Courts of "Revision will be held in the several "electoral divisions of the province." This is the law, and it is lived up to year by year. The same order-in-council which fixed the time and places for the holding of Courts of Revision, and carefully limited the hours in each case from five to seven hours. All the judges had to do in the matter was to apportion the work among themselves.

Mr. Oliver declined to take Mr. Roche's statement that the judges fixed the Courts of Revision; and the Manitoba Liberal members were sharers in his scepticism. Dr. Roche, however, persisted in his misrepresentation, as witness the further report from Hansard:—

Mr. Burrows—The Court of Revision does not decide the date, it is fixed by proclamation based on order in council.

Mr. W. J. Roche—The judges in every case fix the time, hour and place. How else would the people be notified of the time except by proclamation?

Mr. Burrows—The time is fixed by the lieutenant-governor in council by order in council.

Mr. W. J. Roche—It is not.

Mr. Burrows—I beg pardon; I can get the order in council. The lieutenant-governor in council are the only party having power to fix the time for the Court of Revision, and they do so.

Mr. Oliver, by dint of reading the law, with the assistance of very pointed interjections by Mr. Burrows and Mr. Crawford, finally made it clear that the dates of revisions were not fixed by the judges. Dr. Roche was silenced. He made no apology to the House for his daring attempt to misrepresent the facts. Mr. Borden took pity on his humiliated follower and tried to "save his face" by saying that while the government exercised this power they did so upon the advice of the judges, which was, of course, an entirely gratuitous assumption. In this case Dr. Roche stands convicted of seeking to mislead the House of commons,by making a statement which is not true, and which he knew was not true .

With respect to the particular point under discussion, that of the limited period allowed between the close of registration and the beginning of the Court of Revision, Mr. Borden and Dr. Roche considered that they had fully met the complaint by pointing out that subsequent to the order in council the time had been extended. That is to say, that as the result of the row created in the House of Commons the Roblin government was compelled to allow a proper time for the scrutiny of the Beautiful Plains list. But, are there any who believe that, failing this protest, the obvious injustice of the original legislation would have led to its amendment If so, we beg to draw their attention to some even more glaring cases of this nature which occurred in 1906 when the lists for the last provincial election were being prepared. In that year in the constituency of Kildonan and St. Andrews, registration closed on May 30, and the Court of Revision opened on June 6. As the names of persons objected to must be sent to the judges five clear days before the Court of Revision, the Liberals were given only one day to check over the lists for the entire constituency, and to get the notices of objection into the hands of the judges. In South Brandon, Dauphin and St. Boniface, where the revision was called for June 11, only five days were allowed for this work. In none of these four constituencies was it possible to revise the added names, and there was doubtless a close connection between this fact and the defeat of the Liberal candidates by very narrow majorities in three of these constituencies.

Mr. Oliver took the position that there should be at least a month between the close of registration and the holding of the Court of Revision, thus giving ample opportunity for a scrutiny of the lists. If the Manitoba Election act were an honest piece of legislation, in place of a law designed to give party advantage under a guise of fairness, the period between the close of registration and the Court of Revision would be fixed by statute. It should, as Mr. Oliver has said, be at least a month. Moreover, the Courts of Revision should not be limited in time, as they are at present, nor should they, excepting in the smaller constituencies, be held in only one place. In some of the larger constituencies Court of Revision should be held at three or four points.

In the city constituencies it is to be noted that there is even less time given for the inspection of the registered lists. At the Winnipeg registration the lists closed at 10 o'clock on the night of May 28, and all the protests had to be handed in by 4 o'clock the following afternoon, permitting less than a day for the checking up of over 22,000 names. Simply to state the fact is to establish the absurdity of the argument that ample facilities are furnished the opposition to safeguard the making of a proper voters' list.

If the Manitoba Election act were so amended as to give the judges complete authority with respect both to registration and revision, the conditions would doubtless be as fair to one party as to the other. But even this change would not relieve the system from the objection that it is much inferior to the Ontario method of compiling voters' lists. The sooner we adopt the Ontario system, or something like it, the sooner we shall have an end to the wrangling over voters' lists, which has been a source of bitterness between the parties in this province for the last twenty years.

FIRM HAND IN INDIA.

Viceregal Council Passes Measures That Will Deal With Sedition.

Simla, June 12.—The vice-regal council, after strong speeches by Lord Minto, viceroy of India, and other members of the council, emphasizing the urgency of dealing with seditious outbreaks, yesterday adopted two emergency measures. The first is known as the Explosives Bill. It provides measures against bomb outrages and conspiracy. The second, the Press Bill, empowers the suppression and confiscation of newspapers inciting to criminal acts.

Lord Minto was careful to explain that both of these bills should be regarded as exceptional measures to meet an exceptional situation. He added that if they were found to be not strong enough, some measure more severe would be adopted.