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JUNE 22nd, 1910

ROOSEVELT IS HOME

The great big question in the United States now is to find a job for a man who is too big for any job that is vacant. In all the vast republic there is no man who looms so large on the horizon as Theodore Roosevelt. He has been away from home for more than a year and has been hobnobbing with wild animals in Africa and crowned heads in Europe. When he returned last Saturday to New York the nation received him with wide open arms and gave him a reception surpassing anything ever seen in the United States. Roosevelt took only a few weeks to set all Europe agog by his plain speaking. He acted quite independently with the pope, and even said "you" instead of "your majesty" when speaking to the Kaiser. He went over to England and took part in the funeral of King Edward and gave old England some advice on running the empire. Home he comes as vigorous as ever in a steamer, loaded with gifts from royalty and all sorts of plunder. He says he is all ready to take his part in the solution of the problems of his country. But how is he going to set about it? Taft, his nominee, is president and will be for over two years more, but Taft is growing smaller as the colonel increases in national stature.

What will the Colonel do and what will be done with the Colonel? There is no need to worry over what to do with him for he will take care of that himself. Apparently he can have anything the republic has to give. But it looks as though he may take action on the present political situation. The Republican party is drifting away from Taft or Taft is drifting away from the Republican party. Which one will the rough rider spank into line? No doubt what he says will go. He has never had to take a firm stand on the tariff question and it will be interesting to see what he will say about the recent upward revision. The Lion Hunter is slated to deliver his first public address in the centre of the insurgent stronghold. He will then probably say what he thinks. Roosevelt is now, as far as one can see, at the height of his fame and nations hang upon his words. What will the future see? Will he go up or down? If he is to keep on going up it is hard to see where there is an eminence on which he can stand. It might be well to have him appointed Chief Advisor for life to the Kings and Presidents. If not that then we need a big man with a "big

stick" in Canada and we might import the doughty Colonel for a while.

MR. BONNAR'S CANDIDATURE

It was with great pleasure that we learned that Mr. R. A. Bonnar, of Winnipeg, is to contest the constituency of Assiniboia in the forthcoming provincial election. Probably to no other man are the farmers of Western Canada more deeply indebted than they are to Mr. Bonnar. For several years, not only in his professional capacity as a lawyer, but also as a man he has worked hard to secure for the farmers of the West a square deal in their fight against the allied forces of special privileges. When we learned that he had accepted the nomination, we addressed to him the questions, as shown on page 4 of this issue, and his answer came back promptly. Mr. Bonnar stands as an independent and upholds government "of the people, for the people, and by the people." Though a strong Conservative and a supporter of the present Manitoba government for many years, Mr. Bonnar now sees that the interest of the people can be best served, in his opinion, as an independent representative. This stamps Mr. Bonnar as one of the leaders of the new and independent thought, that is rapidly growing in Western Canada, for this reason he has accepted the call of the people of Assiniboia, and will contest that constituency against Aime Benard, M.P.P. Mr. Benard is also a Conservative, but he is a man who, judging from his actions, believes in standing by his party no matter what may be done. Mr. Bonnar is a Conservative but does not believe that any man should blindly follow his party but rather follow the dictates of his conscience in what he believes to be right, and exercise his intellect in the interests of the people of his province. The fight is therefore between two Conservatives. It is a very hopeful sign to see a man of the calibre of Mr. Bonnar taking an independent stand, and we sincerely hope that he will be a member of the new legislature, where we believe he will be one of the most potent features for good government in the interest of the people, that can be secured. He has nothing to gain personally, but rather it will be a sacrifice, for a lawyer with a large practice to give the time necessary to perform properly his duty, as a member of the legislature. When we find such men willing to act as our representatives, it is our duty to elect them. The farmers of Manitoba could have no stronger friend in the legislature than R. A. Bonnar.

ELEVATORS THE MAIN QUESTION

We note that the Manitoba government explains the necessity of holding an election this summer on account of the boundary question. We confess that we do not see what difference it will make in the boundary matter whether an election is held this summer or next summer. Everybody in Manitoba is in favor of having the boundary of the province extended to the Hudson's Bay, but just how that can be made a subject of sufficient importance to call on a provincial election this summer, is hard to see. No matter what happens in the ensuing provincial election, it will not effect the boundary matter one iota. The people of Manitoba in returning the present government at the last election said very plainly what they thought of the boundary issue, and they think the same thing now. But the farmers of Manitoba are vastly more interested in the elevator question than in anything else. They want to see public elevators throughout the province, and they do not want to see the elevator question become a political foot-ball. Two of the Grain Growers' Associations in Manitoba have passed unanimous resolutions, asking that an election be not held until the elevators have been procured, and we think that their action is well taken. As a matter of fact the boundary question is a federal matter and one which should not take

up so much of the time of provincial members. There are ten federal members in Manitoba and it is their duty to see the boundary question properly solved, but the provincial members should attend to provincial matters.

ADVANTAGES OF INDEPENDENT COMMISSIONS

The clause in the bill for government ownership of elevators prepared by the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association for submission to the legislature, making provision for the appointment by the legislature of a commission to establish and operate a system of government elevators, is the subject of much adverse criticism in certain quarters. The large body of farmers are favorable to the proposition, as they regard it as being a safeguard against graft, and the tendency of governments to reward political friends and purchase political support. This adverse criticism largely comes from those who are either beneficiaries of the government, or whose conceptions of the functions of government is that the cabinet is supreme in everything pertaining to government. The ground being taken that no government would commit to a commission appointed as suggested by the Grain Growers the power to expend public money, as they would not be responsible to the government, and as a consequence could not be trusted with the expenditure of the public money. This is a specious form of argument and to the uninitiated and anyone imbued with the idea, that all public expenditures are made by the government at their own sweet will, it would appear sound and reasonable. Those who advance that form of argument lose sight of the all important fact, that the government has no power in the premises excepting that conferred on them by the legislature. To the modern student of political economy, the recommendations of the Grain Growers, as to the better method of operating public utilities, would commend itself as being in accord with advanced ideals of democratic government.

The cardinal principle underlying the British form of government, is that the government or cabinet can spend no money without the authority of the legislature. That is to say, the cabinet is in essence a committee of the legislature, upon whom the legislature confers administrative power to carry on the functions of the legislature during the interval between sessions, discharge the executive work entrusted to them by the legislature, including the expenditure of money in accordance with directions laid down in the statutes. That being the case, there is not practical or constitutional reason why the legislature of Manitoba, having accepted the principle of government ownership of elevators, could not just as well empower a commission of three men to do what was necessary to carry out that principle as to confer the power on the cabinet that enabled them to do it. Note that the government could not make a move toward the establishment of a system of elevators until they got the authority from the legislature to do so, nor could they use the credit of the province to borrow money to meet the necessary expenditure without first receiving authority from the legislature. The Elevator Act gives the cabinet power to make the elevator system a branch of the public works department, place the commission and the control of the operation of the elevators under the Minister of Public Works. There can be no substantial reason advanced to show why the legislature could not just as well confer that authority on an elevator commission appointed by themselves, and there are very few unbiased men who will contend that the public interest would not be safeguarded better in the operation of those elevators under the direction of such a commission, than by a commission appointed by the government, operating under the direct control of a Minister of Public Works.

The contention is made, that an independent commission as suggested by the Grain Growers is responsible to no one but the legislature.

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A. BONNAR.

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