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C. F. HAYES,
Business Manager.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1910.

THE MAYORALTY.

Municipal elections are approaching and the field is being more or less canvassed for prospective candidates for the mayoralty and for the four places to be vacated by time-expired aldermen. So far the survey has not resulted in many finds. No one has definitely announced his intention of running for either office, and comparatively few names have got before the public by those circuitous routes commonly adopted by more modest aspirants who wish to intimate that their talents are at the public service. The question as yet is not which candidates, but where to look for candidates. There are reasons for thinking we would do well at this time to observe the more or less commonly recognized rule of looking to the council for a mayor. This rule is fairly well adhered to in cities where the commissioner form of government has not been adopted. Though departed from during recent years it was the invariable rule during the earlier years of Edmonton as a city, and its advantages under a system of civic government such as ours are quite apparent. Where the mayor is simply the presiding head of the council, and where the council have little or nothing to do with the detailed conduct of civic business it may not be necessary that the occupant of the position should bring to the office an intimate personal knowledge with the course of affairs, nor a close understanding of recent municipal history. But where the head of the council is also the chairman of the board of directors in whose hands is placed complete management and control of civic business it must be that the man who comes to the position with a fairly thorough personal understanding of the run of affairs past and present has an advantage, and other things equal should be able to give the city much better service than one not so equipped. Especially is this so where the civic corporation, as in Edmonton, owns the public services, where a half dozen large industrial enterprises, none of them the easiest to manage, representing an expenditure of hundreds of thousands of dollars, employing hundreds of men, and having to do intimately with the comfort, convenience and satisfaction of the people, are added to the ordinary duties devolving upon the executive branch; and where the mayor, because he is mayor, is obliged to shoulder personal responsibility for the smooth, proper and economical working of all of them. Most men with no personal knowledge of the street railway business and with some regard for their reputations would hesitate about accepting an offer from a traction company in which they hold stock to become the chairman of its board of management. But the mayor of Edmonton is the chairman of a board of directors who have to manage not only a street railway system, but an electric lighting system, a telephone system, a waterworks and sewerage system, all of them growing rapidly and subject to the difficulties incident to rapid expansion; besides conducting in detail the whole mass of current and more common civic business. Clearly if such man can bring to his task the knowledge gained by years of experience at the council board his term is likely to be more satisfactory, alike to himself and to the ratepayers. A somewhat radical change, too, has been made in the management of civic business during the year, and a change which makes it more desirable than formerly that the head of the commissioners should be well versed in the civic business. The council have this year undertaken to establish in reality the system which the charter years ago established in theory. They have thrown upon the commissioners, as was never done before, the whole burden of the practical direction of the public enterprises, and of the general business. In theory this was done when the charter was adopted. In practice it was not done. The requirements and provisions of the charter to the contrary, the aldermen continued year after year to trespass far and continuously on the domain of the commissioners, to spend hours reading communications about trifles or matters of detail, to insist on passing judgment on matters which might with every security and advantage have ben left to the executive body or to the operating heads of the departments. This the council during the present year have sought to remedy and to bring the management of things more into line with the intent of the charter and the rules of business. Necessarily, this means that the responsibility of the mayor now is greater than it has been before, and his need of experience correspondingly greater. This considered it would be well if Mayor Lee could be continued in office for another term, or failing this, that he should be succeeded by some one who has had a seat at the council board.

Lame back is one of the most common forms of muscular rheumatism. A few applications of Chamberlain's Liniment will give relief. For sale by all dealers.

THE PLAINTIFFS PROTEST AGAINST SETTLEMENT.

Uncertainty has existed as to whether a province has the legal power to regulate and control a joint stock company chartered by the Parliament of Canada. To settle the point the Dominion Government has asked the Superem Court for an opinion. This opinion, it is explained, would not have the force of a judgment but would be for the information and guidance of the Governor-General in council.

Some of the provincial authorities however are taking the peculiar position that they do not want an interpretation of the law from the Supreme Court and are appealing to the court to decline to hear argument on the case. That the court will accede to this protest against the judicial investigation of a disputed constitutional point is hardly probable, especially as the protest is lodged by the parties who made the dispute. But that the protest is lodged is sufficient indication of the attitude and aim of the provincials, and shows both the attitude and aim to be anything but creditable to themselves or to the interest of the public.

The uncertainty which has existed on this matter has been turned to political ends by those provincial politicians whose chief means of attaining power is to provoke a quarrel with the Dominion, or to pretend to have such a quarrel. Anxious to pose as the champions of their bailiwicks against some supposed injustice on the part of somebody these have scanned the constitution of the Dominion for points where the respective powers of the provincial and federal authorities have not been explicitly defined, and wherever such point has been discovered the cry has been promptly raised that the federal government and parliament were trespassing on the undoubted rights and privileges of the provincial administrations and legislatures.

On none of these moot points has the outcry ben more lusty than on that of the incorporation of companies by the federal parliament. Rightly or wrongly, the belligerent provincials have set up the claim that they and they alone hold the power of fixing the conditions and regulations by which companies operating in their respective provinces shall be governed and whether the charters under which they operate be derived from the local legislature or the Dominion parliament. This claim advanced, it has been easy enough to assail the Dominion parliament and the infringement of provincial rights whenever parliament has presumed to clothe a company with powers to carry on business in one of the provinces.

No opportunity of the kind has been lost by those provincial governments whose party name happens to differ from that of the Federal government. It has now come to be the expected thing that when parliament grants incorporation to a company to do business of any kind in one of these provinces, the province's ministers and their supporters shall at once go into tantrums; shall arise the war-whoop, order the drums to beat and the bugles to call to arms; shall don their war-dress and make pilgrimages about the tribal domains, declaiming everywhere against the usurpation of their powers and the trespass upon their rights. Incidentally of course, they assure the intelligent electorate that they and they alone are the defenders of the local authority and that only in their own return to power at the next election by an overwhelming majority lies any hope of checking the ravages of the invader.

These same gentlemen are the ones who are now protesting against the Supreme Court expressing an opinion as to whether the regulation of companies is legally the business of the Dominion or the provinces. Nothing further is necessary as to the fairness of their attitude than the end they have in view. Having themselves given judgment on a constitutional point, and made that judgment the basis for political action, they protest against the judges being given a chance to expound the constitution as it affects the case. Who can doubt that the reason of their protest is a fear that the judges would decide against them and thus destroy their chance of further imputing wrong motives to their political opponents?

That the finding of the judges would not carry the force of a judgment, but only the weight of expert advice to the Governor-General in council, makes the case of Premier Whitney and his friends the worse. They are the party who claim to be aggrieved. If they objected to the court pronouncing a verdict on their grievance that would be presumptive evidence that they knew or thought they had a bad bad enough case. But they object to judges expressing an opinion which could have no authority save as it was acted upon by the federal government and commended itself to the good sense of the public. These gentlemen seem to think their case so bad that a mere expression of opinion from those learned in the law would destroy its political usefulness.

It is surely in the interest of the public that the question of jurisdiction over companies chartered by the Dominion be settled promptly and finally. With the tremendous industrial development certain to occur in Canada, to leave the question an open one would only be to multiply troubles for the future. The Dominion government seem to have concluded that the time to settle it is now. The logical assumption is that their policy would be guided by the advice of the court, that if the judges found the provincial authority the rightful regulator of such companies, the business of regulating them would be left to the provinces; but that if the judges decided this to be a part of the duty of parliament, parliament would be called on to assume that duty fully and discharge it by the establishment of whatever regulations seemed necessary. This is what the provincial protectors are opposed to. They do not want the question settled. Why do they want it kept open but that they think they can make political capital from it as they have been doing in the past?

THE PROBLEM OF THE "BACKWOODS SETTLEMENT."

The holocaust in the Rainy River country, on both sides of the boundary, can hardly fail to stir the two nations to more active measures for the prevention of forest fires. It is an awful reminder that the preservation of the timber, however valuable it may be, is not the only nor the most important object to be gained; but that thousands of lives in the newer portions of the continent are at the mercy of the elements should fire once get well started in the forests which surround their pioneer homesteads. Humanity, as well as economy, demands that what can be done to prevent these conflagrations be done.

The Rainy River country is one in which preventive measures would be supposed to have reduced the danger of fire to a minimum. The timber is very valuable and has been known to be valuable for many years. It is located in the heart of the continent and within easy reach of those centres where most has been heard about the conservation of natural resources. Lumber companies have invested many millions of dollars in limits and mills. The Province of Ontario on the one side and the United States government on the other, derive revenue from the sale of the timber. If anywhere on the continent the conservation idea has been carried into use in relation to timber, that must be supposed to be the place.

Both Northern Ontario and Minnesota have been visited by disastrous fires before—fires which have wiped out immense tracts of forest, laid mills and lumber piles in ashes, burned villages and occasionally taken toll of human life. The menace of the forest fire has been plainly enough shown to the people and the authorities of both the Province and the State, and the fact made plain enough that not only money or its equivalent is at stake, but the lives of men, women and children. If anywhere on the continent this menace has been recognized and the duty it involves made clear, it must be supposed to be in the wooded region lying between the head of the Great Lakes and the Prairies. And there is every reason to suppose that both by the Province and State authorities this duty has been recognized and measures taken which might be reasonably expected to reduce the danger of a serious outbreak as far as practicable.

The moral is not that preventive measures are useless and might as well be abandoned, but that the best that has been done is not enough, and that in the interests alike of humanity and of economy something more effective must be undertaken. The man who takes his family into the bush to settle is taking grave chances, even if the most energetic effort is made to reduce them. With the increase of population it must be expected that settlement will invade what have hitherto been the timbered regions more vigorously than in the past. Under pressure of the land hunger, men and women will take their lives in their hands and run the risk of fires in hope of hewing out homes for themselves in the bush. If the governments concerned are to discharge the first business of a government—to protect the lives of its subjects—all that can be done must be done to reduce the danger incurred by these worthy and useful pioneers.

The prevention of forest fires is by no means the simple problem some to think. Many, various and wonder-arm-chair critics of governments seem ful have been the schemes and methods propounded by these for the guidance and instruction of those upon whom lies the duty and who confront the hard facts of the situation. It is significant that the latter do less talking about schemes for prevention than the former. Nor is this to be charged against them as an evidence of indifference. The ministers, provincial and federal, in this country—and no doubt those of the neighboring Republic as well—hold the responsibilities of office quite as much in mind as those whose business it is to find fault with them. But confronted on the one hand with the problem of doing what can be done to prevent what cannot be altogether prevented, and on the other with the necessity of finding the means of doing it, they find the beautiful specifications of the amateur adviser interfered with by circumstances and conditions that can be neither ignored nor altered.

None the less the problem is there, and must be solved. It confronts especially government of such provinces as Ontario and British Columbia, who are endeavoring to divert a large proportion of the incoming immigrants from the open prairies to the timbered country. Upon them lies the responsibility of minimizing the dangers of those who take their advice. If the problem be difficult and the solution costly, that is no reason for its neglect. Either the efforts to get people to settle in such districts should be dropped altogether, or whatever is possible should be done to free those who have done so and may do so, from the liability of losing life and property in a conflagration such as that which swept the Rainy River country during the past few days and that which visited certain sections of British Columbia a few months ago.

HELP NEEDED.

Though the destruction wrought by forest fires in the Rainy River district will be unknown perhaps for weeks, one thing is clear: Relief will be needed for those who have been left destitute by the burning of their home. It should be forthcoming promptly and generously. Families—how many is not known—have been left with nothing in the world, and on the verge of winter. Edmonton, which has not been backward to boast its prosperity, might well lead the western cities in this as it has in other ways, and in the same way at times.

MUNICIPAL STOCK YARDS.

The proposal to establish municipal stock yards in Edmonton is an excellent one. The yards would provide a meeting place for the stock grower on one hand and the local butcher, the packer and the export dealer on the other. Instead of waiting at home until a buyer from some firm happened along, as he does now, the farmer could expose his stock for sale where buyers would congregate and where the prices prevailing elsewhere would influence the bidding. The facility provided, and the encouragement given to stock-growing, would draw business to the city and would create new business from which the city would benefit. The farmer who came here with stock to sell would purchase his supplies from the local merchants, while the better selling conditions would encourage farmers to go into stock-growing more largely. Being municipally owned the yards could be managed solely in the interests of trade and kept free from influences which elsewhere have given rise to grievances on the part of stock-growers.

A CAUSE FOR GRATITUDE.

"The terms of the surrender were unconditional other than a request from Deitz that he be protected from violence. Helen Deitz, the fourteen-year-old daughter, represented the family side in the final peace negotiations.

"A white flag now replaces the Stars and Stripes which floated defiantly above the shack until the halyards were severed by a rain of lead yesterday. Sixty armed deputies, grizzled men of the woods, who have lain in the underbrush surrounding Thornapple for a week, returned to town and to their homes last night, trailing their guns and genuinely glad that the siege is over."

These warlike paragraphs are not taken from a record of the siege of Port Arthur or the battle of Chickamauga. They are part of a Winter, Wis., despatch announcing the capture of an old man, his wife and two children. The sheriff system of the United States seems at times to be about as big a joke as the county constable system of Ontario. The latter is famous for the number of criminals it allows to get away without being seen; the former because when a criminal is caught sight of he is treated as an opposing army, "peace negotiations" opened with him, and terms discussed for his "surrender." The more they hear about the way the law is "enforced" elsewhere, the more Albertans congratulate themselves that the enforcement here is not left to the disposition, skill and convenience of amateurs.

IRELAND HAS FOUGHT WELL FOR THE LAND.

Toronto Telegram—"Three hundred thousand out of the five hundred thousand Irish farmers now own their own land," said T. P. O'Connor, M. P., in an interview yesterday.

Ireland's advance towards the solution of the land problem is an eloquent exemplification of the truth of Mr. P. W. Ellis' poem:—

"The wheel that squeals the loudest
Is the wheel that gets the grease."

English and Scotch farmers are wheels that have never "squealed" at all.

Consequently the English and Scotch farmers have got nothing but the privilege of supplying the cash and credit that have bought "grease" for the Irish wheels that have "squealed" to some purpose.

IN LIGHTER VEIN.

Harper's—A gentleman formerly attached to the American embassy at London tells how an old country sexton is a certain English town in showing visitors around the churchyard used to stop at one tombstone and say:—

"This 'ere is the tomb of 'Enery 'Ooper an' 'is eleven wolves."

"Eleven!" exclaimed a tourist, on one occasion. "Dear me! That's rather a lot, isn't it?"

Whereupon the sexton, looking gravely at his questioner, replied:—

"Well, mum, yer see, it war an 'obby of 'is'n."

—

The Argonaut—Pedro, I owe about 3,000 francs," said a Parisian grocer to his shopman.

Yes, sir.

I have 2,000 francs in the safe, but the shop is empty; I think it is the right time to fail.

That's just what I think."

But I want a plausible pretext for my creditors. You have plenty of brains; think the matter overnight and tomorrow morning.

The clerk promised to think it carefully over. On entering the shop next morning the grocer found the safe open, the money gone and in its place a note, which ran as follows: "I have taken the 2,000 francs, and am off for America. It is the best excuse you can give to your creditors.

—

Washington Star—Mischa Elman, the boy violinist, told on his last visit to New York a story of his early childhood.

When I was very small indeed, he said, I played at a reception at a Russian prince's and, for an urchin of seven, I flatter myself I rattled on Bethoven's Kreutzer Sonata finely. This sonata, you know, has in it several long and impressive rests. Well, in one of these rests a motherly old lady leaned forward, patted my shoulder and said:—

Play something you know, dear.

—

Harper's—The curly-haired little sprite of the house came running to her father in the study, and, throwing her arms about his neck, whispered confidentially in his ear:—

Oh, papa, it's raining!

Papa was writing on a subject that occupied his mind to the exclusion of matters aside, so he said, rather sharply, Well, let it rain.

Yes, papa; I was going to, was her quick response.

Philadelphia Ledger—I read that a chauffeur had been blinded by an accident.

Poor fellow. Wonder if it will make any difference in his style of driving.

BOLD HOLD UP IN EAST END OF VANCOUVER

Two Masked and Armed Robbers Enter Bank, Lock Manager and His Assistants in the Vault, and Decamp With $500.

Vancouver, Oct. 9.—Police officers have all day been scouring the east of the city in hopes of finding some clue to the perpetrators of a bold hold-up of a branch of the Royal Bank late last night. The bank was situated on Park drive, in Grandview, an east end suburb.

Assistant Manager Hugget was just closing the front doors at ten o'clock when he was confronted by two masked men armed with rifles. Huggeit and R. Jaudien, manager of the bank, were forced to march back into the vault, the door of which the robbers closed.

The robbers then ransacked the various cash drawers, taking five hundred dollars. Then they re-opened the vault doors and having freed the officials sauntered out on to the street and disappeared.

Many people watched the robbery from a safe distance but none attempted to stop the armed men when they left the building and disappeared in an alley. The neighborhood is thickly settled and there appears to be little chance of catching the robbers.

FORBES-ROBERTSON IS BACK.

1000th Performance of "The Passing of Third Floor Back."

New York, Oct. 10—Forbes-Robertson and his English company re-appeared last night at Maxine Elliott's theatre in Jerome K. Jerome's play, "The Passing of the Third Floor Back." The performance was the one-thousandth altogether in America and England, and in the celebration of it cards containing excerpts from the play which can be used as sunshine mottoes any day in any month were given as souvenirs.

The play remains for two weeks at Maxine Elliott's theatre. Forbes-Robertson's brother, Ian Robertson, opened at Newburgh last night with another English company in the same play.

WISHES TO RETURN TO PRISON.

After Serving 20 Years Released on Parole but Petitions That it be Revoked.

Madison, Wis., Oct. 10—Bidding good-bye to freedom forever, Mrs. Theresa Steinhauser has of her own volition returned to the Wisconsin penitentiary. On January 24 last Mrs. Steinhauser, who had served twenty years of a life term in the penitentiary for the murder of her husband in Jefferson county, was paroled. A few weeks ago she petitioned to the board of control that the parole be revoked. So insistent was her appeal that though the choice of the woman is a great grief to her relatives the board finally reluctantly granted her request.

COLONEL ROOSEVELT TAKES TO AVIATION.

St. Louis, Mo., Oct. 11.—Col. Roosevelt went up with aviator Hoxary at four p.m. today and made three laps of the field. He was in the air three minutes and twenty seconds, and landed easily.

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