

THE WEST

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26, 1906

Someone Blundered

There is no doubt that someone blundered this year in the handling of the harvest hands. There are far too many men in the west and they are not properly distributed. We believe that in the first instance the crop reports have been misleading all the season, and from our knowledge of the province we could not concur in the glowing reports handed out by the railway officials and crop reporters. We have only an average crop and the threshing returns will be very disappointing for the whole of Saskatchewan.

One half of the eastern men now in the country can handle the harvest, and the threshing will not give employment to the extra men now lying around the large centres who cannot find work.

It is an injustice to the citizens of Moose Jaw to have to feed hundreds of these men gratis. We believe that the department of agriculture has been sadly lacking in executive ability in dealing with the harvest help in Saskatchewan, and with them the railway companies must assume a share of the blame, although considering the cheap fare and the loss of their property destroyed by these excursionists, there is no doubt but that the companies are at a financial loss on the whole transaction. The fact remains, however, that thousands too many men have been brought into this province, and having them thrown upon the charity of our citizens cannot be justified.

The University

The location of the Saskatchewan University was a factor in the recent election both in Saskatoon and Regina City. The Leader played that issue as far as it was thought safe without injuring Mr. McNab's chance for election on that question in Saskatoon.

The board of governors have already started out on their provincial tour to pick a location for that institution and, according to Mr. Scott they will have the settlement of the question entirely in their hands under the University Act as it is at present. It is thought, however, that the selection of a site will not be made till after the next session, and that the government will then amend the law and take the matter in their own hands. Mr. Scott realizes that he may be blamed by three aspiring cities for not giving them the prize, and also lose the credit for placing it on the site finally chosen. Therefore what is appealing to him is that the best thing to do is to accept full responsibility, and take the credit on one hand, and stand for all the blame from other quarters. One thing certain, the people of Saskatoon did not turn down Mayor Jas. Wilson to elect Archie McNab without full confidence that Mr. McNab will keep his pledged word and resign his seat if Saskatoon does not get the University.

Is Mr. Bole prepared to go this far in Regina's interests?

On August 13th the Leader in an evening edition said: "One thing is certain, and that is that a vote for Pro-Laird is a vote against getting the university."

Gerrymander the Weapon

Gerrymander defeated Haultain. If you doubt the truth of the statement look at the map, and pick out the constituencies that have been carried by both parties. A few minutes figuring will disclose the fine Italian hand of the Liberal organizer. The finesse of his calculations may be seen in the final returns from the outlying districts and those polls situated in the nooks and corners of constituencies, which always looked suspicious to the eyes of vigilant Provincial Righters. In close constituencies these lone polls turned the scale in favor of government candidates. They were a kind of reserve force which could be relied upon to offset the damage that might be done by the possibly more centrally located and better informed localities. And they did what was expected of them. Napoleon's Old Guard never did better work than the lone polls placed in strategic positions by the Scott lieutenants. A glance at the result will assist to an understanding of the situation.

In the southeast corner is situated the constituency of Souris. That is a name ominous to Scottism. It contains a large number of Liberals who broke away from the party in 1906, and elected J. T. Brown, a prominent Liberal, as their representative. As is well known Mr. Brown, until recently was Haultain's right hand man. The Scott machine knew full well that a Liberal could not be elected in those parts; to contest the seat seriously would be a waste of money and effort. So it was decided to "hive" the Provincial Righters. And they were "hived." As a result Mr. Riddell was elected by over 400 majority. Next to Souris lies Estevan, which is another good example of a "hive" but of a different kind, namely Liberal. It was created to off-set Souris. The Provincial Righters knew from the first that they had no chance of carrying it. The election confirmed their opinion; for Mr. Bell received 300 majority.

West of Estevan lies Weyburn. The Scott party wanted this seat very badly; how they could get it was the problem. The resourcefulness of their most skillful manipulators was taxed to the utmost, and, though they tried every device known to their craft, the product was far from being creditable. The constituency has eleven sides. It projects in a zig-zag manner into Estevan and Francis. That it is not more irregular is due to the circumstance that the skill of the designer was exhausted in his effort. The northwestern part of the constituency is pro-Haultain, but the south and western parts, in which settlement is sparse, are pro-Scott. The problem then was to take in as much of the north-eastern part as would help out the Liberal candidate in Francis and still preserve the balance of power to the west. But it may be added as originally designed, Weyburn was more irregular than it is now. In the first draft of the government map a little jog was made into the southeastern corner of Milestone, this brought a few dozen Provincial Righters into Weyburn. Doubtless after consultation it was con-

cluded that Mr. Calder could carry these better than the Liberal candidate in Weyburn, so they were included in Milestone. The change may have saved Weyburn for the government; Calder would have been defeated without them.

Francis is a constituency fearfully and wonderfully made, and will long stand as an example par excellence of the skill of those who designed the Scott gerrymander. In vulgar parlance it might be called a "butter-is." It is bounded by six constituencies, and has fourteen sides. It seems to have been the effort of the Liberals to make this a kind of Liberal sandwich between the Provincial Rights portions of Weyburn and Moose Mountain. It was desired to defeat Dr. Elliott in the last mentioned constituency; to make Cannington safe; and yet to leave Francis tolerably sure. The plan was accomplished, save the defeat of Dr. Elliott. Cannington is a modified Liberal "hive." To have defeated Stewart would have been too much for almost any candidate that Mr. Haultain could have brought into the field.

North of Cannington is Pipestone, another Provincial Rights hive, especially created for Archie Gillis, by Premier Scott—at least the premier endeavored to make the ex-speaker believe. There is no more popular member of the legislature than the member elect for Pipestone. He is one of the old timers in North-West politics, and even the relentlessly partisan Premier feigns to regard him with a brother's eye. Knowing that to defeat him would be difficult the Liberals decided that it would be better to give him a preserve. To do Mr. Gillis a good turn, and not injure, much less offend, a neighboring Liberal candidate's chances, was no easy matter; but eventually, after surveying a long irregular course, which in Palestine, would have extended from Dan to Bersheba, a constituency was demarcated with anything but graceful lines. It has 19 sides, but this is a secondary matter. The popular Mr. Gillis was provided for, and neighboring Haultain constituencies were endangered.

To the right of Pipestone lies Moose Mountain the constituency which did not go according to Liberal calculations. If Premier Scott loves Archie Gillis it can be said with equal truth that he hates Dr. Elliott. The attack he made on the ex-Commissioner of Agriculture during the closing days of the last session was one of the most vituperative outbursts heard in Regina for a long time. The premier was mean enough to tell the doctor to his face that no mercy had been shown him. In committee the premier admitted that the line had been drawn with regard to representations of political friends. It may not be out of place to add that Dr. Elliott had aroused the ire of the government by the persistence with which he enquires into the work of road and bridge gangs, and his solicitous regard for the quality and number of steel rivets used in Government bridges. To make a long story short Moose Mountain was designed after the pattern of the "ravelled sieve of care." It too has twelve sides, which seems to have been a sacred number with the Scott gerrymander designers. But through much tribulations, the ruddy doctor has emerged victorious.

Dr. Ellis was another member of the last legislature who incurred the especial wrath of the Scott government, and grievously has he suffered for it. He was brought up in the school of Conservatism, but in Saskatchewan fortune set him down in the naturally Liberal constituency of Moosomin. In 1905 Moosomin town was the centre of a Liberal revolt against Scott Tyranny, and the Doctor won out after a hard fight. But during the intervening three years Time, the great healer, has been at work, and some of those who had deserted the Liberal ranks in 1905 had returned. The government was not ignorant of the fact, and was also aware that the course of Dr. Ellis was not a bed of roses. Convinced that the doctor could be defeated it was decided to leave the boundaries

of Moosomin unchanged. How nicely public opinion was gauged the majority of 70 for Smith testifies.

How skillfully a safe seat for the premier was carved out of Moose Jaw district and Maple Creek, the public well know. The result of the election is a standing tribute to the accuracy of the government's information respecting both the old Lumsden seat and the new one of Swift Current. With such unerring accuracy in calculating, is it surprising that the premier has won? Note also the forethought of the machine in providing a safe retreat for the Attorney General among the marshes of Duck Lake. Does any person imagine he would have been nominated for two constituencies if the real state of Prince Albert opinion had not been known? Truly the premier owes something to his subordinates, the men with the pencil and paper, the calculators. So one might continue to point out the effects of the gerrymander, that innocent measure, as the premier called it, which he said, was endorsed by the opposition. The opposition had to swallow the dose, but it was far from saying that the taste was pleasant. The opposition did the best it could under the circumstances, but it had not the information the government had obtained from the reports of an army of officials. The results have shown that the railway policy and what else in the name of issues were advanced by the government during the campaign were merely ruses devised to deflect attention from the cleverly arranged trap from which there was no escape.—Moose Jaw News.

Editorial Notes.

Mr. Bole must deliver the University to Regina or resign.

"A vote for Bole is a vote for the Hudson Bay Railroad." Surely the members of those road and bridge gangs will get a job on the new road.

According to the Humboldt Journal, the Saskatchewan Courier tried hard to influence the German people of that district against Dr. B. D. Neely. Surely the Courier wasn't opposing the government candidate.

According to the Humboldt Journal the Catholic priests were on the stump during the recent election. The Journal in its issue of August 20th publishes the following item: "Rev. Father Bruno, L. L. Kramer and Brickmeyer delivered good addresses on Sunday evening."

The election has mixed things badly in some districts. Up at Canora the right Johnston is the left Johnston, and at Pelly the right Johnston is the wrong Johnston, but at Kinistino the right Johnston is not the left Johnston nor the wrong Johnston.—Yorkton Enterprise.

Speaking of the recent campaign the Grenfell Sun has the following to say about the premier: "One of the worst features of the campaign was the 'mud-slinging' indulged in in some constituencies, especially in Regina, and in which Mr. Scott himself was one of the most conspicuous performers. Such conduct is an evidence of weakness of character, deplorable in men occupying positions of trust, notably so in the premier himself, who should have too much respect for the dignity of the office he holds, to descend to the level of a mere newspaper squabble."

Mr. Motherwell has whined considerably over his defeat in North Qu'Appelle. No doubt he and his "workers" did the best they could, but public sentiment was against him. Here is a list of some of the "workers" who were doing the best they could for him:

- Nichols, homestead inspector.
- F. Kennedy, homestead inspector.
- Abramson, from the immigration offices, Winnipeg.
- J. J. Smith from Regina.
- Dr. M. M. Seymour from Regina.
- Senator Roy from Edmonton.
- Bender, from Brandon.
- Depris from Edmonton.
- Osofsky from Winnipeg.
- Glassman from Winnipeg.
- Horace Cheverier, St. Boniface.
- "Bob" Ennis from Dauphin.
- "Doc" Robertson of Manitoba.
- E. W. Miller, fishery inspector.
- W. Feltner and Chas. Conneau of Lebrét Industrial school.

Press Comment.

(Toronto News.)

Mr. Brodeur, since the report of the Civil Service Commission has been made public, has suspended three officials, and has appointed a purchasing agent. Before the report started the country he had appointed Mr. Falconer to reform the book-keeping—at \$12,000. That is the sum of Mr. Brodeur's achievements as a reformer. Yet he admits that upon entering upon his career as Minister of Marine and Fisheries he found the department in an unsatisfactory state. If the work of the department had been badly done, if the money had been wastefully spent, it was the duty of Mr. Brodeur to inaugurate a system which would prevent these improprieties. But he did not do so. The reason is that the only way to strike at the inefficiency, and extravagance of the department was through the patronage system. Every remarkable transaction was the direct result of this intolerable nuisance of patronage. If a middleman made an exorbitant profit, he was a friend of the minister or a prominent party man, or his relatives controlled some constituency somewhere, or he had aided the party in some election. Mr. Brodeur had neither the inclination nor the courage to do anything which to his mind, might injure the party, therefore it was idle for him to speak of reforming the department. There is no evidence to show that anything has been done even yet to abate this patronage evil as it affects the department of marine and fisheries. Moreover for every dollar of expenditure made by that department Mr. Brodeur is responsible. If he has allowed the bleeding of the country solely to benefit the party to which he belongs, he has been a failure as a minister of the crown, and is unworthy of the office he continues to hold. Yet he is still a minister.

NOTICE.

ODD NUMBERED SECTIONS.

As already publicly announced, odd numbered sections remaining vacant and undisposed of will become available for homestead entry on the coming into force of the Dominion Lands Act on the 1st September next.

As the records of only the even numbered sections have hitherto been kept in the books of the various land agencies in the western provinces and the time having been very limited since the passing of the Act within which to transfer the records of all odd numbered sections from the head office at Ottawa to the local offices, it is possible that the transfer of records in some cases may not have been absolutely completed by the 1st September. In any case where the record of any quarter section has not been transferred, application will be accepted but will have to be forwarded to head office to be dealt with.

As it has been found impossible as yet to furnish sub-agencies with copies of the records of odd numbered sections and in view of the large probable demand for entries, all applicants for entry upon odd numbered sections are strongly advised to make their applications in person at the office of the Dominion Lands Agent and not through a Sub Land Agent. Applications for even numbered sections may be dealt with through the Sub Land Agent as before if desired.

J. W. GREENWAY,  
Commissioner of Dominion Lands.  
19th August, 1906. 21-23

WANTED

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**Pays Election**

The fulfilment of an e  
was the cause of much  
on Monday afternoon. T  
citizens, Messrs. J. B. J  
and John Haran, had arr  
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