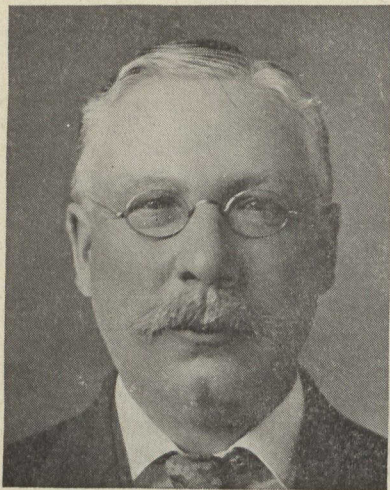
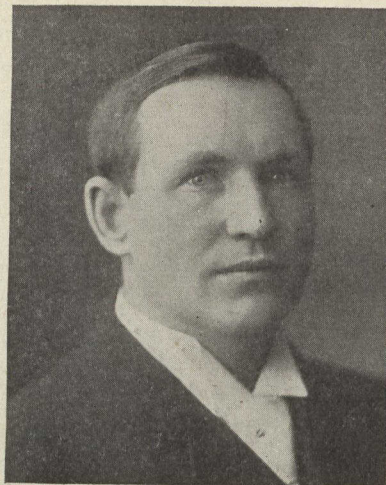




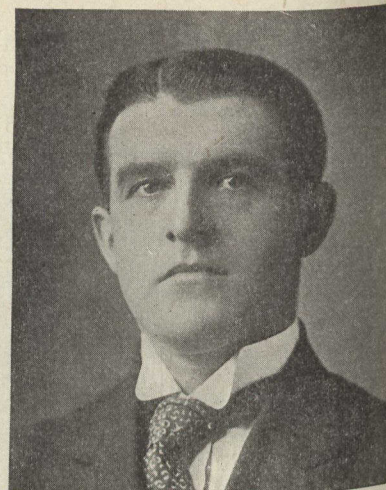
Hon. A. C. Rutherford
Premier of Alberta



Hon. Mr. Cushing
Who has Revolted



Hon. Duncan Marshall
Minister of Agriculture



Hon. W. A. Buchanan
Minister of Municipalities

PROGRESS AND POLITICS

Go West, Young Man, if you would get ahead in Public Life

By AUGUSTUS BRIDLE

THE third rebellion has broken out on the Saskatchewan; this time at Edmonton. It will be remembered that the second was at Duck Lake just a quarter of a century ago next month; it spread up both valleys of the Saskatchewan and took four months to suppress, after which Louis Riel was hanged and the soldiers went home half across a continent and more. The cause of the Rebellion in 1885 was land and half-breeds. The alleged cause of the revolt in 1910 is a railway—and politicians.

Things are moving pretty swiftly out West—when in twenty-five years from the era of war-paint and tomahawks the united electorate of a new province are facing a full-fledged revolt of nearly half the Liberal members of the Provincial Legislature, headed by the Minister of Public Works, who has resigned his portfolio. This should be set forth in the new advertising campaign literature of the province of Alberta, that civilisation do move on the Saskatchewan. Ontario would have taken twenty-five years to think the thing over before revolting. Only Col. Sam Hughes knows how long Ontario endured the Family Compact before the Rebellion of 1837 broke loose. Out in Alberta, which four years ago was a territory governed from Regina, and which has just got its parliament buildings less than half built on the site of the old Hudson's Bay fort, they have got the machinery of civilisation and government so perfected that the entire province is threatened with a split into two camps, clear away from the old political division, which was thirty-eight Liberals to two Conservatives and one Socialist. Chief Rutherford may well say that his province is developing. Never was such a political eruption known in the West. Even in British Columbia when two months ago two ministers resigned and forced a new general election, the McBride government was returned to power by an overwhelming majority.

What's It All About?

What will happen in Alberta? There are all sorts of conjectures. From the foothills of Macleod to the headwaters of the Athabasca, and from Lloydminster on the edge of Saskatchewan to Banff in the Rockies, there are rumours and surmises. History makes itself so rapidly in the West, that there are probably several thousand people in Alberta who do not even know the real cause of the rebellion. The newspapers say that the trouble is over the proposed Alberta and Great Waterways railroad which Mr. Cushing, the Minister of Public Works, says got its bonds guaranteed for twenty thousand dollars a mile when he was absent from his office—whereas his own engineers assure him now that the said road could be built for eight thousand a mile. Some say that the Government majority is stupidly so big that dissensions were bound to develop without any particular cause. Since the increase of constituencies the Liberal majority has been a clear case of hydrocephalus. Others darkly whisper that there is jealousy among ministers, mentioning the names of two ambitious men in the cabinet. Some repeat what has been so often said before, that Premier Rutherford is not the kind of leader to keep a restless realm in awe; that it

was time he retired to make room for a more aggressive leader—though why in heaven's name the Liberal party in Alberta needs to aggress when it has had a majority of thirty-five in a house of forty-one, no one seems able to explain.

Then again, there are those who look a little farther back into history and they say that the revolt of the entire southern wing of the party and one northern member from Sturgeon sums up the whole matter. Those who remember Alberta before it became a province will recall that there was a tall lot of speculation ten years ago as to whether the boundary line between the new provinces should run across meridians or across parallels of latitude. In Edmonton there was a disposition to buck Calgary; which two young cities had been quarrelling almost ever since Edmonton got its branch line of railway in 1892. They have been quarrelling ever since—more or less; not so often less. Calgary is the natural capital of southern Alberta. She is at present somewhat larger than Edmonton, with a future quite as remarkable on the Bow as Edmonton has on the Saskatchewan. When it was at length decided that the province of Alberta should make room for both Edmonton and Calgary the people in the south said that Calgary should be the capital; all sorts of natural reasons. Those on the Saskatchewan cried Edmonton—which for geographical and strategic reasons got the capitalship. Calgary has never been quite satisfied. But the province has made marvellous progress and in the general prosperity there has been no one who could see a calamity in Edmonton being the capital.

The Political Seesaw.

Meanwhile Edmonton and Strathcona began to bury the old hatchet which was very sharp; for these two neighbour towns used to quarrel ten years ago much more acrimoniously than Edmonton and Calgary. It was seen that some day there must be one city at that point on the Saskatchewan; and that though the Parliament Buildings should go to Edmonton, there was no reason why the new University should not go to Strathcona—which had already given Alberta its first Premier. Calgary would have had no objections to the university. Then in the rapid development of things the new agricultural college was added to the university and that also went to Strathcona. Edmonton got the penitentiary—to which she was probably welcome. Calgary got Bob Edwards—formerly a citizen of Strathcona. Lethbridge would have liked the new college. Lethbridge, however, furnished a new minister to the cabinet; Mr. Buchanan, at first without portfolio. Ponoka got the asylum, which has since been removed to Strathcona. Calgary got the normal school.

The revolt of the entire southern section following the lead of a southern minister begins to look as though the old seesaw between north and south were beginning to revive. The oddity of the situation is the bucking act of Mr. John R. Boyle, member for Sturgeon in the north. He is in alliance with the insurgents; a restless individual who for ten years has been a campaigner in Alberta. He was a struggling young lawyer in Strathcona when Mr. Rutherford was also a lawyer without public recog-

nition. They worked well together. Mr. Boyle, however, has ambitions. If the southern contingent becomes an independent party in the House under Mr. Cushing, Mr. Boyle will probably be the head of the northern wing of Independents. If the matter should all be smoothed out and the party lines remain as before, Mr. Boyle will perhaps need watching from the cabinet loopholes.

Meanwhile the Premier and the Minister of Public Works have dined together at the Lieutenant-Governor's. Hon. Mr. Rutherford has probably passed some sleepless nights. He is a man of peace: one who may yet be glad to hand over the reins of party to younger and more ambitious men—for there are two such men in the Cabinet, Messrs. C. W. Cross, the Attorney-General, and Duncan Marshall, the new Minister of Agriculture, formerly manager of the Edmonton *Bulletin* and lieutenant to Hon. Frank Oliver.

Such is progress; in a land which ten years ago had no party politics at all except for Dominion elections; where twenty-five years ago they had war-paint and tomahawks and thirst-dances. In all the history of responsible government—where could you find swifter progress than this?

Quieter Days in Alberta.

I remember being at the Strathcona home of Mr. Rutherford ten years ago when he was something of a farmer and more of a lawyer in the new town; a benign, easy-going man who probably had no idea that in a few years he would be Premier of a vast province. In those days he talked more of prospects and less of politics. Strathcona was then an ugly wooden village set down in the midst of a lovely landscape. Mr. Rutherford was one of its first substantial citizens. He had a large yellow house among the little poplars not far from the river and a couple of children who were just beginning to go to school. In those days he was barely acquainted with Mr. Cushing, who with his brother established a planing-mill industry in Edmonton with headquarters at Calgary. C. W. Cross he knew somewhat better; a young lawyer who began to organise as soon as he got his shingle hung out. J. R. Boyle was just beginning to practise law. Mr. Marshall had not yet arrived. The young Liberals of Edmonton organised in 1899 with Mr. Edmond P. Lessard, now minister without portfolio, as one of the prime movers with Messrs. C. W. Cross and A. F. G. Harrison, now secretary of the Board of Trade. All the real politics they had in those days was Frank Oliver. Those young Liberals were a shrewd aggregation. At one of the meetings during the campaign of 1900 Mr. Harrison rose to put in a few words on behalf of Mr. Oliver, who was supposed to be facing the fight of his life with Mr. R. B. Bennett, the whirlwind from Calgary. He made an appeal to the young Liberals to support Mr. Oliver; and a prediction that in the natural order of things Mr. Oliver would be sure to become Minister of the Interior. But there was no one to predict the future of party politics in Alberta, simply because for years afterwards, and until the dissolution of the old Territorial Legislature, there was no provincial party politics anywhere between Manitoba and British Columbia.

When provincial politics did come the new provinces were born and baptised Liberal. Alberta, which had known Frank Oliver since 1880, was so permeated with Liberalism that there never has been more than the ghost of an Opposition. The present shuffle, even though it should end in Mr. Cushing's withdrawal of his resignation and the return of the insurgents to the party fold, marks an emphatic sign of the times—that politics do move along with progress in Alberta.