

THE WEST

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THE MANAGER, The West Company, Ltd., Regina, Sask.

WEDNESDAY, June 19, 1907.

SOMEONE'S CRIME

The fact that an immigrant went insane in Toronto because he could not get work is a crime against someone connected with the location of immigrants where there is not employment for men who seek it.

"The two who would be under 25 years of age, came over to Canada a few months ago. The husband is a laborer and found it hard to get work and the wife who was helping him became ill. The lack of work preyed on his mind and he had had to commit him to the Insane Asylum."

The poor wife was sent home to England broken hearted over the helpless condition of her husband who listening to the word pictures of Canadian prosperity, left his happy home in the old country, and was influenced to stop off in the congested province of Ontario, where he now lies confined in the lunatic asylum.

The immigration reports for the last year show that the Dominion government located more people in Ontario than in the whole of western Canada. Who ever heard of a man on the prairies going crazy for want of work? Many have been driven almost frantic because they had too much to do, but there is a redeeming feature in this. It is a crime to bring people to a province where they cannot get employment, and it is a bad knock for all Canada, that a family came out here from the old country and the young husband was driven insane because he could not get work to support his family.

What a terrible story of hardship the unfortunate wife will tell on returning home. It is certainly a fine advertisement for a province boasting of wealth as Ontario does, that a young husband seeking employment, is driven crazy because he cannot find it.

The west has some cold winters and late springs, but people don't go mad for want of work, and the west must make sure that when the above story is told in the old country, there must be no mistake about where it happened, that it was not in either of the western provinces, but in Ontario.

THE STAR COMMITTED

The Moose Mountain Star in commenting on the objection which the Catholics take to the secondary education act, and the supplementary revenues act, says:

"The result of the contest, which apparently is inevitable, will be watched with keen interest by the people of the west. The contest for the recognition of separate schools which has not yet obtained a foothold in the province is bound to come sooner or later, and the sooner it comes the better."

So we have the Star up in a nice little corner, by its own admission, for the Catholics are not asking for any further rights or privileges for their separate schools and they are only insisting on all they had before the passage of the Autonomy Act, which is that they shall have the power to teach high school work in separate schools. The North-West Territories Ordinance gave them that power and now the legislature re-

A New Orleans woman was thin. Because she did not extract sufficient nourishment from her food. She took Scott's Emulsion. Result: She gained a pound a day in weight.

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vokes it with regard to high schools while the Autonomy Act guarantees all the rights and privileges which they previously enjoyed. By no kind of wriggling can the "Star" or any other government paper show that the contention of the Catholics now is evidence that the Saskatchewan Act left the province free to deal with our educational matters. Of course we will all know more about the meaning of the act when the Catholics make their appeal, which the government thought would never come when by a ridiculous resolution in the House they sidetracked the purpose of the Opposition with regard to the constitutionality of the autonomy act.

MR. ROBLIN'S SPEECH

We believe that the speech of Premier Roblin, delivered recently at Picton, Ont., will leave a lasting impression on the people of the West who carefully peruse the deep thoughts expressed by the Manitoba statesman on matters of serious moment to Canada and the empire.

Mr. Roblin doubts whether without drawing closer to the mother country we can assimilate the foreign element coming into the west and which will come during the next twenty years, without getting indigestion. Fortunately the solution of this question rests with ourselves as British people, but one thing certain is that if we do not draw closer to Great Britain commercially we shall by force of circumstances become more closely associated with our neighbours to the south as time goes by and as this country develops through auxiliary assistance given by American railway enterprise.

Mr. Roblin does not speak as a pessimist or look merely on the surface of this great tide of immigration coming in and on the rapidly developing stream of commerce flowing from the Canadian west to new channels along the lines of least resistance. Mr. Roblin takes a wide and deep view of very important matters about which the whole empire must become concerned if the vast territory now being populated in the Canadian west, after dominating Canadian politics, will maintain the present status with regard to the Mother country, and this will largely depend upon the success of the western provinces in sustaining the present British sentiment against the influence of the admixture now pouring in, and which will continue to come from all parts of the globe.

THE CENT AN ACRE TAX

The farmers throughout the country are becoming thoroughly aroused over the direct tax of one cent an acre imposed by the government to supplement the revenues of the crown. We are today publishing interviews and letters on this subject, and it appears that many farmers who had not followed the proceedings of the legislature did not know of this direct tax bill they received their tax notice.

When this matter was before the house Mr. Haultain took very strong grounds respecting the measure and he moved the following amendment to the bill:

That the bill does not commend itself to the house for the following reasons:

- 1. While taxing the speculator it also forces the settler before they are able to obtain a common school, to contribute to higher education in the shape of the Provincial University and Agricultural College while cities, towns and villages are exempt.
2. It imposes a special burden on the agricultural population.
3. It forces settlers who are unable to obtain elementary education for their children to contribute to the support of collegiate institutes and High Schools in cities and towns.
4. It forces settlers who have no school of any kind to contribute to the support of schools already established in older and more populous parts of the province.
5. It imposes a special tax on all

country school districts for the support of a Provincial University and Agricultural College and for secondary education in the cities and towns. It imposes an unjust burden on persons holding small grazing leases from the Dominion Government.

It provides for a system of school grants dependent upon a fund which will rapidly diminish and finally disappear as the taxable area of the province is organized into school districts. The organization of every school district will decrease the supply and increase the demand and in the end the grants must either be withdrawn or must be made a permanent charge upon the ordinary revenue of the country which has been declared already insufficient for ordinary purposes by this early resort to direct taxation.

That for the foregoing reasons the said bill be not now read a third time but that it be referred back to the Committee of the Whole House for the purpose of making the following amendments:

- 1. By substituting the following clause for clause 4 of the bill.
4. The provisions of the next preceding section shall not apply to (a) Lands comprised within the limits of any school district as defined by the school ordinances.
(b) Land of any owner or occupant to the extent of one hundred and sixty acres not comprised within the limits of any school district and actually and bona fide resided upon by the owner or occupant thereof.
(c) Land held under grazing lease from the Dominion Government which under the terms of the lease may be withdrawn from the operation of the bill for the purpose of settlement.

- 2. By striking out sub-clause 2 of clause 18.
3. By adding the following clause 20:—If in any year the aggregate amount payable under sections 18 and 19 hereof shall exceed the amount of the moneys set apart for primary and secondary education, every such high school district and rural school district shall only be entitled to receive such sum as will bear the same proportion to the amount which but for this section it would receive, as the amount set apart bears to the amount payable as aforesaid.

The division was then taken on the amendment, which was defeated on the following vote: Yeas—Haultain, Elliott, Gillis, Brown, Ellis, Wylie, Argue, Wellington, 8. Nays—Lamont, Sutherland, Calder, Motherwell, Neely, Sanderson, Grant, Ens, Champagne, Garry, 14, 14.

FOUND A PLACE

The Ross rifle about which the Canadian people have heard so much, and which has been condemned by the government and displaced for active service, has at last found a place—it is being used by the Canadian Mounted Rifles for drill purposes. Really this is the most costly part of the C.M.R. equipment and the least serviceable. Of course the new force will have to keep their arms in the same condition as if they were efficient weapons and they are not supposed to know the political history of the rifle.

Outside of active service the Ross rifle is as good as any other, and perhaps it is fortunate that the condemned weapons can be utilised for this purpose instead of being stacked away as a memento of the grafting propensities of the present federal government.

CHILD DROWNED

The seventeen months' old girl of J. A. Johnson, a swede living near Wauchop, was drowned in a slough near her father's home. The mother had gone out to the fields to her husband and had left the little girl with her brother. She wandered from the house with the fatal result. Her father found the body one hour after the fatality.

GRAIN COMMISSION

The Canadian Grain Commission, Messrs. Millar, Gowie and McNeil, are having a busy time in London and Liverpool. They recently inspected the dock discharging, warehousing and milling operations at Liverpool and Birkenhead. They find that there is much sympathy with the movement to preserve the identity of the Canadian grain from the wheat fields to the English markets.

Development of Modern Science. Modern science shows no higher development than the New Scale Williams Piano. Perfect in every detail, of the highest artistic musical excellence and finished in the most beautiful manner in costly polished woods. Few people are aware that the varnishing and polishing of a single piano case involves almost constant labor for a period covering nearly two months.

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RECIPROCAL DEMURRAGE

A gentleman who has devoted many years to the lumber interests expresses himself in connection with this important matter of reciprocal demurrage as follows: Railroads ask for us, as shippers and receivers of freight that we shall promptly handle the cars that come into our possession. They ask this not only in their own interest, but in the interest of the community at large. Freight cars are intended to carry freight and not to be used as storehouses. Failing to handle them promptly so that they can be continued in their proper use with as little delay as practicable, we are asked to pay demurrage charges.

We have no theoretical objection to the demurrage charge. It is fundamentally just, as admitted by all of us and sustained by the courts; but we insist that the cars we want to use in our business, and which by virtue of their charters and their functions as common carriers the railroads as common carriers are under obligation to furnish us, shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed.

If the railroad cannot get its cars from us, we have to pay a penalty; if we cannot get our cars from the railroads, why should they not pay us a penalty? Perhaps the word "penalty" is too harsh and "indemnity" may seem a better term; but in fact, it is a penalty for the \$1 a day represents no reasonable compensation for anything. It is too high for interest and too low as a substitute for earning power. But if that or any other definite amount be fixed upon as compensation to the railroads, a like sum may reasonably be demanded as compensation to the public.

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Mr. Farmer

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1 Burner " " " - \$3.65
1 Burner Gasoline Stoves - \$3.65
2 Burners " " " - \$4.50
3 Burners " " " - \$7.50
Ovens for above, each - \$1.85 and \$2.85

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