

THE EDMONTON BULLETIN (SEMI-WEEKLY)

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MONDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1907.

THE C.P.R. AGREEMENT.

The smoke of the municipal conflict has partly cleared away, and already another question of supreme public importance emerges to engage the attention of the ratemakers. On the 30th of the present month, voting takes place on the agreement concluded between the city council and the C.P.R.

Something more than a year ago the C. P. R. Co. opened negotiations with the city council with a view to securing certain concessions in return for extending the line of the C. & E. railway into Edmonton. The plan of the company was to cross the river on a high level bridge, and continue their line northward to the property lying between Tenth and Eleventh streets, and north of Jasper avenue, where their yards are located. The concessions they demanded were that Peace and Athabasca avenues between Tenth and Eleventh streets should be closed, and that they should be permitted to lay two tracks across MacKenzie avenue.

It soon appeared that the city had counter concessions to demand. It was suggested that the city wanted a traffic deck on the bridge. It was stipulated that the tracks must not cross Jasper and the avenues south of it on the level. After considerable correspondence and several conferences a tentative agreement was concluded which granted both these concessions after a fashion. Peace and Athabasca avenues were to be closed. The company were to be allowed to lay their track across MacKenzie avenue. In return the Company, as the agents of the city but at their own expense, were to construct a sixty-foot subway on Jasper and forty-foot overhead bridges on the three avenues south of it.

The tentative agreement then became the basis of negotiations. These have been continued throughout the year. Correspondence has been exchanged, conferences have been held, and the result is the agreement which the ratemakers will be asked to ratify on the 30th of this month. The negotiations do not appear to have travelled far in the twelve-month. Substantially the present agreement is the tentative agreement cast into legal form. The Company still gets its concessions. The city still has to foot the bill. Peace and Athabasca avenues are to be closed. The Company is to construct the sixty-foot subway on Jasper, forty-foot bridges at Victoria and Hardisty avenues, and a fifty-foot bridge at McKay. But for the damages claimed by property owners and the injury done to business, the city must become responsible. And if a traffic deck is built on the bridge, the city must provide the money for it.

From the city's standpoint the negotiations both early and late, have been conducted on an altogether mistaken basis. If it were either necessary or wise to negotiate at all, the only basis for negotiation should have been that of value for value, concession for concession. At the outset each party wanted something from the other. The Company wanted to close certain of the city's avenues. The city wanted a traffic deck on the Company's bridge. The natural and proper basis for agreement, if an agreement were desirable or needful, was an exchange of favors. It would have been every way reasonable to demand as a price for closing the avenues that the Company should provide a traffic deck to the bridge at their own expense. The Company desire to close the avenues for their own agreement the Company secure substantially every concession they demanded, the city secures only the privilege of paying for both the concession it grants the Company and the concession the Company should have granted the city.

THE RURAL MAIL DELUSION. Dr. McIntyre, M.P. for Strathcona, sounded an eminently sensible note in the debate on rural mail delivery the other day. He said in effect that so far as the West is concerned, the matter is not one of pressing importance

because it is one from which the West derives no advantage. If the cost of the traffic deck would be too high a price for that advantage, they would have had the privilege of rejecting the city's offer, trying to close the avenues by other means and paying the damages. And if the damages would have been too high a price for the Company to pay for the advantage of closing the avenues it certainly is too high a price for the city to pay to secure them that advantage.

No such basis was adopted. The Company was permitted to become the aggressor and the claimant. The city became the meek and lowly defendant. The Company advanced their demands boldly. The city contented itself with disputing those demands. The result was as might have been expected. A "concession" came to mean something that the Company might be able to secure at the expense of the city. All thought of the city securing something in return at the expense of the Company was lost sight of. In the result as embodied in the deal could not receive any large measure of benefit for many years, but from which we might receive a present and very material disadvantage. The delivery of mail from house to house is an expensive process even in a thickly settled country; much more so in a country where houses are few and far between. If this system were adopted in Canada it would be adopted first where the population is densest—in the thickly settled countries of the eastern provinces. Even there it is a matter of doubt if the increased revenue would reach anywhere near the mark of the increased cost. If not, the deficit would be made up from the general funds of the Post Office Department. But every shrinkage in those funds would mean a smaller sum for the extension and maintenance of any kind of postal facilities in the West. However desirable rural delivery may be, in Canada it could only mean an advantage secured to certain thickly settled districts at the expense of the enormous partially settled areas. And as thickly settled districts lie chiefly in Eastern Canada and partially settled areas chiefly in Western Canada, the net result would simply be the depletion of the postal facilities of the West for the betterment of the postal facilities of the East. Western Canada has no objection to rural delivery in Ontario and Nova Scotia, provided Ontario and Nova Scotia pay for it. But Western Canada would have most strenuous objections to the proposal to equate Ontario and Nova Scotia to the paralysis of the postal system of the four western provinces. And under present conditions this is simply what rural delivery would mean.

A POLITICAL OBITUARY. The Edmonton Journal seeks to attach blame to the Liberal candidate in Victoria constituency for the death of a man named Ivan Palak, who was thrown from his wagon near Wostok, and demands to know why an inquest was not held by the coroner. It is to be regretted that the Journal did not see fit to do a little investigating on its own account before starting in to make political capital out of an obituary notice. Had it done so, the political feature would have been destroyed, but the truth would have been conserved. Perhaps, however, the Journal preferred to invest the incident with a political complexion of its own manufacture rather than present the uncolored facts of the case.

Two facts were known to the critic, first, that a man had been thrown from a wagon and killed, second that a Liberal meeting had been held in the district the same day. The Journal simply connected up the incidents and began to froth at the mouth. First it got the man drunk. Then it made him drunk at the Liberal meeting. Then it made the Liberal candidate give him the liquor or supply it to him. Then it invented a purpose for doing so—to influence his vote in favor of Mr. White's candidature. Then it declared that the man had been thrown into eternity for political ends. Finally in worked itself into the conclusion that he had sacrificed his life on behalf of the Government, and began to wonder if the Government would support his family.

Had the Journal seen fit to do so, it could have secured the other facts in the case. True, it could not then have been sensible. Those facts are that no liquor was used or supplied by Mr. White or any one on his behalf either before, at, or after the meeting. When the meeting was concluded, the deceased, in company with another man or men, drove to a hotel, secured some beer and drove on to a farmhouse, where they had supper, drinking the beer at the meal. They afterward started for home, the team ran away and Palak was thrown from the wagon and killed. These

facts are generally known throughout the community. As there was no reason to believe foul play or because of culpable or negligent conduct of any one else, no inquest was held. With the death of the unfortunate man, whether drunk or sober, Mr. White had no more to do than the editor of the Journal.

A REPRESENTATIVE GATHERING.

The Edmonton Liberal convention was a splendidly representative gathering, both in numbers and spirit. The delegates were many. They came from all parts of the riding, at the convenience and at considerable expense. Their number is the more remarkable in the circumstances of the gathering. The convention was called in time of peace, when the clash of battle had not roused the fighting spirit. It was called to select a candidate for a struggle not yet in sight. On whom the selection would fall was a foregone conclusion. It was a gathering under normal conditions and representative by conflict or special circumstances. Under such conditions conventions are not usually largely attended. That the Edmonton convention was an exception speaks the very great interest in public affairs taken by the Liberals of the constituency. It was a gathering of men who believe in certain political principles and who were willing to inconvenience themselves to express approval of the representative by whom those principles are voiced in Parliament, and the Government by whom they are carried into effect.

But supposing we should be unable to replace them? Supposing the money market should tighten down still more and the wherewithal could not be secured, where would the money come from? The funds having been spent in violation of the law, what would be the position of the council for permitting this?

Another undesirable feature is that the citizens have plied for improvements that have not been made while on other works sums have been spent far greater than the citizens authorized. Forty-nine thousand dollars was authorized to be spent on the street railway; sixty-six thousand were expended. One hundred and twenty thousand was voted for street paving; only twenty thousand worth was done. One hundred thousand was approved for the Grand Trunk Pacific bonus; the bonus has not been paid but the money is gone. Forty-five thousand was voted to build an incinerator, but we have no incinerator. A balance of \$25,000 was left from the purchase of the G.T.P. right of way; that has been spent to. These sums have been expended in public works or in current expenses, but the ratemakers who are doing without the improvements they were meant to provide. The statement of the auditor emphasizes the necessity of a permanent official, answerable only to the council and reporting at much greater frequency than at present.

ON THE SIDE.

Mr. Barker, M.P., has been barking up the wrong tree as usual.

A Nevada desperado called on an editor and demanded an apology. He was shot.

Secretary Taft is said to have resigned. Well, a court-martial has been the stepping-stone to promotion before now.

The report of the Beef Commission is to be issued. Let us hope it will contain a few words on the price of Christmas turkeys.

One advantage of the India-rubber platform is that Billy Maclean and E. B. Osler may stretch it as much as they please.

Naturally Mr. Foster thinks the cost of the Insurance Commission might have been better spent some other way.

The House of Commons will send the twice-rejected amendment to the Railway Act back to the Senate, just to see how much nerve the senators have on a show-down.

President Roosevelt says flatly that he is done with the job when his term expires. Teddy bids fair to round out his career by that rare stroke of genius—quitting at the right time.

James J. Hill says New York is too expensive a place for commerce to live in, and that trade from the Western States may go to Europe via the Canadian route. Tourists of this character are welcome.

A Montreal woman paid a man \$300 to marry her daughter, and then he wouldn't do it. A man who turns down three hundred plunks in this age of stringency must have good reason for doing it. So the judge thought and let him go.

A Canadian has won the heavyweight pug championship. Another evidence of the diversified talents of this youthful race. Also, perhaps, a gentle hint to the powers that be of the position we will some day occupy among the nations.

The Lethbridge Daily Herald is the latest arrival in Alberta journalism. It succeeds the semi-weekly of the same name. Mr. W. A. Buchanan, formerly provincial librarian, is editor and managing director. The new daily is a splendidly printed four-page paper with liberal advertising patronage and every appearance of a promising career. The first issue to hand contains a good round-up of local news and the press service of the Western Associated. If the Herald can keep up the pace it will be a winner and deserve to be.

A BOX OF MONKEYS.

Toronto Globe—Before Mr. Borden reached Winnipeg on his recent peregrinations a number of the most ardent Conservatives of that city were inclined to be resentful that anyone should presume to promulgate a platform for the Conservative party without having it first endorsed by a regularly called convention of the party. At a gathering of the younger and more active spirits a resolution to this effect was carried and a delegation appointed to present it to Mr. Borden on his arrival in the city. The spokesman who had been chosen to present the document, however, was seen by some of the dyed-in-the-wools the

night before and failed to turn up with the copy of the resolution at the appointed time. A fearful peril was thus safely overpassed.

A fearful peril it was, for a convention of the Conservative party just now would be one of the most interesting meetings of which it is possible to conceive. A meeting of which Mr. T. B. Oleschick, Mr. W. F. Maclean, Mr. Borden and Mr. Richard White of the Montreal Gazette, Mr. Cockshutt and Mr. J. J. Young of the Calgary Herald, were conspicuous parts would be one well worth the price of admission. A resolution in favor of public ownership of all utilities moved by Mr. Maclean and seconded by Mr. Oleschick, with Mr. Borden supporting it in a careful speech, properly qualified with such phrases as "so far as may be, without offending or alarming capital," and Mr. Richard White denouncing it unconditionally, would be a conference that would scarcely take second place to that famous meeting of which John Milton was the chief speaker, when Biala, Mammon and other famous personages were the speakers.

And after a composite resolution on the subject of the country deploring no one to anything had been adopted there would be the tariff controversy to be cleared up. Mr. Young in order to meet the fertile ingenuity of the crooked election worker, but protested against Mr. Borden's assumption that all the wrong-doing was on one side, and that the Conservative party was immaculate and blameless.

It was this utterly insincere and hypocritical pose that drew Mr. Pugsley's fire. The Minister of Public Works has never said that there was no fraud on the Liberal side at the general election. All that he says is that this gentleman, who is walking from constituency to constituency with a halo about his head, was cognizant of the collection of an enormous fund by a few gentlemen in Montreal, and that in the general election of 1904 unprecedently large sums were poured into the New Brunswick constituencies in order to beat the Government candidates. Mr. Pugsley has offered to furnish the name of the gentleman of the Canadian Manufacturers' association guard of supporters from this side of the province.

Mr. Cockshutt, who defended the demand for higher protection from Borden in the West, might perhaps be induced to second a resolution framed by Mr. Young, although it is to be feared that physical force would have to be employed. But where would Mr. Borden be the friendly correspondent who accompanied Mr. Borden through his trip admitted that the leader steadily maintained a discreet and complete silence on the tariff. It is phrased as follows:—

"Defeated, Mr. Borden's attitude must be made to Mr. Borden's reference towards the tariff. It is a fair way of saying that the tariff is not an exceptionally corrupt, but also that it is hostile to instituting additional safeguards against corruption. Mr. Pugsley's revelations show how hollow are the pretences of the Conservative leader, and all the misrepresentations of the party press will not obscure this point. If Mr. Borden were sincere in his desire for cleaner elections he would recognize that there are base elements in both parties, and that it is the part of the true men in both to get together for the purpose of at least making it more difficult and dangerous for the baser elements to practise their arts from this time forth."

ON THE SIDE.

Sir Thomas Shaughnessy is opposed to the All-Red project. That's what he draws salary for.

Calgary Herald: "In Calgary the votes cast for mayor numbered 1,900. In Edmonton they were slightly over 1,200." The Herald is entitled to another look at the statistics.

Wagons equipped with Terry orters, gramophones and collapsible platforms are being sent out to preach high tariff in England. In Canada Pullmans are substituted for wagons, the equipment being substantially the same.

FOULING THE NEST.

Montreal Herald: The financial repute of Canada is one of her most priceless possessions. To damage it by unfounded and senseless criticism from the financial institutions and methods, is a work that should be revolting to any Canadian. Yet the last few weeks have seen a series of criticisms as ignorant as they are misleading, of the policy of Canadian banks, of the foundation of Canadian currency, of the monetary system generally. The criticisms are caused simply by a desire to turn to the advantage of a political party the financial stringency which this country is sharing in some small measure with the rest of the continent, may discount their effect with those who know the situation, but is unfortunately not sufficient to prevent them from doing damage abroad.

It has been left for Senator Loughheed, of Calgary, to promulgate a doctrine which is likely to convey to the outside world the idea that the Canadian West contains the elements of a lively part yet flat-money Populism. If Mr. Loughheed's utterances had been confined to Calgary, where he is well known, they might have done little harm; but uttered on the floor of the Senate, no matter by how irresponsible a Senator, they are bound to attract considerable attention. Mr. Loughheed desires to reduce the gold reserve upon which Canada's currency is based. Because the percentage of reserve in many parts of Italy is less than that of the charter of the banks, he finds that our money is altogether too safe. Forgetting that the banks have the right of recourse to the Dominion in case of a sudden draft upon their reserve resources, while the Dominion has no recourse to the banks, he proposes to reduce the gold reserve upon which the nation-

al gold reserve cut down by one-third. The percentage rate of the national gold reserve has once been slightly reduced. That action was taken by Mr. Fielding, some five years ago, in consequence of a number of special new considerations which showed that an unnecessarily large amount of gold, a proportion which there was no possibility of the nation's ever requiring at short notice, was being locked up in the vaults. That action has since been amply justified by the steadily raised credit of the Dominion and by the endorsement of all financial authorities; but at the same time when it was taken Mr. Loughheed's party friends denounced it as a pulling away of the bulwarks of Canada's credit. Mr. Loughheed and his associates have travelled far.

EXPOSING A PHARISEE.

Toronto Globe: Both Mr. Borden and his journalistic allies miss or pass over the real issue raised by Hon. Mr. Pugsley. They conveniently overlook the fact that Mr. Borden went through the country deploring the electoral wickedness of his opponents. The Liberal Press agreed with him that the law needed strengthening in order to meet the fertile ingenuity of the crooked election worker, but protested against Mr. Borden's assumption that all the wrong-doing was on one side, and that the Conservative party was immaculate and blameless.

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Publicity Needed to Check Big Evils. U. S. Secretary Straus Says Federal Power Must Control Corporations—Many Topics in Report.

Washington, Dec. 12.—Regulation of supervision of the nation's industries, comprehensive publicity for corporations, is recommended by Oscar S. Straus, Secretary of Commerce and Labor, in his annual report which has been submitted to President Roosevelt and sent to Congress. Secretary Straus covers a wide range of subjects in his report—almost everything from the problem of immigration and corporate control to the scientific enigma of how to tatten an oyster.

Speaking of the work of the bureau of corporations which is one of his departments, the secretary declares that at present it is investigating the steel, lumber and tobacco industries; also doing additional work of inquiry into the petroleum industry, into canals, coastwise and river navigation, cotton extension, and the work of the Federal Company and a special investigation into the matter of government employees handling patents upon articles used by the government.

Regulation is Needed. Speaking of the policy of the administration in connection with publicity in interstate corporate affairs, Secretary Straus says that such publicity can be retained only through the general government. "The national development of industries will force the adoption of a national system of regulation or supervision of some of the general nature of that already applied to national banks in order that the significant facts of corporate management may be correctly laid before Congress and the public as the only proper basis for just and intelligent action thereon."

Mr. Straus also makes this comment on commercial combination: "The prohibition of commercial power simply because it results from combination is not a satisfactory solution. It is not the existence of such power but its misuse to which attention must be directed. Commercial success which is based solely upon the proper use of commercial power, upon the giving of better service or lower prices than any competitor, is a laudable and commendable thing. It is a proper business development, and works benefit both to the public and to the corporation. On the other hand, success which is based upon the destruction of competitors by unfair methods, is an evil to be prevented."

The secretary adds: "It is believed, and the belief is based on experience, that publicity is the best deterrent against such unscrupulous practices. If any corporate managers have the courage to continue openly, evil practices when the exact details thereof have been made public, by name, date, amount or place."

Other Subjects Treated. One important subject reported upon are the immigration question, Chinese immigration, the merchant marine, the tariff, the duties of the government in imports and exports, labor troubles, manufacturers, trade opportunities, census, fisheries, steamship inspection, Alaska and the coal and oil fields, and the survey.

The total number of aliens admitted during the year ended June 30, 1907, more than in 1906; 15,064 aliens were rejected. As to the suggestion that immigration officers of the United States should be stationed in foreign ports, Secretary Straus opposes the idea, as he holds it would be contrary to the policy of expansion so strenuously upheld by the government at Washington. Calling attention to the fact that our exports to China have fallen from \$33,000,000 in 1903 to \$20,000,000 in 1907, Secretary Straus draws the lesson that our immigration laws pertaining to the Celestials may be too harsh. He says that no better terms than the present to reach an understanding with China on this matter could be desired, adding: "This could be done, and the result it may be for China laborers to enter, but so framing our laws and treaties as to make admission the rule and the exclusion the exception, in order to reach at the same time, in all its integrity, the present policy of the laws."

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PUBLIC SCHOOLS CLOSE NEXT

Meeting of School Board Taylor's Office In Presented by Sup

There was a full meeting of the school board held last evening at the Taylor's office in the presence of the superintendent, Mr. A. E. May, and building committee, Messrs. J. H. Wright, Leduc, and Miss. McCulloch. The superintendent reported on the trial of little plates one final of the school committee, recommending for tenders for standard methods of making teachers and pupils of the week-end. Mr. Gray recommended that the school's population by the year. The superintendent reported on the trial of little plates one final of the school committee, recommending for tenders for standard methods of making teachers and pupils of the week-end. Mr. Gray recommended that the school's population by the year. The superintendent reported on the trial of little plates one final of the school committee, recommending for tenders for standard methods of making teachers and pupils of the week-end. Mr. Gray recommended that the school's population by the year.

It was decided to close on Friday, Dec. 20, in order to allow teachers and pupils of the week-end. The superintendent reported on the trial of little plates one final of the school committee, recommending for tenders for standard methods of making teachers and pupils of the week-end. Mr. Gray recommended that the school's population by the year. The superintendent reported on the trial of little plates one final of the school committee, recommending for tenders for standard methods of making teachers and pupils of the week-end. Mr. Gray recommended that the school's population by the year.

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THURSDAY'S GRAIN. Winnipeg, Dec. 12.—The grain market was lower with higher news bullish about the wheat crop. The market showed more inquiry. Large numbers of Winnipeg options, open 1.00 1/2, close 1.00 1/2; May, open 1.00; July, open 1.10; Dec., open 43 1/2; open 50 1/2; close 50 1/2; wheat, 1 No. 1, 1.00 1/2; No. 2, 94 1/2; No. 3, 92 1/2; No. 4, 90 1/2; No. 5, 88 1/2; No. 6, 86 1/2; No. 7, 84 1/2; No. 8, 82 1/2; No. 9, 80 1/2; No. 10, 78 1/2; No. 11, 76 1/2; No. 12, 74 1/2; No. 13, 72 1/2; No. 14, 70 1/2; No. 15, 68 1/2; No. 16, 66 1/2; No. 17, 64 1/2; No. 18, 62 1/2; No. 19, 60 1/2; No. 20, 58 1/2; No. 21, 56 1/2; No. 22, 54 1/2; No. 23, 52 1/2; No. 24, 50 1/2; No. 25, 48 1/2; No. 26, 46 1/2; No. 27, 44 1/2; No. 28, 42 1/2; No. 29, 40 1/2; No. 30, 38 1/2; No. 31, 36 1/2; No. 32, 34 1/2; No. 33, 32 1/2; No. 34, 30 1/2; No. 35, 28 1/2; No. 36, 26 1/2; No. 37, 24 1/2; No. 38, 22 1/2; No. 39, 20 1/2; No. 40, 18 1/2; No. 41, 16 1/2; No. 42, 14 1/2; No. 43, 12 1/2; No. 44, 10 1/2; No. 45, 8 1/2; No. 46, 6 1/2; No. 47, 4 1/2; No. 48, 2 1/2; No. 49, 1/2; No. 50, 0 1/2.

Big Liner Aground. Liverpool, Dec. 13.—While shifting her position at the landing stage, the Mauretania touched a bottom of soft mud and stuck. It is expected she will be floated on high tide and sail on time tomorrow.

Saskatchewan Judge Appointed. Ottawa, Dec. 12.—Arthur McLaughlin, of Moosemin, is gazetted judge of the district court of Saskatchewan.

March Out of Burn. Burnside, N.Y., House of Providence has a meeting this morning around this morning. The party loss of \$120,000, many, ranging from \$100,000 to \$1,000,000, all their personal effects, trooped. There was a meeting of the board on the 11th order. The boys will be held in the building can be replaced.