EDMONTON BULLETIN

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NEEDED

(Monday's Daily.)

Calgary Albertan: "Last night at the Knox Church when the evangelists called upon the audience to mention persons who were in dire need of prayer, a prominent citizen called upon the assembly to pray for the editors of the Calgary papers first of all."

The petitioner had probably been reading the Herald's building record.

The Albertan is not altogether confident of the efficacy, however, for it says in a subsequent issue: "After "one reads a couple of the editorials "in the Herald of last night, one must "have patience and remember that "answers to prayer do not always "come by express, and that the prayers of the evangelists for the reformation of the Calgary editors will "come along all right, but in extreme "cases it may take time."

THE EXEMPTION LAW

(Monday's Daily.)

The secretary of the Associated Boards of Trade of Western Canada writes the Bulletin that a recent criticism of a proposal for modifying the exemption law appears to be based on a wrong understanding of the premise. That the purpose of the resolution was not "to enable merchants to take undue advantake of "deserving but unfortunate settlers" is undoubtedly true, but it is difficult to see how the purpose of the resolution could be accomplished without permitting them to do so. That the present exemption laws work occasional hardship in the manner suggested is doubtless true, but it will scarcely be contended that the measure of the hardship thus inflicted approaches that which would result if the exemption law were altered in a manner which left it susceptible of abuse against the deserving unfortunate.

EMPHASIZE EDMONTON'S ADVANTAGES

(Monday's Daily.)

The new industries committee of the city council have a broad field of usefulness open to them—a field for service of large and lasting benefit both to the city and the district. It will be their special business to endeavor to secure the location of manufacturing concerns and industrial enterprises generally in the city. That Edmonton needs such enterprises and would be benfitted by their coming is of course undeniable, but this is not the idea to emphasize in our efforts to secure them. To represent the city as anxious for the industries would bring us instead the usual bevy of bonus-hunters willing to treat with us only in the light of the great benefits to be conferred on the city by their respective enterprises and graciously willing to locate here provided we present them with sites, build their factories, and give them free use of our utilities and exempt them from taxation. From such "captains of industry" the city has little to expect and need not encourage their visitation.

On the other hand, to represent Edmonton's claims as the most advantageous location for industries in the Canadian West with its appeal to a class of industries which depend for their sustenance on business instead of bonuses. Such are the industries Edmonton may legitimately hope for and from which she may legitimately expect benefits both to the city and country. The industries which use the raw materials that are or can be readily produced in this district, converting these into commodities marketable, both at home and abroad—these are the industries which contribute to the commercial strength of the community and they are the industries which do not have to be brought into being and kept alive by donations from the public purse.

To the promoter of such industry a good market and a plentiful supply of raw material are of more importance than a bonus; ample railway facilities are reckoned higher than a free site, and cheap fuel is valued higher than exemption from taxation. These supreme advantages Edmonton is in a position to offer the manufacturer and with them it should not be necessary to grant the concessions of lesser importance usually demanded from cities which have not these advantages to offer. The advantages we possess and not the concessions we might give, are the really important factors in the case and the proper line for our efforts is to make known and keep on making known that the opportunities for doing business are broader and the conditions for doing business are more favorable for the manufacturer in Edmonton than elsewhere. The present prosperity of the city by judicious advertising; the same means should accomplish similarly satisfactory results in securing the location of industrial enterprises in Edmonton.

HIS STANDARD

(Monday's Daily)

The Toronto Globe pays its respects to W. F. Maclean, M.P., in the following lively fashion:—

"Mr. W. F. Maclean, M.P. for South York, yesterday issued in his newspaper a Christmas editorial message, double-column, in black-face type, the essence of which is contained in the following sentence, that was given special emphasis:—

Never yet was there a private coal dealer or an electric energy dealer who did not cheat, or try to cheat, in his measure.

"He had already slandered nearly every newspaper man in the city, and charged the entire press—his own personal organ excepted—with treachery to the public. The question is asked: How comes it that this man regards every other man as a traitor or a thief? And the answer is: He judges them by what he knows about himself. He knows that there never was a trust imposed in him which for a price he would not betray, and very few which he did not betray. And he knows that his own word 'cheat' would fittingly apply to himself in his relations with the public, and especially as a member of parliament.

"Take one instance. Year after year Mr. W. F. Maclean, member for South York, has been drawing his full sessional indemnity, and making a solemn declaration that he—the most notorious absentee in the Houses—had not been absent from Parliament fifteen days during the session. Year after year that solemn declaration has been absolutely false, and the money which he drew by those annual false declarations was by him dishonestly taken from the public treasury. End even for the one year in which opposite his name the auditor-general marked 'no declaration,' and for the one or two years marked 'not settled,' he contrived to secure the full indemnity money which was not his due.

"That is but one instance. It is typical. Is it any wonder that a man should charge others with being 'cheats' who himself persistently drew money from the public for months of time which he gave to his own business, and who cared so little for truth and honor as to sign a solemn declaration which he knew to be false? The man he knows best of all would 'cheat' and has cheated the public. Why should he not try to hide his own dishonor in the cloud of general slander?

"It is because Mr. W. F. Maclean, M.P., has 'cheated' the public treasury out of indemnity money year after year since 1892, and is not ashamed, that he feels he can afford to slander every newspaper man, and every private coal dealer, and every other honest man in Canada. Morality is nothing to him."

SOME INFORMATION

(Tuesday's Daily)

Ridiculing the suggestion that the lack of transportation facilities had anything to do with the coal shortage, the Calgary Herald says: "Those who "are acquainted with the situation "know that it was a question of the "lack of coal owing to the strike situation." The Frank Board of Trade and the Crow's Nest miners will doubtless appreciate the delicate suggestion that they know nothing about the matter.

WHITEWASHING PREMIER McBRIDE

(Tuesday's Daily)

Premier McBride, of British Columbia, has seen fit to call on the general provincial elections and the journalistic priests of Conservatism from the Mail and Empire down are bestowing upon him their editorial benedictions. But unless the lesser lights in that household of faith are more fortunate than their leading luminary the downpour is likely to accomplish little save to show how badly Mr. McBride needs the blessings and how little he deserves them.

In upwards of a column of its valued space the Mail discovers two alleged reasons why the people of British Columbia should not turn Mr. McBride out of power; to discover reason good or bad why they should keep him in power it does not essay. And of its negative recommendations the Mail produces one only by disregarding absolutely very well known evidence to the contrary; the second by scrupulously avoiding the vicinity of the truth.

The Mail considers it one of the good things of the McBride administration "that it has conserved the interests of the people," and says "There has been no giving away of "public property, and no yielding to "corporate powers." The negative virtue of common honesty is of course commendable in a government as in an individual, but in neither is it an attribute so rare or of such inherent importance as to obviate altogether the necessity of ability in its possessor. If with honesty a government combine legislative and administrative ability the community will enjoy good government; but a government which is only honest cannot be a good government. Such government might hold sway in China without disturbing the celestial dream of centuries; but it could not hold sway in a Canadian province without retarding the wheels of progress.

Nor is there exactly the best of reasons for accepting without question the assurance of the Mail that this desirable but negative quality has been the conspicuous and predominant characteristic of the McBride administration. If it has been then virtue in these degenerate days must be its own reward for the McBride cabinet has reaped little public credit for their supposedly unusual honesty. The story of the Andersons is sufficiently fresh in the public mind as not to need recalling beyond the fact that of the $40,000 paid by the Grand Trunk Pacific for the Prince Rupert site only $10,000 found its way into the coffers of the province. Where the remaining $30,000 went Mr. McBride has been given many opportunities of explaining, but has not so far demonstrated how this incident proves the singular vigilance of his government in conserving the public interests. The Mail essays the task by claiming that the province was made a one-fourth partner in the Prince Rupert townsite. But until it supplies several missing links of information it looks much more as though the people of the province had been made a one-fourth partner in the selling price of a townsite of which they were formerly the four-fourths owners.

Meantime news comes from Victoria which may be fairly considered as furnishing the sequel to this entertaining story. Mr. Green, minister of lands and works in the McBride cabinet, has resigned and according to Victoria despatches is to proceed to Prince Rupert supposedly to take a position with the Grand Trunk Pacific. As Mr. Green was the head of the department negotiating the Prince Rupert deal the praise or blame for that deal would naturally fall to him. As to whether he considered it worthy of praise or blame may be gathered from his retirement from politics at the psychological moment when he must face the electors on the merit of the deal. The despatch significantly adds: "It is further understood that "a secret agreement exists between "Mr. Green and the Anderson syndicate "which gives the former a fourth in-"terest in the lands outside Prince "Rupert secured by Mr. Anderson "during the period of nearly two "years when the townsite sale was "kept secret by the government." Unless and until Mr. McBride provides some pretty good reason for supposing the contrary it looks very much as if instead of the British Columbia government standing between the Province and the supposed aggression of the railway company, some parties not far removed from the constellation of which Premier McBride is the centre have jobbed both the province and the railway company for the benefit of themselves.

The Mail is particularly concerned with the bad politics of the British Columbia Opposition in attacking the Government on the question of the special subsidy required by that province from the Dominion treasury. If this is bad politics it is difficult to understand why the Mail should grieve at the mistake of its opponents; but that it is bad politics not even the misconstruction of the Mail comes measurably near proving. That it fails however was not the fault of the intentions. Mr. McBride, we are assured, "was unable," at the provincial conference, "to secure the "financial consideration from Ottawa "to which his province was entitled;" The "Liberal majority" of that conference is represented as having opposed the claims of British Columbia and in imposing fashion the Mail demands to know "What right had Mr. Peters "of Prince Edward Island, and Mr. "Murray of Nova Scotia, to negotiate "with Ottawa on a British Columbia "question?"

If Premier McBride failed to secure at Ottawa the financial consideration to which his province is entitled he failed for the good and sufficient reason that he did not try; so far as the Liberal representatives at the conference were permitted by Mr. McBride to express an opinion on the question their opinion was to the effect that British Columbia should have such consideration and have it at once and the right of Mr. Peters and Mr. Murray, Mr. Whitney and Mr. Roblin to a voice in the matter was simply the right of partners in a common business to know how much another member of the firm is getting from the funds.

The financial consideration referred to is a claim from the Province of British Columbia that on account of the extent and character of the province it should receive from the federal treasury a "special" allowance for development purposes, aside from the ordinary subsidy to which it is entitled by the general schedule of subsidies payable to all provinces. To provide for such claims to special consideration the conference resolved that beside the general schedule of subsidies payable to all provinces, the representatives from any province might attach a statement of claim for such extra allowance as they considered their province entitled to. Such claim would thus come before the conference and if considered just would go before the federal government reinforced by the endorsation of the other provinces. If not considered just it would still go before the federal government as a claim from the province on the Dominion. Had Premier McBride adopted this opportunity at worst his case would have been as strong as it is now, while he would have had also the chance of securing the cordial support of the other provinces in pressing his case on the federal authorities. But he declined the opportunity. When the ordinary subsidies were being considered Mr. McBride was glad to avail himself of the representations of the other provinces; but when his "special" claim came up he brusquely informed the other provinces that it was none of their business and when in recognition of this special claim they proposed a grant to British Columbia of $100,000 per year for ten years Premier McBride added insult to rebuff by withdrawing from the conference.

Now a "special" claim by the very reason of its being "special" is one in which the other provinces claim the privilege of a say. The money with which all subsidies are paid is provided by the people of the Dominion. So long as this money be redistributed to the provincial government in the same proportion no province has or can have the right to question the share of another. The ordinary subsidy received by a province is a matter for computation, not argument, and so long as the calculation be correct there is no occasion for argument. But a "special" claim is a request for a grant to which a province is not entitled on the ordinary grounds of provincial subsidies. It is a legitimate matter therefore for the consideration of every man who must contribute toward the grant, both as to the justice of the claim and the amount necessary to satisfy it. Since the people of all Canada pay the subsidies the people of all Canada are entitled to be consulted when it is proposed to augment the subsidies to one province by a "special" grant.

The reasonable course, therefore for a province which has need of such special financial assistance would be to secure the assent and the support of the other provinces in pressing its claim. With such assent the grant could not well be denied; without this consent the grant could be given only by the federal government taking chances on the objections which the other provinces might raise. If Premier McBride was really anxious to secure the special grant to British Columbia and if he possess the ordinary foresight of a business man he would have exerted himself to enlist the sympathetic support of the other provinces. Not only did he not do so; but when the other provinces tendered their support of his case he flung in their faces "a gratuitous insult. That British Columbia is entitled to special provincial assistance from the federal government the representatives from the other provinces were prepared to admit and they gave the best of evidence of their readiness to support Premier McBride in securing this assistance. But so far from accepting their assistance and naming the amount he wanted them to recommend Premier McBride repulsed their offers with the declaration that the extra allowance he should receive from the common funds was none of their business. That British Columbia should receive an extra allowance from the federal treasury the other provinces are prepared to admit, but if they are not prepared to assist British Columbia in getting that allowance it is because Premier McBride invited their antagonism by a course which Premier Whitney aptly described as neither "frank nor candid."

EXPLANATORY

(Wednesday's Daily)

According to the Albertan the $350,000 item for "cement works" which figured in the Calgary building returns referred not to the Exshaw works but to works which "are "on Calgary land which will come in-"to the city the minute that work be-"gins, right beside the Calgary brew-"ery." This should settle the question. The cement works buildings are not in Exshaw or Calgary or anywhere else, but they are expected to be erected "forninst the brewery" on "Calgary land," which is not in Calgary and when they come into being Calgary will promptly annex the territory works and all. This is a point the Edmonton officials have overlooked. They might go over the returns again and include buildings contemplated "beyond the city" and then arrange to move the city boundary out a peg or so when the buildings are erected.

THE CANADIAN CLUB

(Wednesday's Daily)

Edmonton has a Canadian club which though only two weeks old has a membership of 138, with every prospect of large increase in membership and continued prosperity and usefulness as an institution. The club is worthy the attention of the business men of the city. Its purpose is the cultivation of a strong Canadian sentiment and it aims to accomplish this in a manner most agreeable to the members. A luncheon is held fortnightly at the noon hour, followed by a brief address by some member or distinguished guest on a topic of public interest. The progress already made augurs well for the future and from present appearances the Canadian club has come to Edmonton to stay and to become a vital force in directing public thought and shaping public opinion.

Canadian clubs have already been formed in several western cities and the success they have attained is assurance that the organizations will increase in number throughout the West very rapidly. There is an "outside" as well as a local reason for hoping that this will be the case. If the organization and existence of the clubs in the west does little more than reflect to the older portions of the Dominion the direction of public sentiment in the West they shall have been far from useless. The notion is all too frequently entertained in the older provinces, or in certain quarters in those provinces that with the influx of American settlers and of settlers of Europe, Canadianism in the West is at a low ebb, and likely to become a still weaker cause. How mistaken is the notion is thoroughly understood by the people of the West and the persistence with which it is suggested and re-suggested by certain newspapers, particularly of the Province of Ontario, is by no means pleasing to them. If by the organization and maintenance of vigorous Canadian clubs this misrepresentation of western sentiment can be made ridiculous, a most salutary lesson will have been taught those in Eastern Canada who are pleased to consider their own provinces the peculiar and exclusive abode of the spirit of Canadian nationality.

Certainly, if anywhere in this broad Dominion the spirit of Canadianism should flourish it should be in Western Canada. A very large percentage of our population is drawn from the provinces which boast the predominance of this sentiment and if the more rigorous life of a new land adds fibre to manhood it surely may be relied upon to toughen rather than weaken the national spirit of this class of our people. Of the other large element, the British settlers, there is quite as little ground for doubting their national spirit as that of the native-born. Neither their allegiance nor the manner of its expression is called upon for sacrifice and the Britisher may be counted on as giving to the maintenance of Canadian institutions the unquestioned loyalty he formerly displayed toward the institutions after which our own are modelled.

It should occur to our fearful eastern fellow-citizens, too, that the people who come here from the United States and from continental Europe usually have good and substantial reasons for coming, and reasons which are likely to induce sentiments of enthusiastic loyalty rather than of treason or of treasonable indifference. These people came to the Canadian West because the conditions of life in their own countries, material or political, were unsatisfactory, and came in the expectation of finding here more satisfactory conditions and of making their permanent home under those conditions. Their expectations, both material and political have been fulfilled. They have found a good country and a well governed country and to suppose that they would display either antagonism or indifference toward the maintenance of those conditions of life would be to assail both their honesty and their common sense. And above all is such suggestion an insult to the intelligence and integrity of the settler from the United States. Because of all things else the American is credited with being practical, and given a country of opportunities, governed in a manner which enables every man to share to the measure of his ability and industry in those opportunities the practical man is the last man on earth to be suspected of wanting to disturb those happy conditions, or of being indifferent as to whether or not they are disturbed.

To those on the ground the well understood facts of the case are in accord with what might be expected from the circumstances and nowhere in all Canada is the spirit of Canadianism more general or more vigorous than in the West. Less demonstrative it may be for western people are too busy to be demonstrative. Edmonton, which with a population of only three thousand people, sent one hundred and twenty men with the Canadian contingents to South Africa may be pardoned if she has been slow in proclaiming in time of peace a sentiment so predominant that its expression has not been considered necessary. The Canadian clubs in Edmonton and other western cities will accomplish not more commendable work in developing national sentiment than in reflecting the dormant national sentiment which already exists.

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