

The Two Premiers and Their Western Tours

Geo. J. Johnson, in Ottawa Citizen.

In 1886 Sir John Macdonald made his first and only trip to the Pacific ocean via the Canadian Pacific railway. In the course of his journey he visited different parts of the province of Manitoba, the Qu'Appelle valley and several points of the Northwest Territories then traversed by the C. P. R. or with-in easy striking distance of the railway. Everywhere he was received with great enthusiasm as the man by whose decision had been driven a few months before he crossed by it to Vancouver city, then non-existent, except in the form of ashes and four houses untouched by the fire, now bright and cheerful with a population of 85,000 souls to make it so.

In 1905, nineteen years later Sir Wilfrid Laurier visited the Northwest Territories to inaugurate the creation of the two new provinces which he brought into the sisterhood of nine Dominion and incidentally to turn the first sod of a second and already needed inter-oceanic railway. He, too, was received with great enthusiasm. In the score of years intervening between the visits the distinguished men, what mighty changes have been wrought in the condition of the regions they visited.

I think it was Charles Sumner, who once gathered together in a magazine article some of the happier prophecies concerning America. A similar task might be performed with the happy prophecies concerning our Northwest, and as a contrast, a collection easily could be made of the prophecies of a dismal sort that have been uttered about the same region—a land fit only for furred wild beasts and Indians; then a land fit only for ranching purposes, a land of waving wheat and oats and the granary of the Empire.

In 1886 Sir John travelled over long stretches of vacant country with here and there a farm house. There were in 1886 about 7,000 occupiers of land in the new provinces with about 200,000 acres of cultivated land. This was a great increase over 1881 when the occupiers numbered 1,041 and the cultivated lands were 38,333 acres. Taking Manitoba and the Northwest Territories together there were 24,570 occupiers of land in 1886 and about 850,000 acres of land under cultivation.

In 1905 Sir Wilfrid could say there were over 4,000,000 acres in wheat alone besides a half million acres in oats, barley and flax, and say nothing of the average under crops, such as potatoes, roots and peas, etc.

In 1886 the total population of the new provinces was 48,000, of whom 21,000 were Indians, making with Manitoba a total of 157,000. The population must now be fully 800,000, a simple calculation will show. The 157,000 persons had 850,000 acres under cultivation, or about seven acres to the individual. The 5,600,000 acres divided by seven will yield a population of about 800,000 in round numbers. Sir Wilfrid in 1905 could look out of his car window and realize that there were, say, 850,000 more inhabitants in the region than Sir John could sum up in 1886.

Sir John saw many smiling children as he passed through. In Manitoba and the Northwest Territories there are 47,000 children under 15 years of age, including youthful Indians. Sir Wilfrid would learn from the statistics that there are now enrolled in the schools after their summer holidays, fully 100,000 children, to say nothing of the babies who have not attained sufficient age-power to warrant their parents sending them to school.

When Edmonton celebrated the other day the parade of school children was the feature that must have attracted Sir Wilfrid's special notice. They were in regiments according to ages, from five years old to twelve years old waving their Jacks and cheering at the top of their shrill voices, every observer asking where they all came from and prophesying cheerful things and taunting to raise a smile.

When Sir John visited Winnipeg that city had a little over 20,000 inhabitants. It claims to have 90,000 now.

It was a lively city in 1886. It had five banks, the Merchants Bank of Canada which opened in 1873, the Bank of Montreal in 1875, the Imperial in 1881 and the Union and Ottawa in 1882. There are now thirteen in Manitoba, eleven of which are established themselves in the new province, the total number of branches being 182, of which 98 are in Manitoba and 84 in the remainder of the new provinces.

A clearing house was not established in Winnipeg till 1888. The total receipts for 1894 were \$56,600,000.

In 1904, Sir Wilfrid would see that the transactions recorded amounted in 1904 to \$244,600,000, or nearly six times those of 1884.

In 1884 the clearings of the Winnipeg Clearing House were 5 per cent. of all the clearings recorded in all Canada. In 1904, with six more cities having clearing houses, Winnipeg had 10.77 per cent. It now stands third, being surpassed by Montreal and Toronto.

In 1884 Winnipeg's clearings were one-eighth of the clearings of Montreal, 1904 they were between one-fourth and one-third. Montreal's clearings in 1904 were \$149,900,150; Winnipeg 482 per cent. on \$50,602,600; Ottawa's clearings last year were \$108,700,000; Winnipeg's were therefore, 2% times those of Ottawa.

In 1886 when Sir John went through the wheat area of Manitoba and the Northwest was considered by experts to be a rectangular block included between the international boundary and the south end of Lake Manitoba and extending west from the eastern side of Manitoba to about the middle of Assiniboia. West and north of this plot of ground might be good ranching lands, but wheat lands, never. Sir John heard much of the ranches of the west and little of the wheat growing capacity. The rancher had everything his own way. Calgary was the centre of a great ranching country and everywhere talked cattle and horses.

Sir Wilfrid, I warrant, heard little about the ranches except that they were thriving up and that the wheat grower was turning to wheat growing. He heard much of the happy rovers that winter wheat was just the sort for Alberta and that Alberta was just the country for winter wheat. "Winter wheat is the thing for Alberta," said a farmer man, "I wish to see the acre. That's what I see 62 bushels to the acre." Doubtless, too, as a trained statesman Sir Wilfrid was a little troubled

at the intense optimism which emanated from everyone in the West.

Sir John was, but for a little different season.

The year 1886 was a very poor year for wheat all over the West. The drought was terrible. Around Regina I noticed large fields of wheat with a growth of scarcely a foot high and no chance of growing higher. Even the potatoes were declared to go for the decision had been driven a few months before he crossed by it to Vancouver city, then non-existent, except in the form of ashes and four houses untouched by the fire, now bright and cheerful with a population of 85,000 souls to make it so.

I remember on one occasion finding Sir John down in the dumps—away from the city, I asked him what was the matter. "Oh," said he, "I have been hunting for a king. There can be no future for the country. It is a desert. Aridity reigns here. There can be no future for the country. We have spent our strength on the railway to carry it. It may bring water from the Rockies to keep them cool in their homes. That's about all. Let us take a look outside." We went out and stood alongside the railway track. "That's a good substantial track," said I. "The C. P. R. company is composed of shrewd men. If they wanted to bounce the country and make their money they would have done it long ago. Besides, look at all these railways. They are all there for the purpose of carrying the surplus of the superabundant wheat." The servants did their work, and satisfied Sir John that 1886 was an exceptional year. (Incidentally it may be mentioned that in the year ended June 30th, 1887, the net earnings of the C. P. R. were \$2,504,600 and in the year ended June 30th, 1905 they were, with interest on deposits, \$1,019,000. Nevertheless that year gave the country the black crop, the severity of which even the application of raw beef from the ranches failed to mitigate. It took a number of years before confidence was restored. The home-entirely dependent over 600 in 1887, compared with 1886 and 1888 there were nearly 2,100 cancelled of 4,418 taken.)

Sir Wilfrid was happier in this respect than Sir John. He could look at the statistics of 1904 and find not 2,000 entries with 20 per cent. cancelled but 22,012 homesteaded entries with but 5 per cent. cancelled and this year is a bumper year.

This comparison might be much extended between what the two premiers learned about the West cannot fail to call forth gratitude for the favors a kind Providence has showered on "This Canada of Ours."

LORD CURZON AND INDIA.

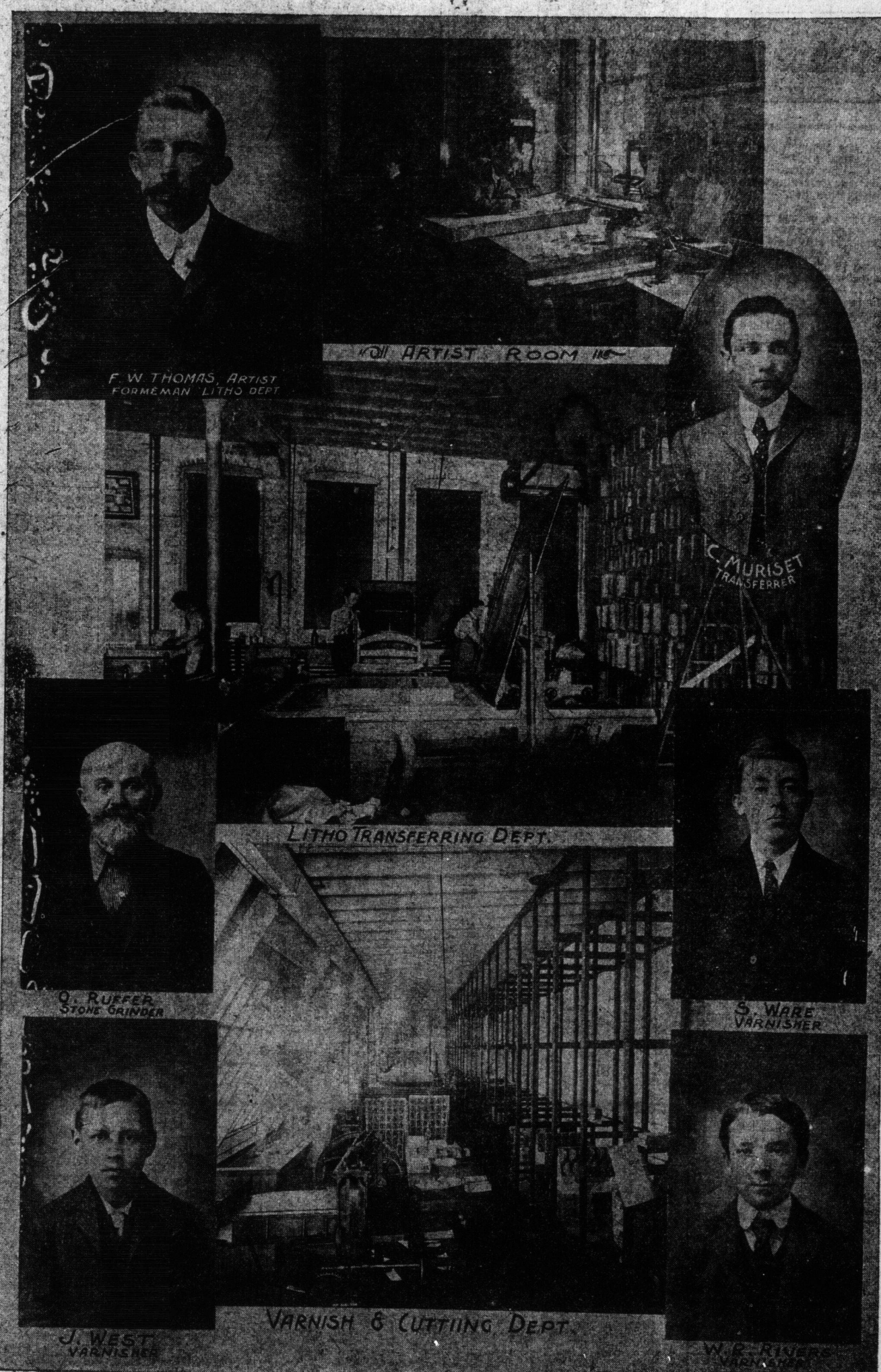
The Native View of His Vice-Royalty.

(Calcutta Cor. London Leader.)

A few days only before the publication of the despatches revealing the final rupture between the Viceroy and the Imperial government, Reuters made reference to a revelation that Lord Curzon had resigned. It was a revelation contradicted at Simla. This happened on the 1st of August, five days after Lord Curzon had asked the Prime Minister to place his resignation in the hands of the King, and the very day on which His Excellency sent the telegram earnestly repeating the prayer to be relieved of his office. The incident is of a piece with everything that happened in connection with the resignation. From the moment of the publication of the first rumors that all was well, and the presence was kept up to the end.

In India, however, in the main, two views of the situation, almost in one voice the English papers lament the failure of Lord Curzon to go out on the larger constitutional question of June, and this view of Anglo-India will be easily understood.

It is not that the Indian people are so poor and so backward as to be incapable of understanding the value of a free press, or that they are so ignorant as to be unable to appreciate the value of a free press, or that they are so backward as to be incapable of understanding the value of a free press, or that they are so ignorant as to be unable to appreciate the value of a free press.



ARTIST'S ROOM, TRANSFER ROOM AND VARNISH ROOM.



THE ENGINE ROOM AND ITS PRESIDING GENIUS

ed for a single hurricane have detained in port vessels valued, with their cargoes, at \$20,000,000. The West Indian stations, established in 1888, before the course of the hurricane that caused the devastation was charted for a week before it struck our shores—for hurricanes move slowly. Eighty-five per cent. of the forecasts now come from the aid of rural free delivery 25,000,000 forecast cards were distributed last year to farmers, many of whom could not have had them five years ago.

A REAL HIGHLAND FUNERAL.

Impressive Ceremony Still Survives in Some Sections of Rural Scotland.

Old Highland customs, like old English customs, are dying out in Scotland. Even at Plochna, in the very heart of the Highlands, where as yet the Gaelic is to be heard, the death and funeral of a man is a matter of dress for high days and holidays. The Highland funeral, with its primitive and impressive simplicity, is fast disappearing. The funeral in the Highlands is distinguished from the Highland funeral, in that it is not a religious ceremony, but a social one. It is a time when the community comes together to mourn the loss of a member. The funeral is held in a large hall, and the body is laid out on a table. The mourners are dressed in their best, and the ceremony is conducted with great solemnity. The funeral is a time when the community comes together to mourn the loss of a member. The funeral is held in a large hall, and the body is laid out on a table. The mourners are dressed in their best, and the ceremony is conducted with great solemnity.

YELLOW PERIL.

Glasgow Herald.

In a letter to a correspondent the Colonial Secretary minimizes the terror which the Chinese indentured laborers are striking into the Rand. He says he has no doubt that the local police force will be capable of dealing with any Chinese criminals. Mr. Lyttleton seems to assume greater ignorance in the people of this country regarding this subject, unfortunately, exists. Why, a rebel scheme is opposed alike by British and Indian opinion, and a large part of the unofficial European public, as well as by the people of the province, who for months past have been carrying on an unexampled agitation. In the Bengal Council last Saturday the Lieutenant-Governor declined to answer questions on the subject of the proposed scheme. Many he disallowed; the rest he met with a refusal of all information. This fact, coupled with the knowledge that the Home Government has sanctioned the partition scheme as a sop to Lord Curzon, has brought all sections of the public into line, and opinion is now practically unanimous for a Presidential governor with an executive council.

There is, moreover, another aspect of the agitation which cannot be overlooked. An organized movement is on foot to limit the use of British manufactured goods. It was met at first with amusement on the part of the European mercantile community. Today the situation has changed. The movement has spread with surprising activity. In every district resolutions of abstention are being passed, and the native merchants in Calcutta are getting strict instructions to deliver no British goods. It is recognized that anything in the nature of a real boycott is impossible, but short of this there is no doubt that much can and will be done to emphasize the protest. The great autumn festival time is approaching when the entire Hindu world attires itself in new clothes. If the organizers of the movement succeed in creating a widespread demand for indigenous clothes at this season the great importing firms will be compelled to take action.

But—and this is the point, so far as Bengal is concerned—Lord Curzon's policy has become suspect when he cut at the root of local self-government in Calcutta. It was condemned as a repressive and reactionary when the report of the official universities commission revealed the real aim of the Universities Act, the Official Secrets Act, the Tibet expedition, the famous university connotation speech, and an iron party now fully apparent—the immense growth of military expenditures, marked a series of bitter encounters with that part of the Indian people which is able to give effective voice to its feelings and demands.

Latterly, in Bengal, all other questions have been eclipsed by the uproar over Lord Curzon's policy of dividing the province. Since the recent debate in Parliament, the English people have been acquainted with the existence of this controversy, if they have not, so far been to any great extent informed as to its nature. The Viceroy has found in Bengal the only organized

ed for a single hurricane have detained in port vessels valued, with their cargoes, at \$20,000,000. The West Indian stations, established in 1888, before the course of the hurricane that caused the devastation was charted for a week before it struck our shores—for hurricanes move slowly. Eighty-five per cent. of the forecasts now come from the aid of rural free delivery 25,000,000 forecast cards were distributed last year to farmers, many of whom could not have had them five years ago.

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Witness:

W. L. McK

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For the me:

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Approved:

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