

THE TALK

MR. E. STEWART, Dominion Superintendent of Forestry, has been telling the Agricultural Committee at Ottawa some strange tales about the Mackenzie River Basin. At Fort Providence, 550 miles north of Edmonton, he saw wheat in milk on July 15th. It was harvested on July 28th. He also saw tomatoes, potatoes and peas growing there. Even at the mouth of the Mackenzie he found spruce, poplar and birch and declares there is much timber in that extensive country.

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It appears from correspondence submitted to Parliament that there is still hope for preferential trade between Canada and Australia. Canada is willing to extend British preference to Australia and asks for favours on fish, lumber, paper and agricultural implements. An arrangement may be arrived at when the Imperial conference meets in London in April.

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It is hard to see just what the Anglican Church hopes to gain in Alberta by the protest which it has made to the Provincial Government in regard to Separate Schools. It complains because the Roman Catholics have been given special privileges which are denied to other denominations. If the Act creating the province makes this discrimination necessary, what can the Government of Alberta do?

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Alberta is beginning to look after its fish and game. A protective association has been formed with Rev. G. H. Hogbin as president and it will recommend a two-year closed season for sheep and goats.

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On her latest voyage, the Empress of Britain made the trip from Liverpool to Halifax in 5½ hours less than six days.

In 1872, Mr. L. A. Robitaille invested \$3,000 or thereabouts in some timber limits; the other day he sold these limits in the county of Bonaventure for about \$400,000. How much better it would have been if the Quebec Government had held them in trust for the people!

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Sir Louis Jette, Lieutenant-Governor of Quebec, was last week presented with an address by the Montreal Bar on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of his admission to the practice of law. Sir Louis will always be remembered for his excellent fight on behalf of Canada in the case of the Alaskan Boundary Arbitration.

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At the second luncheon of the Edmonton Canadian Club, Warden McCauley, ex-Mayor, spoke of "Edmonton's Ups and Downs." In 1871, the N. W. M. Police came into the district and settled at Fort Saskatchewan, much to the chagrin of the few settlers at Edmonton. In 1880, Frank

Oliver (now Hon.) brought in the first printing press and began to print a small quarto paper. In 1881, the first portion of the town site was surveyed. Up to that time the people had been squatters only.

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The Text-Book Commission of Ontario has handed in its report. It praises the free text-book system which obtains in the city of Toronto, in the Province of Manitoba and in the leading cities and states of the Union. It deprecates the quality of the present text-books and declares that they are not up to the standard of the United States or Great Britain. Better books at lower prices is the anticipation aroused by their comments and recommendations. It is pleasant to know that the Commission believes that just as good books may be produced in Canada as elsewhere if the authorities insist on an equally high standard. The chairman of the Commission was Mr. T. W. Crothers, K.C., of St. Thomas, a barrister who has always taken a keen interest in public affairs.

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Last Friday evening, Dr. Haanel, Superintendent of Mines for the Dominion, lectured before the Canadian Club of Hamilton on "Electric Smelting." The Doctor thinks that with cheap electricity and plenty of iron ore, Canada ought to beat the world. Canada has been importing iron in very large quantities and is doing so even yet; but if she can take advantage of the new "Electric" process, she ought to be manufacturing all her own supply in a very few years.

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Hon. August Tessier, Treasurer of the Province of Quebec, had a pleasant task the other day. He told the Legislature that between July 1st of 1906 and January 21st of 1907, the provincial pocket-book showed a surplus of over \$800,000.

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At the annual banquet of the McGill law students, the Hon. Charles Fitzpatrick, Chief Justice of Canada, spoke strongly of the increase of national feeling and national self-reliance in every part of the country. The Chief Justice is an enthusiast on behalf of a united, prosperous and self-reliant people.

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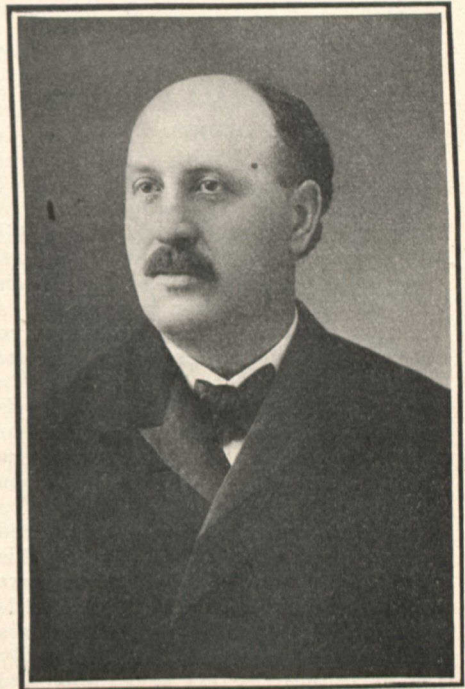
Sir Mackenzie Bowell should be ashamed. He has brought it about that members of the Canadian Senate must attend its meetings before they may draw their pay. How ridiculous!

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A hotel in Ottawa has lost its license because it sold or gave liquor to a constable while on duty. This is said to be the first case of its kind in Canada.

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The Ontario Bank case is over. The General Manager, Mr. McGill, goes to Penitentiary for five years. The president, Mr. Cockburn, is acquitted. There are those who think the two gentlemen were let off too lightly, but after all to be concerned in such a drama must be nearly sufficient punishment for all concerned—especially for the president and other directors. The result of the case should be that



Mr. C. H. McIntyre
A Canadian by birth, now living in Boston,
who contributes to this issue an article
on the system of Civil Service
in Massachusetts.

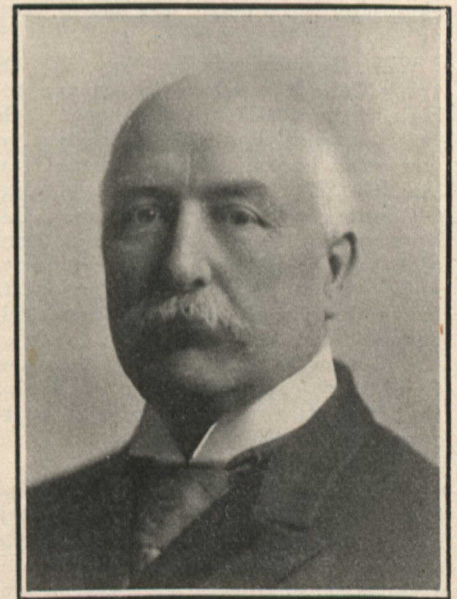
hereafter bank directors will direct and not be putty figures on the mantel shelf.

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The people of Hamilton have, like so many other cities, a quarrel with the company which supplies light and power. The Council got real angry the other day, and the Company promised to reduce prices. They added "co-operation is better than a state of chronic hostility"—a wise remark which other Canadian corporations dealing in public service might profitably echo.

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Superintendent Scott of the Immigration Department states that the reports of suffering in the West from lack of fuel are exaggerated. The Police, who are closely in touch with every district, find few cases of real suffering. There is no doubt, however, that people were not so forehanded as they should have been.



Mr. T. W. Crothers, K.C.
of St. Thomas, Chairman of the Ontario
Text-Book Commission.