

**The West**

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 5, 1909.

**Poor Excuse.**

It seems hard to get the government at Ottawa to grant an investigation into any of their actions. As trustees of the people they should at all times be willing to have their actions investigated. For the refusal of the Liberals to have the Mayes-McAvity scandal investigated a Liberal organ makes an excuse in the following language:

"Dr. Daniel called the attention of the House of Commons to Mr. Mayes' affidavit charging Mr. McAvity with securing from him over thirty-five thousand dollars of public money for which he had rendered no public service, and in a cunningly drawn motion he asked for an enquiry into the charges made by Mr. Mayes. Dr. Daniel did not put his own name to the charges, and did not even express his belief in their truth. As no member of the House was responsible for them the motion was inevitable and quite properly voted down."

If the people were absolutely certain of the truth or untruth of the rumors which may be heard on public questions there would be no need of an investigation. To satisfy the people and punish the wrong doers, if any, would be the object of an investigation. No member of parliament is forced to say before he reads or hears the evidence, whether the allegations are true or false.

The excuse offered is a very poor one indeed.

**The Book Contract.**

There is no doubt in the minds of the people that there was something radically wrong with the Calder-Morag arrangement for publishing text books for this province. Ontario got a set of books for 48 cents while Saskatchewan has to pay three times as much. Speaking on this subject the Yorkton Enterprise says:

"An improvident and prodigal contract." In these words Hon. F. W. G. Haultain, leader of the provincial Rights Party, described the school books contract, entered into by the Saskatchewan government with the Morag Educational Company, of Toronto, previous to the late election. Events have since transpired which have completely proved the correctness of Mr. Haultain's assertion.

The Ontario government has just closed a contract with a Toronto firm to supply that province with school books for a period of ten years which will mean a saving to the province of half a million dollars. A complete set of school books in Ontario will now cost 48 cents. In Saskatchewan a similar set costs \$1.75. A difference in favor of Ontario of \$1.26 on every set. That the Ontario books will favorably compare with ours as to literary standard and mechanical production may be taken for granted.

The Ontario government awards contracts to the lowest tenderer after public competition, he that tender a friend of the government or not. In Saskatchewan the friends of the government must be provided for. The result is apparent. The Ontario government lets a contract at a price less than one-third lower than Saskatchewan's. The people of Ontario profit to the extent of half a million dollars. The people of Saskatchewan will lose in proportion.

Was the Morag contract an "improvident and prodigal" one or was it not?

**Selkirk Centennial.**

The proposal for an exposition to be held in Winnipeg in 1912 is meeting with approval all over the western country. The idea is to hold a gigantic exhibition where the products of western Canada may be gathered together and arranged so that people from all parts of the world may come and see for themselves the wonderful possibilities of this country. The need of western Canada is development. We have the resources, and all that is lacking is settlers and capital behind the settlers to develop those resources. The business men of Winnipeg with whom the exposition idea developed believe that a good way to assist in attaining this end is by holding an exposition. They have gone fully into the subject and have figures from Chicago, St. Louis and Portland where expositions have been held. These show wonderful benefits to the states surrounding those places. If it was a benefit to those, how much more should it benefit Western Canada which is much richer in the resources it has to offer men who are able to visit an exposition of that nature. The men from other parts of the world who are likely to attend the exposition are very likely to be the kind of men Western Canada wants. If the Dominion government wants to people this country with the best kind of people this will be an opportunity for them to show their good intentions. Men who see for themselves that the country is good are more likely to be better developers than those who come at the instance of the Salvation Army or organizations such as have been operating in the past.

**Press Comment.**

(Toronto News)

Premier Scott, being in Ottawa for a few days borrowed the Pugsley Denyer and gave it a few turns for luck.

(Estevan Mercury)

The provincial health officer is threatening trouble because the local microbe chaser has not sent in his official report. The answer is hurled back that his provincial nibe has not supplied the necessary forms and supplies for the details required. Ah-ha! So there you are gentlemen, as the ex-mayor used to say.

(Kingston Standard)

Mr. Fielding really was too modest. After increasing the public debt through heavy borrowings and expenditures by \$48,029,000 during the year, he nevertheless reports a surplus of \$1,500,000. What Mr. Fielding should have done was to have borrowed another ten or twenty million dollars, added that much more to the national debt and then have a surplus of \$11,500,000 or \$21,500,000 as the case might be, depending upon how much he borrowed.

(Victoria Colonist)

While we appreciate the compliments paid by a local contemporary to Ex-Governor Dewdney, we question the appropriateness of applying to him the expression about a prophet not being without honor save in his own country. It is a pleasure to be able to say that few, if any, men in British Columbia stand higher in the esteem of their fellow citizens, than Mr. Edgar Dewdney, who whether in Government House or private life, has pursued a career of which his fellow British Columbians are proud.

(Bystander in Toronto Sun.)

The canonization of Joan of Arc at this date is surely a piece of Pontifical clap-trap. Why did not the Vicar of God interpose at the time? The tribunal that condemned the maid was, in an overwhelming majority, ecclesiastical, and would presumably have listened to the voice of Christ's Vice-gent. Does it take infallibility so many centuries, with all the facts before it, to find out the truth? If the intention is to foster French feeling at the expense of England, the artifice here again miscarries; for it appears that only a very small minority of a very large court was English. The representatives of France fully concurred in the proceedings. Perhaps considering the univer-



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sal superstitions of the age, as much has been made out of the whole affair as a judgment really historical would warrant. The maid believed herself to be divinely inspired; her enemies believed just as sincerely that her inspiration was from the opposite quarter; a belief on both sides equally false and equally sincere. Would the pious maid have shrunk from attendance at an auto da fe?

(Toronto News)

L'Action Sociale, the Quebec daily paper which nestles under the wing of the church, has virulent objection to the idea of Canada contributing to naval defence. So also has Le Nationaliste of Montreal. Both papers have grasped at a news item from New Zealand touching the contribution of a Dreadnaught by that colony and are making many deductions, mainly inaccurate and wholly unjustified.

At a Navy League meeting held at Christchurch, N.Z., the speakers were interrupted by a body of Socialists and peace-at-any-price men. A small riot developed in the course of which a Union Jack was pulled down and torn. After a vigorous struggle the flag was saved by a colonel of volunteers and returned to its place amid frenzied cheering. Similar disturbances took place at Christchurch preliminary to the sending of a New Zealand contingent to South Africa at the time of the Boer war.

The Montreal and Quebec papers mentioned say that this represents the state of public opinion in New Zealand. "The great mass of the people," says Le Nationaliste, "are indignant at the determination of the cabinet. The readers of Le Nationaliste can judge hereafter of the importance to be attached to this offer of Dreadnaughts which is raising throughout all New Zealand such violent protests."

On the very day that this disturbance took place at Christchurch, there was assembled at Wellington a convention of all the boards of trade of the country. Every business man in New Zealand was represented, at that conference. Yet the delegates passed without a single dissenting vote a resolution approving of the offer of the government to share in the defence of the empire by presenting a Dreadnaught to the Imperial authorities. The resolution awakened great enthusiasm. Every one knows that even in London there are men totally opposed to expenditure on the army and navy. They are welcome to that view, but they do not represent the opinion of Great Britain. These French papers go a long way in deciding upon such slender and unimportant information that New Zealand is opposed to Dreadnaughts. They are distorting the facts. Yet they protest in heavy type against "Imperialist lies." This is not fighting fair.

(Mail and Empire)

By the House of Bishops of the Anglican church, Bishop Hamilton of Ottawa, has been elected archbishop for what is known as the ecclesiastical province of Canada. By the same body Archbishop Matheson of Rupert's Land has been elected Primate of all Canada. The titles are perhaps confusing, and in view of this fact an explanation may be desirable. It is well to remember that the Episcopal church entered Canada under the auspices of the crown and of missionary societies by three different routes. It came to eastern Canada—that is to say, to Quebec and Nova Scotia—through the direct appointment of bishops by the King. It entered the west via Hudson Bay, and it was planted independently in British Columbia by way of the Pacific.

For many years the Episcopal church in Canada was practically

three separate churches—that of eastern Canada, that of Western Canada, and that of the Pacific coast. Each division of the church looked to the church in England as its mother church, and to the divisions of the church in Canada as sister churches. The confederating idea which took possession of other communions and made of them united and strong churches seized upon the Anglicans in the eighties, and a union was devised. Under this arrangement the Dominion was divided into two provinces, each under an archbishop. The dividing line was the western boundary of Ontario. Here the diocese of Algoma in the east and Rupert's Land in the west met. While there were to be two archbishops, one of whom was to be primate in chief of all the bishops. The system of appointment as determined upon by the constitution, was that of election. The bishops in each of the provinces were to elect their archbishops; the bishops of both provinces were to elect their Primate.

It has been the practice since the union to elect on the principle of seniority. Thus for the province of Canada Bishop Lewis, Bond and Sweatman have been elected to the archiepiscopal dignity. Thus also, Bishop Hamilton has become archbishop in succession to Dr. Sweatman. Following the seniority policy as regards the primacy, Archbishop Matheson of Rupert's Land necessarily receives the appointment to that high office. The primate and the new archbishop are able administrators, and under them the work of the church will be vigorously pushed.

(Winnipeg Tribune)

An appointment will doubtless be made to the vacancy on the Railway Commission such as will be to the seeming interests of the ruling party.

When a fat vacancy occurs or a fat office is created, the government does not have to worry about applicants; they're numerous. Then the pulling and twisting begins. Every applicant knows full well that while the man most fitted for the office may once in a while land it, the man with the pull will in nine cases out of ten knock out the man with the ability minus the pull.

That is a statement of the case with which every office holder in Canada will agree. The Tribune knows from close contact and unquestioned information that the situation is as above outlined.

At present and for weeks past a vigorous canvass has been going on among M.P.'s, the government and its friends on behalf of different claimants for the vacancy on the railway commission: "A dark horse has just bobbed up in the person of Dr. J. G. Rutherford, veterinary director-general. An Ottawa dispatch to the government organ indicates that the government is seriously considering his appointment, putting it in the shape of a promotion.

How a seat on the railway commission is in line of promotion from a position, the main qualification for which is a knowledge of the diseases of sheep, horses, cattle and pigs, is somewhat of an enigma. Dr. Rutherford is, we believe, a well qualified veterinary surgeon, and when he pronounces on a case of glanders or heaves, a disputant would be a man of nerve, but has the Doctor any qualifications for the railway commission? The answer of thoughtful men of unbiased mind would be assuredly "No." He does not possess any of the qualifications to fit him for meeting the people, and legislating for the people. He is arrogant, vain to a degree, a man noted for pre-judgment of fact, in every respect the opposite of what the government should look for, namely a practical, clear-headed, open-minded, judicial-minded man. There are few, if any business men in the west, acquainted

with the latest candidate, who would consider his appointment for a moment, and farmers of his acquaintance could scarcely conceive of a man less fitted for the position.

In making an appointment to an important body such as the railway commission, cannot the government, under the very special circumstances select a man for his fitness, not his party pull?

**The Wheat Situation.**

Liquidation of long wheat, execution of stop loss orders, and short selling has been the order of the week. Some reaction took place today, but values have lost three to four cents. The May deal has been abandoned, and the market is finding its way into normal channels again. It is reported that Mr. Patten is recuperating from the arduous campaign on a ranch in Colorado. From a financial standpoint the deal has undoubtedly been a success. Whether it was that conditions the world over did not warrant carrying prices higher, or whether the adverse criticism of the press, the proachers, legislators, trade unions and the people at large, against his position in the market caused the termination, just now, only Mr. Patten can say. Remarks a Winnipeg grain dealer, European markets have also been exceedingly weak on improved weather and promise of heavier supplies. Russia, always an unknown quantity has come forward, quite unexpectedly, with increased shipments, which will help make up the deficiency from other countries. On the authority of Broomhall the prospects from now on are for steady increases from that country, and if this should prove true there will be no acute stringency in Europe, as the consuming nations will be able to bridge the stringency until the new crop of the Northern Hemisphere is ready for market. The Southern Hemisphere also, in spite of exaggerated minimized surplus reports, shows up most encouragingly this week. Argentina, it will be noted, exceeding the shipments made from other parts a year ago, which must be accepted as surprising. The world nevertheless keeps on a closely adjusted supply and demands basis, and much depends on the coming crops.

The condition of the United States winter wheat, according to the Modern Miller, is generally improved although warm weather is needed to forward plant growth. So far the growth is backward but nearly everywhere the plant has a healthy color. Prospects are better than when April opened.

Foreign crop conditions, outside of the United Kingdom, are not so favorable as they might be. Crops are very backward in Germany. An unofficial report says there will be considerable rotting. Outlook for the crops is poor in Austria-Hungary, as the weather is unseasonably cold, and the soil very dry. In the north of India there has been further rains, which will delay harvest. Crop, however, has suffered less damage than was feared early.

Bradstreet's world's visible showed a decrease for the week of 2,000,000 bushels. This compares with a decrease last year of 4,465,000 bushels for the same period. American visible decreased 1,500,000 bushels for the week and is now 6,500,000 larger than at this time last year. Canadian visible showed an increase of about a quarter million bushels. Wheat on passage decreased 880,000 bushels and now amounts to 42,748,000 bushels compared with 43,884,000 bushels last week. America's shipments for the week showed an increase of 1,200,000 bushels, but America's contribution was 600,000 bushels less, indicating that Europe was buying elsewhere cheaper than she could get in these markets. Both Argentine and Russian shipments were heavy, the former an increase of 600,000 bushels, and the latter one of 500,000 bushels. The Australian shipments jumped from 168,000 bushels previous week to 832,000 bushels last week, an increase of 664,000.—The Commercial.

**I. C. R. COMMISSION**

Montreal, April 18—At the banquet tendered him last night by the Montreal Reform club, Hon. Mr. Graham laid down the policy for the government with regard to the Intercolonial railway and announced the personnel of the commission which is to take charge of the road. Mr. Graham said there had been much talk of leasing or selling the Intercolonial, but the government was not prepared to accept either suggestion. It had, he said, been suggested to appoint a commission to run the I.C.R., very much as the Pennsylvania, and this system would be tried for at least a year.

An order in council would be issued on Monday announcing the appointment of M. J. Butler, deputy minister of railways and canals, Messrs. Pottinger and Timm, of the Intercolonial, and F. Brady, former general superintendent of the Lake Superior division of the C.P.R.

Mr. Graham did not go into details as to the powers of the commission, but intimated that it would be on the lines of the committee which has charge of the Pennsylvania railway and it was his intention to carry on this system for at least a year so as to give the Intercolonial a fair chance as an integral portion of the transportation system of the Dominion.

**MORRIS IS COMMITTED**

Ernest Morris Must Stand Trial for the Murder of His Brother — Neighbor Gives Damaging Testimony at the Preliminary Hearing.

Milestone, April 28—Ernest Morris was today committed for trial on the charge of having murdered his brother, Charles Morris in the latter's shack on his homestead south of here on the night of April 5th.

The charred remains of Charles Morris were found among the smouldering ruins of the burnt shack next morning.

At the preliminary hearing today, John Wesley Kinrade gave damaging evidence against the accused, who visited his home on the evening that Charles Morris met his death. Witness swore that he traced tracks made by the accused's horse from his home to within forty rods of the burnt shack.

Another witness swore that he had purchased a team of horses from Ernest Morris, in February last, while

he was residing on his brother's homestead, and delivery of the team was not made until after the death of Charles Morris.

Counsel for the crown endeavored to show that these horses were the property of the deceased.

Mr. McDonald of the attorney general's department appeared for the crown, and C. E. D. Wood for the defence.

Magistrates Bunn and Murphy presided.

**CHICAGO BEEF SEIZED**

Montreal, April 30—Over 25,000 tons of meat were seized and destroyed here by Dr. Lesperance, food inspector. This consignment of canned meats originated in Chicago and was sent to Toronto, and from there shipped to Halifax. In Halifax the contents were opened and the buyer refused to accept the goods. They were then shipped to the city. In Montreal they were sold at a big reduction—in fact less than half the original wholesale figure. Happily the inspector got on the track of the goods so quickly that only three cases had been sold to retailers, and these were traced and seized before any sales had been made. In all 197 cases were seized containing 2106 dozen tins. The names of the dealers are kept secret for the present.

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