The Albertan

W. M. DAVIDSON,
Editor and Manager.

A MUNICIPAL TELEPHONE

The people of Calgary are taking the question of municipal telephones seriously and very seriously. Some seem to be of the opinion that the whole proposition is something in the nature of a bluff and that nothing will be done. The same thing was said when it was first suggested that Calgary should instal a system of electric light. It soon passed beyond the joke and became reality.

What position would Calgary be in without its electric light plant? The citizen would be paying 25 per cent. more for light. Besides that there is to be a decrease in the price of light at an early date.. And Calgary people are getting a good lighting service which Calgary did not have until it was decided to instal the electric light service.

It will be the same with the telephone service. In cities with a population about the size of Calgary, the telephone charges under municipal system is less than Calgary is paying at the present time. The service Calgary is getting now is the worst that could be given.

The cost of a new telephone system would not be very great and it would have at least 500 subscribers on the very day that it opened. With that the system with the prices less than we are now paying would be self-supporting.

The time for action is now, and the city should not lose this opportunity of active co-operation of the board of trade, and encouragement from the Dominion Government in putting this idea into fact.

THE BUILDING RETURNS

The building inspector of Calgary estimates the building done in Calgary last year at $2,400,000.

The building inspector of Edmonton estimates the building done in Edmonton at $1,868,000.

The building inspector, if they have such a person there, or the publicity agent, or some person else estimates the building at Regina at $1,982,330.

And the people of Calgary accept it at that. They may have their suspicions of the figures at other points, but they admit that the building inspectors know more about these things thaa they know.

But the newspapers in Edmonton place the building done in Calgary at $1,800,000, or some such figur because the cement works are in Ekshaw, and Regina at quite another figure.

The Edmonton paper admits that its own building inspector is honest but the other building inspectors are liars.

The Regina papers place Calgary still lower, at less than half the amount in fact that the Calgary inspector places them at, and puts Edmonton below Regina. The Regina paper believes that the Regina building inspector is honest, but that the Calgary and Edmonton building inspectors are liars.

As a matter of fact, the figures of one, two or three cities may be wrong, but they are the nearest right that we have, and they show thae Calgary leads in building in the west.

NO TALL HATS HERE

A jovial person residing in Calgary who makes a living by adding up long columns of hard figures has been in St. John and informs the newspapers there that really this western country is pretty crude after all. It has many drawbacks and one never sees a top hat or a frock coat.

To a highly cultured person who has been reared in the lap of St. John luxury and educated at the St. John business college, the absence of these emblems of a high state of civilization are certainly very much felt. The biting lonliness one feels when separated from such close pals cannot be understood by ordinary persons who have never known the delights of such associations.

The cultured St. John person expresses his absolute disgust with the uncouthness and roughness of the old pioneer and intimates that all the loyalty for the flag in the entire west is compressed into the one head which so yearns for its silk covering, and within the heart which is never embraced any more by the frock coat.

As long as we have no worse knockers of this country than this cultured person, we are in very good fortune.

People who cannot live here because it is not a frock coat and silk hat country are of no value to us. We do not particularly need the man who is worrying about the loyalty of our old time pioneer.

The Albertan does not mean by this that the country is crude, or its people vulgar, or that we despise refinement, far from it. What we do mean is that we are not particularly anxious to get many of the class of people, whose longing for the high hat and frock coat is an overweening one. In this country people dress decently and comfortably and with propriety. But a man can dress as he pleases and as long as he follows the ordinary rules of propriety he will neither attract attention nor be censured, nor ridiculed. The high hat and frock coat are not very popular for the reason that they are somewhat conspicious, but more for the reason that they are not a comfortable garb to work in.

Mr. Mullin says that the oldtimer is so uncouth and rough that he does not care under which flag he is sleeping. If he means that the oldtimer raises no sentimental riot about trifles he is right. But if he means that the hearts of the old veterans are not in the right place, this person is slandering the noblest type of men who ever pioneered in any country. They have little to say about the flag they are sleeping under. To the cultured St. Johnonan this sleeping feature seems to be the test of loyalty. But these stalwart pioneers have something to say under which flag they will fight, and the records of Canada's wars and Britain's wars show the kind of stuff they are made of. If we have to choose for settlers between the sturdy old timers and the cultured person who cawnt live without his silk hat and his frock coat, we shall pick out the uncouth pioneer with some character about him every time, and know that we have made a good choice.

SENATOR PERLEY'S SLANDER

Senator Perley dies hard. Having made a slanderous attack upon Alberta, he is going to stay by it to the end, at whatever cost. And to think of it, for years the same person represented Alberta in the Dominion senate.

He says that Mr. Craig told him that he was collecting specimens for the Alberta Government, when in Wolseley. Of course, Mr. Craig told him no such thing, because he was not in the employ of the government and besides Mr. Craig says quite positively that he made no such statement.

In the second place this person slanders the province of Alberta by reflecting upon the statements of certain grain men who show that our oats are superior to those in the other provinces of Canada. He makes these allegations on the strength of the fact that a man, (name not stated) told him once, that some years ago some oats were grown in Edmonton which were not up to sample.

These are the facts. The conduct of Senator Perlery is unheard of. He went out wilfully, intentionally, and maliciously to slander this proviace. He has proved a second time that he is no friend of Western Canada. The excuse which he gives for his scandalous conduct is much worse that the original offence.

SHADEY ARISTOCRACY

A Brandon senator with a Russian name is asking for special favors from the Government of Manitoba and the government of the Dominion in establishing for himself a large game preserve on the banks of Lake Manitoba.

The gentleman with the Russian name is evidently of the Russian ideas, believing that the lands of the people were created for the purpose of giving pleasure to himself and his friends, and to them exclusively.

As might be expectedthe province of Manitoba came in at once and gave up to the czar without any great amount of opposition. But, strange to say, the Dominion Government seems to be angling with the proposition too.

The Winnipeg Free Press, which cannot be described as a very harsh critic of the Dominion Government, in discussing this matter says:

"Senator Kirchhoffer has the Manitoba Government's lands safely bagged; but we venture the prophesy that he will never get possession of the Do minion lands. We find it difficult to understand why the Ottawa Government did not throw the proposal out of the window the moment it was made; but in view of the unmistakable revelation of Western opinion it will, we are satisfied, go no further with the project. The sentiment of the west is dead against game preserves, and all that they imply. We want no shoddy aristocracy in this country. The experience of Western Ontario with the St. Clair flats ought to be warning enough against giving leases of public marsh lands to private sportsmen even where the most plausible representations are made. The marshes along the shores of Lake Manitoba will probably never be good for anything but duck shooting; and we see no reason why they should not continue to be open to all sportsmen."

EDITORIAL NOTES

The greatest climate in the world.

You can't tell by the length of a man's hat how warm his heart is.

Calgary seems to be the keystone to the provincial telephone system.

So far no person has harpooned the west because we insist upon spelling culture with an r.

The latest report of the casualty list of the bloody battle in Morocco is that one man caught cold.

After reading this senator's letter one would surmise that he is some distance from the pearly gates.

We may be a little shy in the west on the frock coat, but we are long in producing the stuff that buys the baby a frock.

The experience of the last few weeks has shown us that it is only when the council meets that the municipal trouble begins.

Senator Perley, when cornered about his attack on Alberta, replies "He told me so" and "He told me that some person told him so."

According to the argument of the Calgary Herald, if Calgary had been situated at the equator there would have been no coal famine at all.

The coronation of the Shah of Persia is fixed for February, 2—plenty of time being given for the mourners to switch and get in shape as rejoicers.

If the visiting evangelists had a little more experience with the Calgary telephone system they would have a little more sympathy with the violators of the third commandment.

No one is surprised that Edmonton and Regina papers should lie about our building returns, but the bad point about it is that they do not agree in their falsehoods.

Toronto people are so keen in throwing their money into Cobalt that they have no thought of investment in the Canadian west, which is another result of removing the good old story about the dog and the shadow from the authorized school books.

Think of a man saying that we are rude in the west, and a Canadian senator is asking for a game preserve, with all the arrogance and pompousness of a Russian autocrat.

Servians say that the reports of coming trouble is an Austrian bear movement to frighten British investors away. A bear movement should have no terrors to a British Lion.

A despatch in today's paper gives plans of moving the body of the late Pope, which bears out the prediction that the recent trouble in France would make Pope Leo turn in his grave.

If Messrs. Crossley and Hunter are attracting as much interest in their services in the church as their services in the church are attracting out of the church, they have no reason to complain.

The Calgary Herald argues that the shortage in coal was caused by an inconsiderate demand for coal, which is quite true, for the Herald might have pointed out, there was no coal famine last summer.

The lion and the unicorn fighting for the crown did not kick up more of a shindy than Calgary and Edmonton fighting to displace Regina from fifth place in last year's building operations. But what does it matter? We HAVE the buildings. —Regina Leader. Yes, and an active fellow to figure up the value of them.

A column by Dods

The Telephone.

Noah is dead and I think that his sons
Are far from completely alive.
Central! I'm waiting. I call.
Oh, please give me 1-0-0-5.

The bones which were found by the Calgary men,
Have crumbled and passed into dust.
Oh, Central—Eh What?—I am married?—Oh, yes.
But I must have 1-0, yes I must.

The tops of the Rockies are covered with spruce
The prairie is covered with gold,
Central, please may I have 2-3-0-2.
I should like it before I grow old.

I am dying, I'm dead,
I am stretched on my bed,
Which is only the pathway to Heaven.
But Central, before I must pass into space,
Please, may I have 1-0-11.

Years After

Central. One nought eleven is speaking.

The man died. May he rest in peace.

Mr. Hunter and Bar Keepers

The following is a copy of a letter sent Rev. Mr. Hunter about bar tenders a copy of which was sent the Albertan. It is:

Calgary, 7th January 1907

Dear Sir,

I observe in your address on Sunday night you made the statement that the "bar-rooms were of no use to a man, and the bar-keepers were the worst men on earth. I would not wipe my feet on them. Even the devil would have no use for them for such."

From the above I infer you mean that a bar-keeper or bar-tender could not in addition be a Christian. If my interpretation is correct, permit me to call your attention to the following extract from an address by Phillips Brooks of Boston:—

"Through all the years in which you were obstinate and rebellious, through all the years in which you defied Him, nay, through the years in which you denied Him, and said that he did not exist, He was with you all the time. What shall I say to my friend who is an Atheist? Shall I believe that until he comes to a change of his opinions and recognizes that there is indeed a ruling love, a great and fatherly God for all the world, that he has nothing to do with that God? Shall I believe that God has nothing to do with him until he acknowledges God? God would be no God to me if he were that, if he left the man absolutely unhelped until the man beat at the doors of his divine helpfulness and said, "I believe in Thee at last, now help me."

It would therefore appear that while the devil has no use for the bar-keeper, God apparently has. In view of these contradictory statements, I shall be glad to have your views in the matter. Kindly reply either through the press or at Friday night's meting at which I hope to be present.

Yours Truly
O. B. SERVER

A Silk Hatter's Objection.

The following is taken from the St. John Times and Mr. Mullin is acountant of the Western Pla'ning Mills

NEVER SEE A SILK HAT.

George Mullin says that "Toppers" are scarce in Calgary.

Former St. John man, talks of the west. He says Westerners are very largely in favor of reciprocity for the United States and Canada.

Careless about their patriotism.

A Times man talked this morning with George W. Mullin, formerly of this city, but now of Calgary. Mr. Mullin returned home to spend the festive season.

In speaking of the people of Calgary, and of those in the western cities surrounding it, Mr. Mullen said that it is a notable fact that the people disregard all loyalty to the mother land. They are not, Mr. Mullen says, exactly disloyal, but they favor reciprocity.

Mr. Mullen further stated that when he went out west he was first disgusted with the uncouthness and roughness of the old pioneers, who do not care under what flag they sleep, so long as they get possession of the "almighty" dolair. These people he says, have a great deal to do in influencing the Americans as regards teaching them how loyal they should be, and the result, Mr. Mullen says, is that the pioneers don't care and neither do the Americans.

Mr. Mullen referred to the time of the visit of Prince Arthur, when the Aldermen of Vancouver censured the mayor at a mas meeting because he ordered them to wear silk hats. "The frock coat and silk hat are never seen in the west," said Mr. Mullen.

Mr. Mullen is managing the Western Plaining Mills, which are mostly controlled by Ontario men.

Evangelists and Heaven

Editor Albertan:

Since Messrs. Crossley and Hunter are here "to do us good" on the lines of heavenly things and to help us to understand some of the mysteries of eternity I, as a Christian and a socialist, have a few objections and questions to sumbit through the agency of the Albertan for their kind and unbiased consideration. I had thought to write these gentlemen a private letter stating my thoughts about this revival business, but, thinking it may assist others who may be troubled likewise, and believing it is wise to arouse some genuine interest in the matter I have deemed it my duty to come out boldly in the press.

I cannot think of exposing all their biblical errors in one letter, so I have confined myself to one of them, i.e., their strange idea of heaven.

Mr. Crossley said: "I have a sister in heaven," also death is the royal entrance to glory and the entrance of the Christian into heaven; angels and those who have gone before will welcome us there." Both Crossley and Hunter have made continual reference to "friends in heaven.' "They are there now,' they say, "awaiting others." With unmistakable language they emphasize the idea that on a Christian dying he at once goes to heaven to be with Christ: "straight up to heaven," they say.

As an earnest student of the Bible I am in a position to contradict this very erroneous idea of the great beyond, and I challenge them to tell the public of Calgary what authority they have for such false statements—I challenge them to find one sentence from the lips of Christ that supports any such idea of heaven. Jesus in the course of the whole of His precious sayings never once intimated or suggested this dreamland in space. He never promised to any believer a "royal entrance to heaven" the moment after death, and he never suggested that they would "go straight up yonder through the beautiful gates of heaven to meet Him and see their loved ones awaiting them." Why do preachers point to the sky when making reference to the future home? Strange too, mos of these men are students of the Bible and of science. Their knowledge of astronomy would help them to recognize the vagueness of this conception. If really the Christian's eternal home was upward it might be on one of the planets—perhaps Mars, but that is not so. The Bible, at any rate, distinctly describes a heaven upon earth. This was the heaven Jesus told His disciples about, the heaven He preached of in the cities and churches of Galilee. He called it the Kingdom of God.

I will here give Messrs. Crossley and Hunter and the Calgary preachers and those who believe in a dream land of perpetual singing "up yonder," a few facts from the New Testament—chiefly the sayings of Jesus —which I hope will not only surprise these people but make them follow the Christ better. Some of the young men in Calgary will remember I addressed the Young Men's club on this subject some two months ago and though I had some exception taken to the arguments I put before the club, none were able to find anything in the Bible which will support the vague conceptions I have mentioned in reference to dreamland. Here are the quotations from the New Testament submitted to the club and which to my mind are sufficient evidence to prove that it was the intention of Jesus that the future home and heaven prepared for those who believe in Him would be here on this earth, brought about by the resurrection, and not in space

Matt. 9:35: Jesus went about all the cities and villages teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the Kingdom. (See also Luke 9:11 and Matt. 4:23.)

Matt 23:13: Woe unto you scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! because ye shut the Kingdom of God against men for ye enter not in yourselves neither suffer ye them that are entering in to enter.

Matt. 6:9: Hallowed be Thy name, Thy Kingdom come.

Luke 9:27: I tell you of a truth there be some of them that stand here which shall in no wise taste of death till they comprehend the Kingdom of God.

Luke 13:20: Whereunto shall I liken the Kingdom of God? It is like unto leaven which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal till it was all leavened.

Luke 13:28: There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth when ye shall see Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the Kingdom of God and you yourselves cast without. And they shall come from the east and the west and from the north and the south and shall recline in the Kingdom of God. And beheld there are last which shall be first and there are first which shall be last.

Luke 18:36: My kingdom is not of this age; if my kingdom were of this age then would my servants fight that I should not be delivered to the Jews but now is my kingdom not from hence. Pilate said: "Art Thou a king then?" Jesus answered: "Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end have I been born and to this end am I come into the world."

Luke 18:14: Pilate said "Behold your king . . . shall I crucify your king?" The chief priests answered: "We have no king but Caesar."

Luke, the doctor, says in the opening words of the Acts of the Apostles that Jesus "presented Himself alive after His passion by many proofs appearing unto them (the disciples) for the space of forty days and speaking the things concerning the Kingdom of God."

Paul says in I. Corinthians 15:20: Now hath Christ been raised from the dead the first fruits of them that are asleep. In Adam all die, in the Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order. Christ the first fruits then they that are Christ's at His presence. Then, the end, when He shall deliver up the Kingdom of God, even the Father, when He shall have abolished all rule and all authority and power. For He must reign till he hath put all His enemies under His feet. And when all things have been subjected unto Him then shall the Son also Himself be subjected to Him that did subject all things unto Him that God may be all in all.

Luke 20:34: The sons of this age marry and are given in marriage but they that are accounted worthy to attain to that age and the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage for neither can they die any more for they are equal to the angels and are sons of God being sons of the resurrection.

Luke 18:17: Verily I say unto you whosoever shall not receive the Kingdom of God as a little child he shall in no wise enter therein.

Romans 14:17: The Kingdom of God is not eating and drinking but righteousness, peace and joy in the power of holiness.

Rev. 11:15: The kingdom of the world is become the Kingdom of our God and of His Christ and He shall reign into the ages of ages.

St. John 3:3: Verily I say unto thee except a man be born anew he cannot see the Kingdom of God.

St. John 3:5: Except a man be born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God.

For Thine is the kingdom the power and the glory for ever and ever.

These passages are not specially picked to fit my argument; the New Testament teems with references to the Kingdom of God and the entire Bible supports the fact that Jesus will yet reign as king on the earth in the ages to come. Jesus has established the laws of the kingdom but the kingdom itself will not come upon earth yet. It was the object of Jesus to proclaim this gospel, and He predicted a day when the earth shall be His, and when he shall reign as King of Kings and Lord of Lords when the will of God shall "be done on earth." In that day those who have died with a hope of meeting Himand being in dreamland will be surprised to find that that idea had been a mistake, and that since the day they "fell asleep in Jesus" and put off their mortal organisms their consciousness had remained dead but now having "awoke in His likeness" they were "sons of the resurrect on," they were on the same planet which had considerably changed, they saw the Christ and "they were with Him;" He was King and this was the Kingdom of God—yes, this was heaven.

Up to now the world has never been wise enough to understand Christ. The Jews crucified Him in their ignorance of his beautiful laws and promises; over whom, in His last dying words, he cried: "Father forgive them for they know not what they do." He told Nicodemus, "If I be lifted up I will draw all men unto me," and He further told him that "God sent not His Son into the World to condemn it but that this world through Him might be saved." He was the light of the world, He was the first perfect man. Men today do not understand. Let us try. The church has been a hindrance to much truth and has shadowed much of the truth's light by her pagan antiquity and traditions. The church was false in the days of Jesus, she was the murderer of the Son of God. "Oh Jerusalem," He said as He wept, "how oft would I have gathered you as a hen gathers her chicks and ye would not. Your church is left unto you desolate." The curtain was rent in twain.

I am quite clear upon the authority of the recorded sayings of the Christ—and he is the chief corner stone of the foundation of Christianity—that the hereafter of His followers must be on this globe where we shall "live and reign with Him" and "recline in the Kingdom of God" which is "peace, righteousness and glory," until the further development when Christ shall have made it possible for there to be no need of a king and then "He Himself will give up His authority" and God shall be "all in all." This is the Christian's heaven.

I shall be pleased to hear from any minister or the evangelists what attitude they intend to take in the face of these great fundamental facts. Are they going to treat the matter with contempt and go on as thoughtless as ever, insulting the Master by preaching and singing about the hereafter; continuing to misrepresent to their listeners those great and beneficent laws and promises of Jesus Christ?

Not being ashamed to sign my name I am, yours hopefully,
ROBERT BURGESS.

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