THE EDMONTON BULLETIN

(SEMI-WEEKLY.)

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DUNCAN MARSHALL,
Manager.

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AT THE OLD STAND.

One thing the Red Deer convention accomplished—it clears up any misunderstanding or uncertainty as to where the Opposition "are at" on the matter of bond guarantee for the inducement of railway extension—clears it up by the authoritative announcement that they will be found doing business at the same old stand for the maintenance of C. P. R. supremacy and the exclusion of railway competition.

The first clause of the adopted platform admits that bond guarantee is expedient as a means for encouraging the needed extensions—but it adds that the guarantee should be given only on condition that the companies agree to the Province taking over the roads any time it may see fit to do so.

On the surface this looks like a provision for giving the Province effective control over the operation of the lines and the charges for traffic handling. But let us see what are the circumstances under which the guarantee policy is to be launched and what effect the condition attached would have in furthering or preventing the avowed purpose of guaranteeing the bonds.

It is admitted by both parties that aside from colonization roads the guarantee will be chiefly useful in securing the construction of branch lines and feeders for through trunk lines of railway. There are now three Canadian lines in position to take advantage of the offer of the guarantee; the C. P. R., the G. T. P., and the C. N. R.

The C. P. R. has been quite as free to apply for the guarantee of bonds for projected roads as either of the other companies. But while both the C. N. R. and G. T. P. have applied for it the C. P. R. has not done so. Nor are they likely to do so. They do not need anybody's backing. Their stock sells above par every day in the year and when they want money all they have to do is to ask for it. They can get money on quite as good terms on their own unaided responsibility as if any number of governments endorsed their paper. Bond guarantee is no inducement to them. They prefer to build on their own account where they think best and when they get ready.

So far as extensions are concerned therefore the guarantee policy is limited to the C. N. R. and G. T. P. To the C. P. R. it is not an object of either necessity or desire. All we may expect to get from the C. P. R. through or by means of it is the extension necessary to prevent their rivals getting the business by building lines with the aid of the bond guarantee.

But what transcontinental company would construct a feeder or branch with bond guarantee if the guarantee carried the condition that the road could be taken over by the Province whenever the Province considered it wise to do so? In practical terms such an arrangement would mean simply that the branch could remain in the hands of the company until they had developed business for it and made it a handsomely paying enterprise; then the Province could step in and demand that the road be handed over. Whether this would be the real outcome or not, this is what any sane company would figure out as the probable outcome, and on the strength of that belief would decline to put their money into the concern, preferring to wait until their finances warranted them building lines without public aid which would be their permanent property.

More, the bonds for the construction of a branch line are floated on the strength of the entire railway system with which it is to be connected. Its connection with the system is the fact which gives the bonds saleability in the money markets. Without the assurance that the branch would remain a part of the larger system and be permanently favored by whatever business the system could generate from it or turn over to it the bonds would go begging, or have to be sold at slaughter prices, with or without Government guarantee.

This means simply that the C. N. R. and G. T. P. need not be expected to undertake to finance and construct branches at once where we want them constructed if we reserve the right to expropriate the branches when they seem to us to have become paying investments. Rather than that, they would decline the proffered assistance and build lines when and where they considered they could be made to pay, whether this happened to be where we wanted them built or when the development of the country needed them built or not.

This is where the string on the Red Deer proposition comes into play. It hitches onto the bond guarantee a condition which no trunk railway company would accept; thereby preventing the only companies to whom the guarantee is an inducement from accepting the guarantee, and leaving the country without railways and the C. P. R. without competitors.

This convention we are assured was a deliberative body. They did nothing rash. They sat early and late and matured their proposals after full discussion and careful consideration. These embody not the rash suggestions of impulse, but the cut and dried product of thought and study concerning the things likely to make for success at the polls.

As such the railway resolution can be construed as nothing more, less nor different than a shrewd scheme to swap legislative benefits for the political support of the C. P. R., without challenging the wrath of the electorate by an open avowal of the intention. To openly oppose bond guarantees was to fly in the face of public opinion and to make assurance doubly sure of certain and decisive defeat. Wherefore a smooth endorsation of the policy is passed, but coupled with a condition that absolutely invalidates it as a means of securing railway extension. In this way it was no doubt hoped that the public would not discover the ruse until too late, while the C. P. R. would see through it to the end from the beginning—and govern themselves accordingly. To the C. P. R. it is notice that if they will put the Opposition in power, the new government will offer only such inducements to the Canadian Pacific railway's competitors as they will not accept. The proffered deal is that if the Canadian Pacific exert their influence—and perhaps spend their money—in the right way and to the right degree, the beneficiaries will respond by paralyzing the introduction of railway competition and accommodation, leaving the Canadian Pacific the undisputed master of the situation.

That the rank and file of the delegates saw the purpose or connived at this end is not to be supposed. They assumed no doubt that they were passing a resolution safeguarding the public interests. The true inwardness of the move was not revealed to them. For its hidden meaning we must credit the august presence and bland deceptiveness of Senator Lougheed, the esteemed leader of the Opposition in the Senate and the devoted solicitor for the Canadian Pacific railway at Calgary. This distinguished gentleman duly favored the gathering with his presence and his paymasters with his counsel. It remains to be seen whether the Conservatives throughout the Province will submit tamely to be libelled by the assurances of the party press that they are parties to the deal. That they will vote for it no one need imagine.

SOMETHING TO HOPE FOR.

Parliament usually starts off with a number of well-intentioned speeches as to the necessity of talking little and doing much and thus getting through with business in reasonable time. The honors of introducing the subject this session fell to Mr. E. N. Lewis, of West Huron. He was well qualified for the task, having entertained the House for three hours continuously himself last session. However, he claims to have reformed and urges the others to do the same.

By way of inspiring emulation of worthy examples he reminded the members that:—

"Patrick Henry's famous oration lasted 22 minutes; Sir Wilfrid Laurier's speech on the South African question lasted 32 minutes; Sir John A. Macdonald's speech on Confederation lasted 35 minutes; Burke's great speech on the impeachment of Warren Hastings was 90 minutes; and Thomas D'Arcy McGee's famous address on 'the land we live in' only lasted 8 minutes. The speech which gave Bryan the nomination for president of the United States, a speech which is described as the speech of 'the cross of gold,' lasted only 12 minutes."

Mr. Lewis seems to have forgotten that the average members of the House of Commons are not Henrys, Lauriers, Macdonalds, Burkes, McGees or Bryans. However, let us hope they will mistake themselves for such and curtail their addresses accordingly. If they attain no other point of resemblance than brevity something will have been accomplished.

ON THE JOB.

When the honorable the leader of the Provincial Opposition announced a few weeks ago that his stand toward railway extension by bond guarantee would be that of Horatius at the bridge it was generally assumed that the honorable gentleman would have the privilege of re-presenting that dramatic episode all alone.

It will be recalled that in the original incident there were other essential characters besides Horatius. While he prevented the enemy from crossing the bridge the rest of the noble and ignoble Romans got out their hatchets, chopped away the piles and allowed it to collapse.

It was considered likely, however, that the proposed reproduction would have to be carried out without the assistance of the supplementary forces of choppers. For it was scarcely comprehensible that even so badly advised a party as the Conservative party in Alberta would undertake to destroy the overwhelming approval which sustains the guarantee policy.

The expectation was in one way correct but in another way mistaken. True, the party will not second Horatious by openly hacking at the piles. But they are to be on the job all the same. Recognizing the hopelessness of destroying the structure they engage to blockade it. So at least said the delegates at Red Deer the other day, and they presumed to speak for the party.

The guarantee policy, so declares the convention platform, is not to be assailed, but it must be loaded up with a condition which no trunk railway company would accept. The bridge may stand, but it must be made impassable to the railways. So while Horatius demonstrates in fury the other stalwarts are not to be idle spectators. Their role is slightly varied but the end is the same—to repel the invaders—and in it they will no doubt display a zeal and skill worthy the ancient axemen.

Bonds may be guaranteed, says the platform, but only on condition that the lines may be taken over by the Province whenever they seem to be paying their way; that is whenever they become valuable to the companies. The mild assumption is that railways companies are charitable bodies whose business in life is to build branches where we want them and when we want them, to nurse them through the unprofitable years of infancy and then hand them over to somebody else.

But does any sane man think the Red Deer delegates expected the companies to do anything of the kind? The rank and file of them may have been persuaded so, but the dominant spirit knew better. The worthy gentleman who combines the honors of leading the Opposition in the Senate with the emoluments of representing the C. P. R. in the Senate and everywhere else, knew differently. So probably did some of the legal and other luminaries who gravitated about this central orb.

To them it was perfectly clear that the condition killed the clause. No railway company imbued with the common desire to make money and endowed with the average seasoning of judgment would build branch lines on any such condition. They would respectfully decline the proffered aid and wait until prepared to build lines without public assistance—lines which could not be taken from them the moment they began to pay their way.

All this, of course, was perfectly clear to Senator Lougheed and the cabal which enabled him to hoodwink the assembly into agreement with the resolution. It was just because they knew this that the resolution was moved. Construed into common language it means that the offer of bond guarantee should be accompanied by a condition that would prevent the C. N. R. and the G. T. P. accepting it. The C. P. R. of course have not asked for it, and do not need it or want it.

The proposal in plain terms is that the Grand Trunk Pacific and the Canadian Northern should be held up from accepting the aid for branch-line construction. The C. P. R. would, of course, continue in the happy position it today enjoys of being able to build where it wants to and when. The condition places no obstacle in the C. P. R.'s path, for the reason that the C. P. R. does not want or need backing from the Government. The C. P. R.'s competitors were the targets this resolution gun is aimed at, and it is due to say that if allowed to be discharged it would hit the mark, to the present and lasting welfare of the C. P. R. and the detriment of the people who are without railways and want them.

To the honorable gentleman from High River a word of credit is due. He at least had the courage to say what he would do, and take the consequences. The bosses of the convention seem to have had neither courage nor conscience. They handed over their party to the C. P. R.—for the usual consideration—without, so far as known, having the common honesty to tell their fellow-delegates they were doing it.

CURRENT COMMENT.

According to the Calgary Albertan, which secured a long and seemingly accurate report of the Red Deer convention, "a resolution was submitted "to the convention for the subsidising "and controlling of a Conservative "daily newspaper, there being no Con-"servative daily at present in the "Province of Alberta." Well, well.

The Western Globe, Lacombe, has got out an excellent special number setting forth the resources, beauties and advantages of Lacombe and vicinity. The number contains a large amount of descriptive matter of an informing character and is plentifully illustrated with views of the town and district. Mechanically the issue is very creditable.

A NEW FIGURE IN POLITICAL ARENA

A Racy Character Sketch of one of the Candidates for a New Constituency in the Forthcoming Provincial Elections.

The word is passed about on the street today that Capt. P. E. Lessard will be a candidate in the coming provincial elections. The constituency he will contest is said to be that lying about St. Paul de Metis, at the eastern boundary of the province. The constituency is fortunate. It is the opinion of everyone in Edmonton who knows Mr. Lessard that any constituency in Alberta might be proud to send him to the Legislature as its representative.

While in his career as an individual Mr. Lessard has in every sense of the word "made good," in family history and character he is undoubtedly one of the truest types of the Canadian. For he combines in himself the characteristics of the French, Scotch and Irish races transplanted to the new Dominion over seas. As the Hon. John Morley said at Montreal three years ago, it was destiny that placed the old-world nations—sometimes traditional enemies—in such close juxtaposition here that another and greater race should be produced, the Canadian.

Mr. Lessard, who is a splendid type of the Canadian, intellectually and physically, has the finer characteristics of the races that meet in him. He has the fine illuminating intelligence and intuition with the affable manners of the French; he has the broad sympathies and cheery soul depths of the Irishman, and he has the discreet tongue, the reserve force and tenacity of the Scotchman. It is by reason perhaps of his spontaneous friendly deeds that Mr. Lessard holds

P. E. LESSARD.
Who Will Be a Candidate in One of the New Constituencies in the Forthcoming Provincial Elections.

a very high place in the esteem of many who know him.

Instances of these kindly deeds are so numerous that they cannot be hidden, such as the case of a friendless youth dangerously ill a couple of years ago with typhoid in the public ward of an Edmonton hospital with just a slim chance to hold on to life if the greatest possible care were taken. He had his chance—he was removed into a private ward; a nurse was specially engaged for him, and he recovered. It was P. E. Lessard who had paid for the extra nurse and the ward, stepping in helpfully as is his wont at a critical moment, because the boy came from the same county back east.

Men in difficulties easily turn to Mr. Lessard for sympathetic consideration and any help he can give them. Time and time again farmers coming in from remote parts of the country with a big request or a big complaint to lay before the government and timorous of the outcome, have gravitated naturally for advice to Mr. Lessard as a prominent Liberal and a genial friend. Notwithstanding the pressing affairs of his own numerous business interests Mr. Lessard always finds time to hear them, to help them formulate their plans with the aid of his keen judgment and experience. In fine he takes them directly under his own wing, presents them to the government and stays by them until they have carried through their mission successfully. And his energies and sympathies have been so naturally at work in the farmer's interests that the latter feels, as other men do, that Mr. Lessard has been glad of the chance to help them.

This is probably one reason why, apart from the market-place and its environs, there is no locality in Edmonton as much a rendezvous of men and women from the country as is the store of Gariepy & Lessard. English, French, Scotch, Metis and German settlers meet there coming from many miles east and west, so that it is as usual to hear German and Cree spoken behind the counter there as French and English. And of the many who come and go from these outlying country points, every one of them knows and likes the junior partner.

On one occasion an elderly widow from the Spirit river, which is at least 400 miles from Edmonton, told an Edmonton acquaintance of the distress she felt because of some land difficulties and debts. The acquaintance after a moment of ransacking the brain for helpful suggestions volunteered the hint, "I believe you had better see P. E. Lessard about all that. I'll introduce you to him."

The answer was unexpected but not unusual: "O, I'm going to ask him what to do. He's been good to my husband and me for a good many years now. We often came to him to help us when we lived nearer Edmonton."

* * *

There is a heartiness, a wholesomeness of nature and a healthy optimism about Edmond Lessard that wins men to him without any effort on his part. He is the sort of man to whom you would give a passport without argument after one good look into his face and one generous handshake. He has chosen to represent a country constituency rather than Edmonton, where he is so well known and so popular with all classes, probably because he has never got away from his love of the country which claimed all his earliest years. It has a strong hold on him still, for there is something in his nature which indicates that whether or not he lives within a city limits for the rest of his days, he will never lose that wholesome cheery atmosphere of the outdoor life and the fine simplicity of manner and taste that we invariably connect with the best in country life. Mr. Lessard moreover may not care to spend all his days in the city, where his business has already secured for him a fine competency. He has a beautiful farm ont on the Big Lake district, and one of his most valued recreations in summer is to drive out about this farm. On these occasions he drives a fine horse, the one bit of luxury that Mr. Lessard allows himself in his quiet, homelike mode of life, for he has all a westerner's love of a good horse.

In personal appearance Mr. Lessard bears a rather striking resemblance to the Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux, who, it is conceded by every student of Canadian events and men, is one of the men at Ottawa marked out for still greater things. The latter, however, is dark in coloring while Mr. Lessard is a blond giant, like the old Norsemen; a man with a strong and earnest face, one in which a steady good-humor shines—just until such time as provocation stirs the primitive fires beneath. Then indeed it is apparent there is nothing languid or negative or timorous about Edmond Lessard's mental make-up.

Born in 1874 on a fine old farm at Cranbourne in Quebec's eastern townships—the land of fine landscapes and U. E. Loyalists—Mr. Lessard received his education mainly at Mount St. Louis college in Montreal, where as a boy full of frolic and laughter, good heart and shrewd sense he was a favorite on playground and in classroom. The boy was a foreshadowing of the man.

In 1898 when the Klondyke rush had brought Edmonton into the world's vision he came west to fill the position of accountant in the store in which he is now a partner. Three years later the young man had so impressed himself upon the people and the business that he was taken into partnership by Mr. Gariepy, and the house since then has been conducted under the name of Gariepy & Lessard.

But it was not in the nature of a man of such active sympathies and public spirit to devote his energies entirely to money making. He has been an active member of the Edmonton Board of Trade for seven years, and for the past two years he has been a director of the board. He has been actively interested in education, appreciating the vital necessity there is in a new country for a good groundwork of education, and for the past four years he has acted as trustee on the Separate School Board.

His interest in the country at large and in the welfare of the outlying communities has been amply testified by his sympathetic and ardent advocacy of the cause of numerous farmers and groups of farmers coming to Edmonton to interview the government as previously referred to. Mr. Lessard is also well equipped by natural gifts and training to defend his country if he should ever be called upon to do so. He takes a keen interest in militia affairs and is Captain of "D" squadron of the Alberta Mounted Rifles.

In 1901 Mr. Lessard took upon himself the responsibilities of domestic life, marrying Miss Helene Gariepy. They now have an interesting family of four sturdy, handsome boys and girls who claim and receive a great deal of attention from their father notwithstanding his many public duties.

When politics in the west a few years ago began to take on the guise of party distinction, Mr. Lessard promptly ranged himself with the one that in men and policy had the strongest appeal to young and red blood. He became an active member of the Young Men's Liberal Club at Edmonton, but although Mr. Lessard is still a young men his weight in the community, his maturity of intelligence and political acumen of an unusual order soon ranked him with the older men. He is now by the vote of his associates not only president of the Edmonton Liberal Association, but holds the same position in the Federal Liberal Association of Edmonton district.

As a speaker Mr. Lessard is quiet and finely logical, not fluent always in expressing himself, but earnest and forceful and with a characteristic play of good humor enlivening it. In this direction, however, Mr. Lessard has had as yet little scope for development, and his future career in public life will undoubtedly enhance his present ability as a speaker.

Notwithstanding the fact that Mr. Lessard's ability and popularity have placed him at the head of the organized Liberals of the capital, and while he is undoubtedly one of the leading Liberals of Alberta, it is more natural to think of and speak of Edmond Lessard simply as a man—a big-hearted, broad-minded and honorable man rather than as a follower of any party.

K. H.

ESCAPE IN NIGHT CLOTHES.

Early Morning Fire in San Francisco Drives Out Tenants.

San Francisco, Feb. 16.—Fire broke out in the mission branch of the local post-office early to-day, and before the flames were controlled by the fire department, several stores and apartments over them were destroyed. A dozen families were driven into the rain-swept streets in their night clothing, and several narrow escapes from serious injury were reported to the police.

The fire started at two o'clock in the morning, and by the time the first apparatus arrived, had spread from the post-office to a music store adjoining. Second and third alarms were turned in, and the effective work of the firemen prevented the flames from spreading to the Horace Mann Grammar school, across the street. While the fire was raging, policemen entered the apartments and sent their occupants scurrying to the street, where they met neighbors eager to offer assistance. So fast did the flames spread that little time was afforded for the rescue of valuables. The loss was estimated roughly at $60,000.

THE ICE JAM BROKEN.

Giant Niagara Cataract Again Flows Freely.

Niagara Falls, N.Y., Feb. 19—The ice jam in the upper river broke yesterday, sending thousands of tons of ice and a great volume of water over Niagara Falls. The power companies on the Canadian side had loosened the ice pack by a liberal use of dynamite and the change in wind and milder weather, combined with the blasting, succeeded in breaking the heavy wall of ice that dammed up the water a mile above the falls. The power companies say the crisis is past and industrial establishments which have been crippled are operating normally. No one dared venture on the river bed today in anticipation of a break up so there were no accidents.

Premier's Application Thrown Out.

Ottawa, Feb. 19—The application of Hon. N. A. Belcourt, counsel for Sir Wilfrid Laurier to have A. Menard, who filed protests against the premier's election for Ottawa, examined before the local master on his affidavits, was thrown out today. The local master held he had no authority until the case before the high court was judged. The protest alleged corrupt practices on the part of Sir Wilfrid Laurier's agents.

Electric Power in Prince Albert.

Prince Albert, Sask., Feb. 19.—Day electric power will be furnished for the first time next Monday by the city's electric light plant.

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REVIVAL IS NOT YET APPARENT IN RETU

Total Trade of Dominion Fo Months Shows Decrease of A Eighty-Five Millions—Bot ports and Exports Show F Off Due to Worldwide Depr

Canadian Associated Press.

Ottawa, Feb. 17.—During Ja the imports of the Dominion practically the same as for Ja of last year, the total being $23, as compared with $23,273,47 year. The exports which durin past two or three months have considerable decreases over th ceding year, again show a falli The total of domestic expor the month was $15,387,322, a de of $5,679,985. Of this decrea falling off in exports of agric products accounts for nearly $ 600, and exports of animals and products decreased by $1,000,00

For the past ten months of th rent fiscal year the imports t $241,071,762, a decrease of $ 958. The exports of domesti ducts totalled $209,979,511, a de of $4,410,152. The exports of products totalled $17,333,574, crease of $14,250,981.

During the ten months coi bullion was exported to the va $1,413,905, as compared with $1 852 for the corresponding per 1907-08. The total trade of th minion for the ten months was 375,847, a decrease of $84,906,0

DEBATE ON KING'S SPEE

The House of Lords Speaks W Two New Treaties.

Canadian Associated Press.

London, Feb. 17.—Debating King's speech, Lord Liverpoo the Anglo-American fisheries was the most important ever s the Hague, and if ratified wou tle the dispute forever. Lord downe noted with particular sa tion the announcement that gard to two questions the gover had been able to carry the Ca government with them. "We how keenly Colonial governmen regarding these questions; w know that with the best intenti the world we have not always successful in carrying them with us on occasions of this Therefore, it is to my mind mo isfactory that in the case of th tgways question, and I hope w say the same in regard to the ies question, we have the goo and the concurrence of the two nial governments concerned." (hear.)

Earl Crewe desired to bear mony to the skill and patience in regard to the waterways not only by Ambassador Brye also by Elihu Root, U. S. sec and certainly not less by the dian minister, who had been e in the discussion of the quest regard to the fisheries arbitratio paid attribute to the desire for modation which had been show colonies by the United States hoped if the matters come, as p they would, before the Hague, tremely tiresome question mig finally got out of the way.

SAVED PRISONER'S LIF

Chief Declares He is a Detecti .... Keeps Him From Mob.

Chicago, February 17.—Fearin Wm. Gagle would be lynched people of Gary ever got their on him, Chief of Police Martin a series of adroit deceptions landed the confessed strang nine-year-old Lizzie Schroede the assailant of several other g the jail at Crown Point, In Gagle was taken over the sc the Schroeder crime this m but no one, except the police w companied him, knew who h When the Chief took the m from South Chicago to Gary met at the station by a cro men, who demanded to kno name of his companion.

"That," said the Chief, "Oh a Chicago detective."

"He doesn't look fuch like a tive," growled a big fellow in th front of the crowd.

"He doesn't for a fact," a the chief, "but that's the rea is such a valuable detective."

AGRICULTURAL COMMIS

In Manitoba Recommends D Science Course in Colleg

Winnipeg, Feb. 17.—The pr commission, which has been and east investigating simi stitutions with the view of in the efficiency of the agricultu lege, has reported, and, briefly, commendations are: Estab of a domestic science school nection, subjects being housek nursing, dressmaking and laun A controversial question will b ed by the recommendation, in short period should be set ast for religious exercises. Ano commendation was regular exercises in the gymnasium a formation of a company b This is an important feature American colleges.

Wealthy Russian Stowaw

San Francisco, Cal., Feb. Ulitikin, a wealthy Russian, rived from Japan as a stowaw army transport Buford, unde from Washington, is a pris the Federal prison at Alcatraz He is possessed of good health and the other requirements for admission to this country not revealed why the Russia tained.

Eight Townships in South on

Lethbridge, Feb. 17—The Kerr company have taken o land of the Knights Sugar c coverin about eight township Rayn nd and McGrath distri ar put them on the market the land seekers commence in the spring. The land, whi very fine quality, will be sold pally in small blocks.