

The West

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21, 1909.

University Again.

The papered organ of a corporation favoring government, in a lengthy editorial last Friday morning takes exception to some observations we made in our last issue about the locating of the university. As a twist of statements and contortionist on public questions generally that paper is hiding fair to outlive the premier himself.

We never said, as the Leader would have its readers infer that all the governments were selected by the government. Everyone in the province who has been following the question at all knows that five of the members of the board of governors were selected by the senate, and that three were appointed by the government. Is it strange that out of the three who were appointed by the government, two of them were from the north and only one from the south. One was from Prince Albert, which already had a representative on the board; one was from Saskatoon which already had a representative on the board; the other was from Wolsley. Now, why in the appointing of these three governors, did the government not consider Regina and Moose Jaw? Did they not have as much claim to have two representatives on the board as Prince Albert and Saskatoon? However, if the government of the province did not have the location fixed at that time, the evidence was plain when A. P. McNab was up for re-election after being taken into the cabinet. Several prominent men in Saskatoon seemed to have a clear cut understanding with Mr. McNab that the university would be located there. By what authority could he promise it? We have no hesitation in stating that Mr. McNab would have been opposed in Saskatoon in the bye-election, had he not given more than his own word that the university would be located in that city. No denial can alter that. We believe thoroughly that the government had a hand in the locating of the university through the appointments that they made.

Now, as to the board of governors. All men are human. We believe that a number of the members of the board entered heartily and with open minds into the subject of locating the university, and came to a conclusion on the merits of the case. We believe that President Murray did his work thoroughly and was quite unbiased. We believe that had the question been left to him to decide, everyone would have been satisfied, that the best interests of the university would have been the basis upon which that choice would have been made. As to some of the other members of the board, we are not so sure of the basis of their reasoning which decided them to cast their ballot as they did. We are told by the Leader that when Mr. Bell was appointed to the board that it was "undoubtedly experted" he would vote for Saskatoon. This is frank enough admission by the government organ as to why Mr. Bell was appointed. We don't know but there must have been some "undoubted" reason for the assurance Mr. McNab had when he could give the pledge to the city of Saskatoon that the university would be located there. He was a member of the government, and surely must have been in a position to say.

In view of these facts it is unfair to state that as far as the provincial government was concerned the

location of the university was decided some time ago. We have also proved from the Leader's own words that at least one member of the board of governors at the time of his appointment was undoubtedly expected to have had his mind made up. What more do you want? As we said in our previous article, we have no ill-feeling towards Saskatoon. They were willing to accept Mr. McNab for the sake of the university. Now they have both. We do think, however, looking at the subject in the broadest light of the best interests of the university that the locating of the institution at Saskatoon has placed it under many disadvantages which will greatly hinder its progress.

Editorial Notes

The Liberal papers of the province are trying to whitewash J. A. Calder. All the whitewash they can apply won't do. It will take a coat of enamel.

Behold how Sir Wilfrid's ideals have come down! He stated during the discussion in the House on the New Brunswick scandal in which Pugsley was involved, that he was prouder of him than ever.

The provincial government were prepared to accept the recommendation of the architect to pay \$100,000 more for the parliament buildings than was necessary. Why didn't they leave the location of the site of the university to President Murray?

We really did not think that the government organ would admit that the provincial government had made appointments to the university board of governors of men who had their minds made up. However it is a good sign to see it making honest admissions although such admissions do not reflect much credit on the government.

Press Comment.

(Toronto News.)

In the Liberal newspapers there is nothing but defence of Mr. Pugsley. This is unfortunate. It is in that way that governments are wrecked and parties destroyed. Surely the report of the New Brunswick commission is not a mere partisan attack on the minister of public works. Surely he should withdraw from the cabinet until these very serious charges are satisfactorily answered.

(Winnipeg Telegram)

Hon. William Pugsley volunteers the information that he should not be asked to resign. That is just what was to be expected of Canada's minister of public works. And that is the reason why he should be compelled to resign. A minister of the crown who can see no wrong in the misappropriation of a quarter of a million dollars of public funds entrusted to his protection is assuredly not the kind of a public man that Canada can afford to retain in the

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great spending department of the public service.

(Calgary Herald.)

Hon. Wm. Pugsley displays a bravado under his indignant that far surpasses the record of any of those who in recent years have preceded him in similar situations.

He is now a minister of the crown for New Brunswick. He is now a minister of the crown for the Dominion of Canada. In his former capacity he is charged by a royal commission with misappropriating public funds to his private use. The colloquial term, although not strictly accurate, is theft. He says that as the charge does not bear on his actions in his present capacity he does not propose to worry about it.

According to Mr. Pugsley a minister of the Dominion government may be proved dishonest, but as long as the dishonesty proved does not relate to his present job as minister it does not affect his position.

The argument is refreshingly cheery. The question is whether the people of Canada will look at it the same way.

(Edmonton News)

In Saskatchewan where the matter of a site for the provincial university was left to the board of governors, Saskatoon has won out over Regina. Both in respect to the choice of the seat of government and of the location of the university, the government of the sister province has taken a different course from that of Alberta. In the first case it assumed responsibility for the selection. In Alberta the government as such delegated the task to the members of the legislature. In the second case Saskatchewan let the governing body itself appointed fight it out, while the Alberta cabinet reached a decision before any steps towards university organization were taken. But the plain duty of the premier and his colleagues in all four instances was to decide the matter themselves. There was no excuse for shirking the taking of a definite stand on a large question of policy, even though their doing so did bring about unwelcome political complications. To the unprejudiced outsider Saskatchewan always looked like a better place for both capital and university than Regina, but the former having been located where it was, the proper location for the latter was along side it.

(Saskatoon Phoenix)

It was quite befitting the occasion that the citizens should rejoice as they have done over the fact that the university of Saskatchewan has been located in Saskatoon. The event is the most important and far reaching which is yet chronicled in the history of this young city. It is the recognition of the importance of the city as a centre of population, as a railway hub, as a mart of trade and as a meeting place for the men and interests of agriculture. Citizens of all classes have grasped the significance of the event. Men who have had no personal experience with universities and men who are graduates of universities alike rejoice over this boon to the city. And that is good for it means that all will be ready and cheerfully willing to help bear the burdens and responsibilities of a university town.

The coming of the university gives added dignity to the place to which it comes. It is imperative that Saskatoon be equal to the occasion. Every man in public office today feels the added honor attached to such office. And it is expected of them that one and all will strive to act as becomes men who have the city's honor in their keeping. Public business should be transacted in an exemplary manner. Men who incline to doubtful methods in handling the public business should be discredited and rejected. Industry, enterprise and thorough mastery of public business

representatives from Saskatchewan were in this constituency and flatly promised the Hudson Bay road.

There are eight Conservatives from Manitoba and nine Liberals from Saskatchewan in the House at Ottawa, and the eight have done more to keep the Hudson Bay road before the government than have the nine from Saskatchewan.

It would have been pleasing to have been able to note that the Liberals had backed up their campaign pledges.

R. S. Lake, the lone Conservative M.P. from this province is the only one of the ten members who has brought the question of immediate construction to the attention of the House.

COMMUNICATIONS

(We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.)

The Widow's Burden.

(To the Editor of The West.)

Dear Sir,—Will you please explain through The West what seems to me very strange rules. Last year, that is in 1906, my young daughter was betrayed by a man, who belonged to a church whose rules prevent him marrying in Lent. I took care of her and provided for her child. Before it was a month old, the man who was the cause of her trouble came into my house one morning before she was up, demanding to see her, as his father had found out and was not going to have any such conduct. I refused to let him see her and forbid his going into her room. Then he turned and abused me in every manner of language he could use, and threatened to have me arrested for keeping the girl shut up. The trunk of the matter was that there was no door on her room, only a curtain. I took as much of his abuse as I could and then put him out of the house myself. Now I know that if I were in any land, but Saskatchewan I could punish that scoundrel in the first place for ruining my daughter's life, as she was only seventeen years old, and again for his coming into my house and abusing me in the way he did. He had a chance to marry her in the spring but could not break the holy rules of his church. So much for a church that will permit a man to commit any crime, but must not think of righting a wrong. But after it is all over and she is cared for by her folks, he can come along and say what he likes and no one can stop it. I am not allowed to prosecute him because he is willing to marry her in order to shield himself from his own people no matter if he has proved himself to be a liar and a scoundrel of the blackest dye. But the ways of this country are past understanding. You see in the clipping which I enclose you that a man and woman at Moose Jaw go and leave a little child two days old with the Indians. Was that no crime to expose a little life that way? With me it is so different. You see I am imposed upon, my daughter's life is ruined, I am obliged to deny my own children their rights that I may provide for a child that is thrust upon me. But the great wiseacres of Regina tell me that as he is willing to marry the girl I have no cause to complain. Truly the laws of Saskatchewan are as enigmatical as the Chinese language. If you will please to explain if there is any real law, you will greatly oblige.

A WOMAN READER.

(It appears to us that you have been greatly wronged, and you can get redress. If you will explain to us more fully the facts of the case, and if they are as we infer from your letter, we will undertake, not only to see that you are protected, but that you get a measure of redress for the past.—Editor.)

C.P.R. Gets Wisconsin Central

Milwaukee, Wis., April 18.—All good men will be retained in their present positions or promoted. Millions will be spent in improvements. This is the substance of statements issued immediately following the formal taking over of the Wisconsin Central railway properties by the Minneapolis, St. Paul and Sault Ste. Marie railway company under a 99 year lease when the stockholders met in Milwaukee today to ratify the transaction recently made by the directors. The Wisconsin Central is now a part of the great Canadian Pacific system after having been fully transferred to the Soo line. The agreements between the two companies heretofore authorized by their respective boards being ratified and approved by the largest vote ever cast, more than ninety per cent of the stock being represented.

In the election of new directors appears the names of H. M. Ballou and M. E. Nash, who is identified with a large paper manufacturing interests in the Fox River Valley. S. G. Teourton, Milwaukee, remains on the board; the others being from Minneapolis. They are: J. S. Pillsbury, C. E. Walker, and C. T. Jeffrey. These supplanted Henry G. Starr, W. Wadden, E. N. Foss and Jess F. Mayer, all of whom with the exception of Mr. Starr, are eastern men. The Wisconsin Central hereafter will not be known by the familiar

name, becoming a mere division of the Soo line under the title of Chicago.

One million will be spent at once on an improvement of the road bed. The Milwaukee terminals will cost a million.

Milwaukee will ultimately be one of the big terminal points on the Canadian Pacific Railway.

The Wisconsin Central Railway now loses all identity except incorporate name, in legal affairs. Within a short time there will be considered plans for building to or through the city of Milwaukee.

Cooper Skips.

Saskatoon, April 17.—A. W. Cooper, the late southside merchant, who is at present on bail awaiting trial on a forgery charge, went east on the C.N.R. Thursday night, having taken a ticket for Winnipeg. He evidently didn't talk much about his intended departure, for his lawyer, J. D. Ferguson, knew nothing of his going until someone called him up over the phone. Cooper went out on the train which bore a mounted policeman bound for Winnipeg to bring back Fred Lee. As Cooper is free un-

til 10 o'clock, there was no attempt to detain him.

That Cooper left town without having consulted his lawyer, Mr. Ferguson admitted. Mr. Ferguson stated he was aware that Cooper spoke of taking over the Farnham's business in Nutana, and that he had expressed the intention of going to Winnipeg to interview the wholesalers on the matter. He had been promised support from some outside residents who wished him to continue in business. The fact that he had left town under the eye and on the same train as a policeman, Mr. Ferguson thinks, does not make his actions suspicious.

Vancouver, B.C., April 16.—Mrs. C. Neal, wife of a cannery man on the Skeena river, was drowned two days ago near Fort Eslington. She went to the river front in the night to move her husband's canoe, which was being battered by the storm and she must have slipped into the water.

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