

THE ALBERTAN

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THURSDAY, MAY 22, 1913.
DELAY WITH THE BANK

Ever since the month of February the city has been negotiating with the Bank of Montreal, under its monopolistic agreement with that institution, for ready money to carry on the city's business.

The Bank of Montreal seems to be long on talk, but very, very short on works. It is submitting a variety of excuses why the money, which they are evidently able to secure on the city's treasury notes, is not forthcoming; and these excuses reflect little credit on the bank in its capacity as fiscal agent for the city.

The bank has always made much of the fact that it has been able to secure a better rate for the city than any other agent, in any financial transactions, which it has negotiated.

The mayor could have got \$2,000,000 for eight months at 6 per cent. in New York a month ago. The bank intimates that it can sell the same security at 5 1/2 for a similar length of time.

Surely it is possible for the bank and the city council to get together like sensible, grown-up business men and cut this tangle short! It is costing the city thousands of dollars for every day of delay; and it is time some one came down off the perch, put the lawyers where they belong in the affair, and closed up the prolonged negotiations.

Editorial Notes

The expenditure of the department of public works has increased from \$10,000,000 to \$28,000,000 in three years, going up with a terrible bound since Ferguson got a firm foothold in Canada.

The opposition disguise their disapproval because they cannot say that the election was stolen in Medicine Hat and Macleod; but they are not going to be deprived of the privilege of saying it just the same.

The citizens of Medicine Hat will vote upon a private owned corporation street railway today, and by tonight we shall have the statement of the people who made the great and started firmly on the upland journey, or has been captured by the land men whose whole idea is to exploit the place and then get out.

Col. Sam Hughes has added three million to the expenses of his department, and except for the fact that we have a body terror of a fighting man at the head of the affair (see letters on Beer war by Hughes) we are not much better off for military protection than we were in other days.

The Bank of Montreal is going to let it do not give good support to the

BOTH ARE PETTY

It is difficult to decide whether The Calgary Herald is pettier than Commissioner Samis in its effort by all means, fair or foul, to "get the commissioner," or Commissioner Samis who resents the action of The Herald in attempting to keep The Herald's representative out of the meetings of the commission, is pettier than The Herald. Between the two they are trying up the business of the city and one is as culpable as the other, but in a different manner.

Of course, The Herald started it. It criticized Commissioner Samis in an unfair way. It stated the case in a prejudiced, if not a dishonest manner. It drew conclusions not justified by its own story, which Commissioner Samis believed reflected upon him. But that was all.

Whether or not the story was correct is a matter of record. Whether or not the conclusion was justified is a matter of opinion. The public can draw their own conclusions. Commissioner Samis could wait.

But granted that Commissioner Samis is correct in all his assertions, which he probably is, he is acting in a sort of babyish way in trying to shut the representative of The Herald out of public meetings. He is acting against his own interests. He is moving in a most tactless manner.

If he wanted to get in wrong in this controversy with an opponent, he couldn't take a course which would place him there quite so soon as his present tactics. In addition to laying himself open to the accusation that he is trying to control or to gag the press, which is without justification, he is showing his opponent just the way that said opponent can reach the commissioner where the hurt is worst, just whenever that opponent so desires.

The turning out of a reporter from a public meeting is the court of last resort. Parliament, at the instigation of some grievous person, sometimes yanks a reporter before the bar of the house and forces him to go through some sort of a mummery of an apology and every person laughs about it and then everything is forgotten. Unfortunately we have no bar of the house at the city hall or anything which might serve that sort of purpose. It would be better for all concerned if Commissioner Samis forgot about his annoyance and The Herald would give up its policy of aggravating and misrepresenting an opponent, though the latter is somewhat too much to expect.

THE GAS DISCOVERIES.

Mr. Dingman and his associates in the gas and oil venture in the vicinity of Black Diamond are making an effort to show that they are not boomsters with something to place upon the market, and they warn the public against misinterpreting the report in The Albertan yesterday morning.

However, the statement made by The Albertan yesterday morning was quite correct and founded upon definite information. Mr. Dingman does not question the correctness of the statement, though the unwary might place such a wrong interpretation upon his statement.

The public is very much interested in this venture. The company has taken the mistaken position of saying nothing about the progress of the work. The company would do better to give regular reports of the work. The reports should be, and doubtless would be, accurate and without color. The people of Calgary have been painfully disappointed about reported gas discoveries some time ago, and desire no repetition of these unhappy occasions.

However, it can be said safely now that gas has been discovered in something like paying quantities at present, and that the prospects for discovering gas in very large quantities, and also of discovering oil, are very good.

Rose Stahl company, and on the other hand they will get the best kind of an entertainment if they do so.

Hon. Mr. Michener says that he is an admirer of President Wilson of the United States. He must have made a mistake in the name. President Wilson is opposed to high tariff, corporations, trusts and believes that men in public life, having given a promise should keep it.

Who should collect the poll tax, and at what rate? No person should pay the poll tax. It is a poor affair. It seems like a sort of a special license to be alive.

The city of Calgary does not always patronize a good thing in the theatrical attraction when it comes. It is very disappointing that the last three or four good attractions have not brought out as good houses as might be expected.

The Bank Act seems to provide that the banks can get seven per cent. any time they so desire and as much more as they can get whenever the pinch really comes. That is fine financing.

It is rather too bad that Commissioner Samis is not a larger man with a heavier punch, so that he could settle disturbances in the backyard without involving a tie-up of the entire business of the city every time that he gets in an argument with a reporter.

The days of the duel had certain advantages.

If this naval debate would result in the Alberta of the Dominion senate and drop at that, its exciting life would not have been in vain.

The Albertan had expected to be running all by itself without the help of its friends by today, but in excavating for a pit for its big press, it struck a swift running river, which it would sell at a very low rate of it could. The coaxing of this stream to please change its course and meander elsewhere has taken a whole week and the stream has not fully decided yet.

And when the Bank of Montreal seems to have got the money, or got on the trail of the coin, before handing it over to us, it delights in turning its sharpshooters on the treasury notes and about the forms full of holes, or trying to do so, or otherwise embarrassing the city council.

The weather man seems to have wakened up to the idea that he resides in Alberta, and at last is taking some pride in the fact.

It may be that the Bank of Montreal will sell our treasury notes at a rate somewhat better than we get ourselves, but we would have got the money about six weeks earlier, which would have made a great difference in Calgary this year.

It is true, as Mr. Dingman says, that there have been reports of gas strikes which have been slightly exaggerated. We all know about them, even Mr. Dingman himself.

The mayor seems to consider the probability that certain officials use their office for Tammany business as something like a very good joke on the other fellow. We are somewhat disappointed in the mayor in this respect.

The history of the lead duties is a good example of the way of protection. The government gave a bounty to assist the industry, and qualified the amount of the bounty by the selling price, so that the bounty would disappear when the price reached a certain figure, and the price rose to the maximum figure, and the bounty disappeared for the industry had passed the infant stage and needed no more encouragement.

There is a shameful dearth of public comfort stations in this populous center of the province. For the lack of these, one has to resort to the hotels, the bars, and the C.P.R. depot. But for some unexplained reason the

Letters to The Editor

Is Calgary Still a Village?

In a city (at least in civilized countries) one is surrounded by the means of obtaining the comforts and observing the decencies of life. In some important respects, I regret to say, Calgary is still a village.

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men's lavatory at the C.P.R. is as often locked as open, and entrance is impossible.

I may incidentally mention that the C.P.R. closets are about the dimensions of dog kennels save only as regards space from floor to ceiling.

One more remark while I am touching on this subject, I am in and out of the C.P.R. depot three or four times a day, and I notice that almost invariably men are to be observed lounging in the ladies' waiting room, usually any number from two to half a dozen.

The whole thing is crude, shiftless, and frontier-like. We hear much praise concerning a "Calgary Beautifier"; but I must own that first of all I should prefer a "Calgary Comfortable" and a "Calgary Decent." I enclose my card, and remain.

Obediently yours, CITIZEN.

Sidewalk Sketches

By Howard L. Mann

AMBITION.

Ambition is an unseen force which gets behind a man and pushes him ahead of other people. Sometimes, however, it is seen in time so that it can be headed off at a primary election and thus reduce the number of boneheads in congress.

One of the saddest sights in this world is that of an ambitious man who has been nipped in the bud by an avalanche of scratched tickets. The kind of ambition is harder to restrain than the desire to murder a flat-footed street car conductor who steps heavily on your oxfords while distributing transfers.

People consume most of their ambition in the winter in the effort to keep from being froebitten on both sides, so that when spring comes they have very little left for making garden or helping clean house. Many a husband goes through the winter with a heavy surplus of ambition, only to have it ooze away in one large, mournful ooze when his wife wants him to hold a joint debate with a half bushel of seed potatoes.

There is a good deal of wasted ambition floating around and playing three-cushion billiards on somebody else's time. If some of the ambition which is scattered around the courts could be harnessed up to real work, the sons of the idle rich might earn enough to defray the weekly bills and have something left for cigarette papers.

Finally, brethren, the kind of ambition which will keep in warm weather is that which cuddles up to a fish pole or snuggles down behind the steering wheel of an automobile.

Regular Hudson's Bay Store News on Pages 5 and 6

The little Republic of Haiti does not follow the coarse and crude Mexican method of disposing of unpopular rulers. The recent death of President Au-guste is said to have been caused by poison administered in his food.

TWO FINE RESIDENCES to be Built in Lake View Heights
In our window now are the drawings of two residences for Lake View Heights. One will occupy six lots and will cost about \$7,000; the other will occupy four lots and cost over \$8,000. We are going ahead with our improvements in Lake View Park as fast as money and men can go, and the end of this year will see a much greater improvement even than last year. We Are Bound to Make Lake View Heights "The Beauty Spot of Calgary" Let Us Show You Autos At Your Service A. O. JENNINGS, Owner 813 First Street East

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