

EXTRAVAGANCE OF THE WEST MERE TWADDLE

This is How President J. K. MacDonald Characterizes Statement Heard in the East of the Spendthriftness of the West. Gives His Opinion on Financial Situation and Grain Crop. Will Visit Edmonton and Return to Winnipeg on C.N.R.

Calgary, Sept. 20.—J. K. MacDonald, president of the Confederation Life association of Canada, whose headquarters are in Toronto, is spending a few days in the city on an inspection trip in the interests of his company. He is accompanied by his son, C. S. MacDonald, and Daniel McDonald, manager of the Winnipeg branch of the association. The party are stopping at Braemar Lodge, and will leave for the north to-day returning home by the C. N. R. from Edmonton.

"Your country shows a great improvement every year. I come out here," remarked Mr. MacDonald, "in the east I had many reports on the condition of affairs during this harvest time, and they were of such a contradictory nature that I was really prepared for anything, and was most agreeably surprised when I looked over the country and found matters in such a flourishing condition." From Winnipeg I travelled south all through the southern portion of Manitoba, where my company has a lot of business, and I found things in a most satisfactory condition. Taking the Soo line from Estevan I then came up to Moose and in places along the line one could hardly believe one's eyes at the marvellous way the country has settled.

"Before I left Toronto," continued Mr. MacDonald, "I made up my mind that I should go over the southern portion of Alberta thoroughly, and have a good look at the country, and I have spent several days at different towns, looking over the surrounding country, and I always maintained after my first trip through the west some years ago, that it was going to be a great country, and I must say now that I am more confirmed in that opinion than ever.

"There is a certain amount of damage to the crops through the recent

perity was being enjoyed they were rather free with their loans, with the result that the reaction was felt to a great degree more than if they eased off gradually.

"There is considerable comment over the fact that they have their money tied up in investments in foreign countries. This is true to a certain extent, as they have money in New York, but they absolutely have to put it out there in case of emergency. For instance if they lend money to a farmer, they cannot make an hour's notice. It is not a case of getting the money in a day's notice; it must be placed that it can be got in at an hour's notice.

Mr. MacDonald was asked if he considered the western people extravagant in the matter of buying autos, etc. In reply he stated that he considered this a piece of twaddle, and stated that "the poor farmer's wife has a hard enough life as it is, and any luxury that can be afforded is remarkably cheap at the price. There is one matter that I do consider the western people are extravagant in, and this is in regard to machinery. When a man claims \$100,000 as his commission on the sale of the mine, it is not a case of getting the money in a day's notice; it must be placed that it can be got in at an hour's notice.

In conclusion Mr. MacDonald stated that he was going north as far as Edmonton, and thence east to Prince Albert and Saskatchewan, and hoped to see the same amount of prosperity as he had found in central and southern Alberta.

HON. A. G. MCKAY THE NEW LEADER

Of Opposition in Ontario Legislature, in Succession to Minister of Railways and Grammar.

Toronto, Sept. 20.—Hon. A. G. McKay, Owen Sound, has been selected by the Liberals as leader of the Opposition in the local house succeeding Hon. George P. Graham, appointed to the Laurier cabinet.

Hon. Mr. McKay gave the following interview this morning: "The acceptance of the Liberal leadership provincial affairs brings to my mind very clearly two ideas, the folly of attempting to properly discharge the duties of the position, and the necessity of attempting even to a limited extent to follow the practice of any profession. In the case of a member of the legislature for five years I am convinced me that, next to the premier, the opposition leader holds the most responsible position in the legislature. Apart from that fact that he ought to stand in the forefront in training and educating the members of his party, he is responsible for much else. Certainly, by action or inaction, positively or negatively, he largely assists in determining, upon the hustings or upon the floor of the House, should be conducted upon a broad, courteous and gentlemanly line.

WILL SUPPLY 7,000 MEN TO RAILWAYS

The Department Has Secured Information as to Number of Men Needed by Contractors.

Winnipeg, Man., Sept. 20.—After a month's trip in the west spent in making investigations regarding the probable requirements of railway labor for next year, E. Blake Robertson, assistant superintendent of immigration for Canada, returned last night to the city. For the past few years the department has devoted attention to the matter of bringing laborers to the west to meet the demands of the railway contractors. It is estimated that probably 5,000 men have been distributed in the west this year alone.

Demands for Men Grow. With the increasing construction, and the extension which is being planned, the demand for laborers is yearly becoming greater, and were it not for the efforts of the department in endeavoring to secure men the problem would be much more difficult than at present. Mr. Robertson visited many of the construction camps of the G. T. P. and from the various contractors learned with respect to the number of men which would be required for next season's work.

As a matter of fact all the men that can be secured could be made use of, although the labor situation is said not to have seriously handicapped the existing plans of the roads. Next year the department will make arrangements if possible to send out from 7,000 to 10,000 men to be employed in western railway work.

HON. MR. OLIVER ON VISIT WEST

Will Look Into all Matters Concerning Alberta and Saskatchewan Prior to Opening of House.

Winnipeg, Man., Sept. 20.—Hon. Frank Oliver, minister of the Interior, arrived in the city today. In conference with many of the local officials of the government and in conversation Mr. Oliver stated that on the occasion of his previous visit to the West he had been compelled to spend almost all of the time in British Columbia and had been unable to see as much as he wished of Alberta and Saskatchewan.

Look Into Land and Immigration. On his present visit he will cover these two provinces thoroughly, visiting especially the land offices and the immigration departments, and will also inquire into the condition of the wheat crop in the three western provinces and will drive through some of the agricultural districts if there is time at his disposal for this purpose. The trip is made in view of the opening during the fall of the Dominion parliament, when all questions will require to be dealt with by many matters of importance decided.

Changes in B. C. Lands. On his last trip through the Far West, Mr. Oliver made careful inquiries into the land office of the administration of the lands of the Dominion Government in British Columbia where the Dominion Government controls a strip of land extending for twenty miles on each side of the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway.

What these changes will be the minister was not prepared to say. Mr. Oliver left the city on Monday and will spend the day in Regina tomorrow.

THE LIBERAL CONVENTION

Will Be Held in Calgary, Oct. 23rd. Meeting of Executive Decides on Representation.

Calgary, Sept. 20.—The Liberals of Alberta to-night took the first steps towards organizing for the coming Dominion elections. An executive meeting of the Alberta Liberal association was held at the city hotel last night, and the following members of the executive were present: Premier Rutherford, Strathcona; Hon. Mr. Cross, Edmonton; Dr. Stewart, Calgary; Senator Talbot, McLeod; Hon. Mr. Oliver, Messrs. Oliver and Cushing were absent. Stanley Jones of Calgary was appointed secretary pro tem.

The basis of representation at the coming convention was decided upon as follows: All Liberal members of the provincial legislature in Alberta; Liberal members of the Alberta legislature; deputed candidates at last Dominion and provincial elections; ten delegates from each of the twenty-five provincial constituencies.

At the conclusion of the meeting the Liberal executive of Calgary gave an informal supper in honor of the visitors. In addition to the members of the executive and the members of the Gallier, M.P. of Kootenay and Duncan Marshall of Edmonton were present. Speeches were delivered by Messrs. Rutherford, Cross, Talbot, Gallier and Duncan Marshall. At the conclusion of the banquet all present accompanied the premier to the station on his leaving for the east to attend the Toronto university convention.

THE NAMES MUST BE GIVEN.

Magistrate Won't Allow Names of Reputable Men to Be Suppressed. Toronto, Sept. 20.—The trial of Mrs. Minnie Turner, accused of the murder of a young English girl, Rose Winter, who died from the effects of an operation performed upon her, was commenced yesterday. "There was a large attendance of lawyers. As the names of prominent men living in Toronto and outside had been connected with the case, it was expected that an effort would be made to bring out the names of the men responsible for Rose Winter's condition. A. A. Bond, counsel for the defendant, said he did not wish to wreck the reputations of reputable men in Toronto, and therefore desired that the initials only be used, but the police magistrate would not agree to this, and said everything must come out.

FEDERAL HOUSE MEETS ON NOVEMBER 15th. Ottawa, Sept. 21.—The writs for the bye-elections will be called for November 13. The cabinet will be in session this afternoon.

KILLED AT FERNIE.

Delayed Explosion of Shot in Mine Results in Two Deaths. Fernie, B. C., Sept. 21.—At Coal Creek, Peter Johnson, a miner, was killed and John Bellatista was fatally injured by an explosion. A shot had missed fire and the men did not wait long enough before returning to the room. Johnson, who was about 20 years old, was badly mangled and died at 6 o'clock in the Fernie hospital. He had sent a ticket to his wife in the Old Country, and she was to join him at Fernie. Bellatista has a wife and three children in the city.

REV. DR. POTTS ILL.

Suit for Large Amount Between Cousins Concerning Trefway Mine. Toronto, Ont., Sept. 20.—Rev. Dr. Potts, treasurer of the Victoria University, is in a critical condition and his eyesight is also causing concern to his friends. In non-injury assizes before Judge Riddell today a case involving a hundred thousand dollars was heard and judgment delivered, with the statement that an appeal would follow. W. J. Trefway claimed \$100,000 as his commission on the sale of the mine J. B. L. or Trefway mine at Cobalt. His cousin was the defendant. Judgment was in favor of the plaintiff for the full amount together with interest, since the issuing of the writ.

BARGE OF HAY DESTROYED.

Kenora, Sept. 20.—This morning a barge containing eighteen tons of hay crossing down the Winnipeg river, was destroyed by fire. The barge was ignited by a spark from a steam tug and the whole was consumed.

W. A. BROWN TO REJOIN C.N.R.

Rumor Says He Will Assume Responsible Position—Perceval to be Superintendent.

Winnipeg, Sept. 20.—According to rumor, states the Post Arthur Chronicle, William A. Brown, who is now recuperating his health at his old home in Nova Scotia, will again enter the employ of the Canadian Northern Railway, assuming a responsible position in the West. It is also stated that Superintendent Cameron is desirous for a promotion and that he will be removed from Port Arthur to Winnipeg. The position of superintendent, according to report, will be filled by Conductor H. Percival, who is one of the best known railway men in the west. He has been in the employ of the Canadian Northern Railway almost from its inception, and has been at the Port Arthur-Winnipeg run for the past two years. He is one of the prominent trainmen and his advancement to the present position has been rapid.

New C. N. R. Station at Battleford.

Battleford, Sask., Sept. 21.—The C.N.R. station construction crew arrived yesterday in Battleford, and have begun the erection of a passenger depot with an extra waiting room attached.

GENERAL BOOTH VISITS CANADA

Party Reports the Arrival of Marconi Who Hopes to Give a Commercial Service Shortly.

St. John, N.B., Sept. 20.—Gen. Wm. Booth, head of the Salvation Army, arrived in St. John to-night and will be here a series of meetings to include the maritime provinces and the United States. The general arrived this morning and came direct to St. John. Fully a thousand people gathered to welcome him as his train arrived and he was given a very hearty reception. He pleaded the fatigue of the long ocean voyage and day journey by rail as his reason for not making a speech, and to newspaper men as his reasons for declining to be interviewed tonight.

Marconi May Extend Service.

It is learned from members of Gen. Booth's party that Signor Marconi of wireless telegraph fame, who arrived yesterday on the steamer Virginia, in connection with his work and then to Cape Bay. It is reported that General Booth's party could not say so, that Marconi has mastered trans-Atlantic telegraphy to an extent which warrants him establishing a service for commercial purposes. Passenger Rate Legislation Stands. St. Louis, Mo., Sept. 20.—Judge Lichren, of the United States district against the commodity rates put forth court, has granted an injunction against the commodity rates put into force by legislation of last winter. The court refused an injunction asked for regarding the commodity rates and the ground that the rate was already in effect and had not been found unreasonable.

OPINION DIVIDED ON STREET RAILWAY SALE

Public Meeting in Council Chamber Discusses Proposal to Sell Franchise to Private Corporation—Thos. Bellamy, A.E. Potter, Dr. H.R. Smith and Dr. Park Strongly Defend Municipal Ownership—Two Resolutions Moved but no Vote was Taken—Meeting Stampeded.

That the street railway issue is to be one of the liveliest questions that has come before the ratepayers in the history of Edmonton, was evident from the attendance at the public meeting held last night in the city council chamber. Despite the fact that but short notice had been given every available seat and standing space was filled, and as many more were outside unable to gain entrance. The meeting was a representative one, many prominent citizens being present, and taking part in the discussion.

The opinion of the ratepayers present was not taken, while several resolutions were in the hands of the chairman, a motion to adjourn was carried, and the audience broke up. The meeting of last night was the outcome of an informal one, held by city business men in the same place last Wednesday evening. The chair last night was occupied by A. Williamson Taylor and O. M. Bishopric was the secretary.

The proceedings were opened by the reading of the minutes of Wednesday night's meeting, and the motion passed on that occasion. It was to the effect that the City Council be asked to open negotiations at once with Mr. Cronin or other parties, with reference to the selling of the street railway franchise.

This motion was moved by W. S. Weeks, and seconded by Fred Hobson.

Mr. Week's Views. W. S. Weeks, upon being called, said he had made up his mind to believe that it would be to the best interests of the city to open negotiations with Mr. Cronin or any others wishing to purchase our street railway. The meeting had been called simply to get the opinion of the ratepayers, and it would be advisable for the city to open negotiations. The expression of this meeting, he suggested be referred to the city council. He did not believe in the city retaining the franchise, on the principle that cities could not long hold on to their franchises like this one. The street railway was owned by a private party and run on a similar system to that of Toronto, and as Mr. Cronin had put up a straight-out business proposition, it should be met in the same spirit and no delay allowed, as delays are dangerous. Had the city not done so long ago, it would have been a far better position to-day, and had many of the people of Edmonton not delayed in selling their real estate, they would also have been better off to-day. Therefore, he said, sell the street railway, but even keep in view the green light which means caution.

Ald. Picard Speaks. Ald. Picard, upon being called, stated the proposition had been submitted. The only question, up to the present under discussion was whether we should retain our street railway franchise or sell it. Some people have said the council should have acted quickly, but he, on the other hand, advised a full consideration of any propositions that might be brought up. The first question to be decided was not one of price, but simply if the citizens wanted to dispose of this utility.

Commissioner Kinnaird. Commissioner Kinnaird said there was practically no offer yet before the ratepayers. All now to be considered by the ratepayers was whether the railway franchise should be retained or whether it should be sold. Want More Room. A voice from the background of an adjoining room: "There are five hundred men here who want to get in." Another voice from the other door: "There are a lot more here."

Some one suggested that the meeting be adjourned till this evening in Thistle Bink. After a large number of the people outside had crowded into the hall, the meeting was resumed, it not being considered advisable to adjourn.

Mr. Magrath, of Magrath, Hart & Co., thought it out of place to dictate to the ratepayers, in view of the fact that his firm would put in an offer should the city decide to dispose of their franchise.

Wants Information. Dr. Park—"How was this matter brought about? What is the history of this offer? Who was dissatisfied with present operations?" (Applause.) The chairman said all that was known was what he read in the papers to the offer made by Mr. Cronin on behalf of Mr. Balfour, an English capitalist.

Dr. Park—"What opened the negotiations?" Commissioner Kinnaird said as far as he knew, Mr. Cronin did not come here especially to offer on the railway. He was in the city, saw the condition of the line as already constructed, and then met the Mayor to ascertain if the city was willing to entertain an offer for sale.

Did Council Inspire Offer? Thos. Bellamy thought the inspiration of this thing was possibly with the commissioners, and the council. It was for them first to wrestle with the question, and if their dealings were not satisfactory, it was up to the citizens to say so.

Commissioner Kinnaird said he must correct Mr. Bellamy. As far as he knew Mr. Cronin was a stranger to the Commissioners and every member of the council. Ald. Harty, upon being called by the chairman, said he had not opened his mouth before on the question. He was considering the proposal, and he did not feel like giving his hand away now. All he would say was if the city sold, they should get every possible cent for the franchise.

Opposes a Sale. Mr. Potter, of Potter & McDougall, spoke warmly for retaining the franchise, and was strongly in favor of municipal ownership. Other cities were endeavoring to get their franchises back from private companies. He did not believe in rushing this business for the purpose of helping a few real estate dealers who might get lots on the market on the strength of the proposed railway.

Mr. Fawcett instanced the city of Belleville, who sold their charter and had to take it back. The cities of Guelph and Chatham had failures in their street railways. Under present conditions Edmonton was not in very good shape to build a street railway.

Mr. Bishopric prefaced his remarks by saying he never was a believer in municipal ownership, because Edmonton was too young and too small yet in population. The situation was different from when the charter was offered for sale some time ago. Now, the city's credit would be depressed by the street railway, that would not be a paying concern for ten or twenty years. (Cries of "Question.")

He was in favor of selling with provision for a share in the revenue. Other cities were getting a good share of profit from private ownership. He thought Edmonton could not operate its railway profitably at the present time. It would go bankrupt in endeavoring to do so.

Opposes Municipal Ownership. A. G. Harrison, Secretary of the board of trade, said it appeared as if a gentleman had come to the city, and seeing we were a little hard up had offered to buy. If we wanted the railway in a hurry, we should sell. If we were not in a hurry we should retain it. He was in favor of private ownership under municipal control if possible. Neither private ownership, out and out, or municipal ownership, out and out, had proved a success up to the present.

Mr. Sanderson asked if a revenue was derived from our waterworks and our telephones, and Commissioner Kinnaird stated that there was a revenue from both.

Mr. Sanderson then moved that the city retain its franchise. The motion was seconded by Dr. Park, who stated that as the commissioners could not yet give any idea of proposed revenue and expenditure, the people were here on a fool's errand.

Col. Edwards said in Peterboro, which had been referred to the street railway was paying well under private ownership at present.

Mr. Studholme, manager of the Great West Sundry—"Will this vote shut out further negotiations? Is this a representative meeting?" (Applause.)

The Object of the Meeting. Mr. Bishopric said the meeting was simply to strengthen the hands of the council. There was a further opportunity for a big public meeting. Mr. Bellamy—"Who wrote the article referred to in Mr. Bishopric's remarks?"

A voice—"It is a financial journal." Mr. Bellamy—"Yes, just the people (Continued on Page 7.)"

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