

THE EDMONTON BULLETIN

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DUNCAN MARSHALL, Manager. THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1909.

A DEPOSITION, AN INQUISITION AND A SUBMISSION.

Our Opposition friends held a convention in Red Deer the other day which seems to have been not altogether devoid of interest—not to say of peculiarities. Just how many were present or where they came from we are not informed by the party press, but their doings are duly advertised as those of the Conservative party, and may be taken as representing the views of at least a section of the party. The holding of a convention in itself, however, must be regarded as a violation of the traditions. This side of the House is supposed to uphold the doctrine that rulers are made to rule, regardless of the wishes of consent, and without interference from their humble subjects. Where in this is found authority for a number of the subjects to gather themselves together and say what the party should do—even what it intends to do, and to proceed to the deposition of one king and the enthronement of another is puzzling to an outsider, and we fancy will be puzzling likewise to a large section of the rank and file who regard the faithful support of constituted authority as the proper and also the politic course. The wisdom of swapping horses when crossing a stream seems not to have weighed in the minds of the delegates. Nor were they deterred by the fact that a convention for the framing of a party policy was an unintended snub to Mr. Borden, who despite party papers, protests and petitions has steadfastly refused to call any such gathering and has faithfully asserted in practice the right of the ruler to rule.

Much emphasis is laid on the fact that the resolution inviting another gentleman to assume the provincial leadership was moved by Mr. Robertson, the member for High River, and at present the official head of the party. Just what else could have been expected it would be interesting to know. Mr. Robertson went to the convention knowing well that a leader would be selected or invited. He knew also that the man selected or invited would not be K. J. Robertson. "What could the poor man do?" If he opposed the plan or even failed to show sympathy with it, he would be denied the assistance and recognition of the party in his campaign and no doubt defeated. It was up to him to swallow his pride and agree to the proposal. And for him the only way to make agreement seem other than defeat was to make the proposal appear his own. The member for High River apparently thought it better to run a chance, small though it be, of reelection as a follower than to encounter certain defeat as a claimant for the leadership—even though his claims are without question legitimate according to party precedent. Besides, there is the possibility that the honorable gentleman has grown tired of wearing a fruitless crown and wielding a barren sceptre, especially that Mr. McCarthy is tolerably certain that he can hold his seat against the protest. Otherwise he probably prevents him supplanting the honorable gentleman from High River. For though that gentleman was inveigled into signing his own political death-warrant his title to the honor is without a flaw, considering the traditional mode of attaining chieftaincy in his party. He succeeded in getting himself elected to the assembly. He succeeded in getting himself chosen leader or by the elected members of his party. This is the authority, and the only authority, Mr. R. L. Euden has for exercising the powers and enjoying the honors and emolument of leader of the party in Federal affairs. Mr. Robertson is the duly appointed leader and entitled to all the privileges and honor that pertain to the office. To attempt to throw him out of power by any other means than by the votes of elected members of the party in the assembly is rank rebellion. That circumstances constrained him to become a consenting party to his own downfall only changes the plot from forcible dethronement to enforced abdication.

The efficiency of a government may be gauged by the alternative proposals of its opponents. The Conservative delegates who met in Red Deer last week did so for the purpose of formulating a platform to submit to the electors of the Province in opposition to the policy of the Rutherford government. It is to be assumed that they framed their proposals with eyes open for what they considered the weak points of the Government's policy and that they included in their platform all they considered of sufficient importance to be made issues in the coming election campaign. The platform may be taken, therefore, as saying inversely the worst that their enemies can say of the Provincial administration. It is significant that no clause was included asserting the necessity or propriety of the honest expenditure of public money. Yet on no subject are oppositions generally so prone to base criticism of governments, provided the methods of handling the funds seem to offer opportunity for basing criticism on them. Certainly on no subject have the Conservatives in opposition at Ottawa been more ready in recent years to famine, regardless of proof or evidence circumstantial or other. The omission of such a clause in the Red Deer platform can only be taken therefore only as the silent admission of their opponents in convention assembled that they have no fault to find with the manner in which the Rutherford government have handled the public money. This omission is noteworthy in another way. It leaves the Opposition bound by no pledge to maintain the scrupulous honesty in money matters which they admit to have characterized the Government, should the people of Alberta be foolish enough to place them in power. This, of course, is not to be construed as notice to the public that if returned to power they would enter upon a carnival of profligate and corrupt, but merely that the integrity of the Government was so unquestioned and unquestionable in their minds that they did not consider it necessary to refer to the subject—probably did not even think of it. May we always have governments whose opponents do not even associate with them the idea of faithlessness in this all-important matter.

FATE, KIND AND UNKIND.

Fortune is kind to Mr. M. S. McCarthy, M.P., of Calgary. A protest has been lodged against his return to the House of Commons; therefore he cannot become a candidate in a provincial constituency; therefore he will not accept the honor of provincial leadership. Such at least is the amiable fashion in which he replied to the gentlemen who were kind enough to offer him the crown of Mr. Robertson. The statement of disability is plain. This is a formal tribute to the memory of a departed cause—simply this and nothing more. Whatever reason or pretext may have existed for discussing the terms of autonomy four years ago has ceased to exist. The electors of the province have since expressed their confidence in both Federal and Provincial governments. Nor is there any likelihood of the Opposition trying to make "the terms" the fighting ground in the coming contest. As an issue it was a conspicuous failure. As a subject for resurrection it promises even less.

MEANS NEGLIGENT IN NOTING OPPORTUNITIES.

Legislation for the education of the cause for or backward in asking for assistance from the law. So far as known the league have not asked for a plebiscite. Presumably they do not consider the time ripe and think that a premature submission of the matter would hamper and delay rather than promote their interests. Until they ask for a plebiscite the proposal to hold one is a reflection on either their judgment or their concern in the matter.

THE REFORESTATION OF BURNED TIMBER AREAS IS PROPOSED.

On the face of it this means expense, heavy expense, and permanent loss of the desired benefit to accomplish the desired end without incurring the expense. The Federal government have already set aside the largest timber reserve on the North American continent on the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains. This if properly looked after should ensure an ample supply of timber for all time. The Dominion government have undertaken the matter it is well to let them do as much toward it as they will. When they decline to go further will be time enough for the province to take the question up.

THE APPOINTMENT OF A COMMISSION TO ENQUIRE INTO THE POSSIBILITIES OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF ELECTRICAL POWER INVOLVES NO RADICAL DEPARTURE FROM THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY.

The subject came up a few weeks ago in connection with the project to develop power for Edmonton on the Athabasca river and the proposal for a general inquiry was made in these columns. Heretofore it has not been endorsed by the municipalities, who are the parties directly and indirectly concerned. When these see fit to ask for investigation it will be up to the Government to move in the matter.

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN EXPERIMENTAL FARM IS CALLED FOR.

The establishment of an experimental farm is called for. The Province already has two and the establishment of others will follow as a natural development of the aggressive policy of the agricultural department as the necessity arises.

IT IS PROPOSED TO PUT THE TELEPHONE SYSTEM UNDER A COMMISSION.

This is good or bad according to what is meant by a commission. If this means a manager or managers responsible to the Government and disinterestedly, all well and good. That is precisely as the system is today. But if it is proposed to hand the enterprise over to a body of irresponsible men to be run as caprice, prejudice or self-interest may suggest, the matter is different. This country has not abandoned responsible government yet.

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE IS PROPOSED.

An agricultural college is now being held at Lacombe, where a short course in practical agriculture is being given at little expense, to farmers who care to attend. In time, of course, a regularly equipped institution will be required and provided. But for the time there are some advantages of no small degree in the "movable college" or the short courses of instruction given at various points throughout the province. This brings the college to the people instead of making the people come to the college.

IT IS PROPOSED TO CONTINUE THE COYOTE BOUNTY.

The bounty is being continued. Adequate government hail insurance is declared desirable; the premier declared the same thing in the House two weeks ago and intimated that legislation would be brought down providing for the reorganization of the hail insurance business on a self-sustaining basis. A new election act is proposed; one is now before the legislature for consideration. It is proposed to put the meat packing industry on the same basis as government creameries; the report of the commission inquiring into the matter will be submitted to the House at an early date, accompanied, no doubt by the declaration of policy hinted at by the premier a fortnight ago. Civil service reform is suggested; it will be first necessary to show that and where the service needs reforming.

THE GOVERNMENT CONSTRUCTION OF LEADING HIGHWAYS IS APPROVED.

Merely an embodiment in words of the policy the Government have been pursuing ever since they came into power. The erection of initial elevators by the government is called for; the Government announced some weeks ago their willingness to undertake the problem if the necessary amendments to the provincial charters of the grain-growing provinces could be secured. More land titles offices are requested; an unobjectionable proposal if they are needed and the expense is not too large. It is proposed to amend the Joint Stock Companies act to prevent swindling by promoters; an undoubtedly beneficial end if it can be achieved, and a measure that would be complied in line with the Government's steadfast endeavor to prevent injustice. Mr. Borden's leadership is

ENDORSED BY LEGISLATION FOR THE EDUCATION OF THE CAUSE.

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ON THE WHOLE THE IMPORTANT PLANKS OF THE PLATFORM—THOSE WHICH DEAL WITH MATTERS OF OUTSTANDING CONSEQUENCE ARE GOOD—ALSO THEY ARE EMBODIMENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY, PAST, PRESENT, FORECAST OR DESIRABLE AS DEVELOPMENTS.

The remainder of the list comprises an unhappy blending of inconsequentialities which have nothing in common but their impotence. On no single subject of fine importance did the convention radically with the Government. Yet, presumably, they did their best to locate points of divergence. The platform is the carefully weighed views of delegates said to be thoroughly representative of the party as to points on which the Opposition might wish to differ with the Government. As such it constitutes a striking testimony to the honesty and efficiency of the administration. The Government could scarcely do better than circulate the Red Deer platform as campaign literature, illustrating just how little fault their opponents are able to find with them.

CURRENT COMMENT.

The people of Peace River want a railway. Why should they not have one? Hardly Bay may be made the C. P. R. western terminus. Once more Sanford Fleming may be crowned the king of Canadian engineers.

New Ontario is making a name as a stock country. The blind pig is said to thrive particularly well under the considerate treatment of the license department officials.

Ontario newspaper men want the libel laws made more reasonable. There is room for improvement in such legislation generally. A conviction for libel under the existing laws is as often a high compliment to the "offender" as a condemnation; and more often still it is neither. This can hardly be a correct condition of things.

Two Ottawa papers are lawing about the right to use Buster Brown supplements. Both should be restrained in the interests of juvenile sanity. There was a time when Buster Brown under the spell of J. F. Outcault was put through a weekly laughable antic. Now a dozen copyists are making him the pretext for cartoons which are neither humorous nor harmless, which in numberless cases verge on the vulgar and in many accomplish the idiotic. It is time either Buster or his trudecs were dead.

THAT ST. PIERRE DEMONSTRATION.

Politics at Back, Such is Statement of French Colonial Minister. Paris, Feb. 11—In the chamber of deputies, Colonel Minster declared the agitation at St. Pierre, Miquelon, had been provoked by certain persons in Paris for the purpose of exciting the public schools of California in an anti-discrimination "against the worthy class of people sojourning amongst us," and urgently requests the legislature "to set its right before the Japanese and the world on this great question."

SHIPPER WILL NOT PAY SHORTAGES.

Ottawa, Feb. 11—At the Dominion Maritime Association's meeting this afternoon, bills of lading occupied considerable attention, and it was agreed that shippers should refuse to pay more shortages than from 50 to 100 bushels of grain on 100,000. Both American and Canadian shippers now refuse to be responsible for the large shortages which have been occurring. G. A. Tomlinson, of Duluth, and W. J. Smith, Montreal, represented the American shippers at the meeting.

IMPRISONMENT BETTER THAN LIBERTY.

New York, Feb. 11—Sick and gaunt, nearly dead from exposure and unwilling to go back to Sing Sing, two escaped convicts were captured at New Durham, N.Y., by Police Captain Goleman and Roundsman Wallace, of West New York. The prisoners, Paul Kelly and Chas. G. McCarthy, Kelly's condition is critical. The men escaped Tuesday.

CHICAGO BEEF FOR BRITISH ARMY.

London, Feb. 10—A Chicago firm has been awarded a contract to supply the British army with corned beef for three years. The first delivery, between 500,000 and 1,000,000 pounds, will be made next July and further deliveries will be in accordance with the requirements of the army. The meat will be packed at Chicago under the supervision of British officers.

GRAND TRUNK STOCK DROPS.

London, Feb. 12—The Grand Trunk has declared 2 1/2 per cent. dividend on its second preference stock, carrying forward a large amount. The passing of a full dividend was expected and consequently the stock fell several points today.

TORONTO CLERKS TO ORGANIZE.

Toronto, Ont., Feb. 16—A broadcast call has been sent out among the retail clerks of the city to attend a meeting in the Labor Temple Friday evening for the purpose of organizing a Union and Protective Association.

GRATERS IN THE B. C. ELECTRIC COMPANY.

Vancouver, B. C., Feb. 15—There has been a big upheaval in the B. C. Electric offices in Victoria. Many suspensions for alleged grafting have been made amongst the high officials.

KIDD ELECTED IN CARLETON.

Ottawa, Feb. 16—Edward Kidd, M.P., carried the Carleton Conservative convention at Stittsville this afternoon by a majority of 16 over W. F. Garland after three ballots had been cast. The voting was Kidd 129, Garland 113, W. F. Arncliffe and George Beese dropped out. It is unlikely that there will be a Liberal candidate. The vacancy was caused by R. L. Borden electing to sit for Halifax.

LONG SERVICE MEDALS FOR I.C.R.

Moncton, N.B., Feb. 16—General Manager D. Pottinger today presented long service medals to twenty-two veterans of the Intercolonial railway service. There were twenty-six presentations scheduled but four of the number were unable to be present. Two of the recipients have each been fifty years in the service. They are Machinists John Brown and Foreman Howard Brown.

MIDDLE WEST IN GRIEF OF STORM OF FEAR.

Chicago, Ill., Feb. 17—A storm of sleet and snow blew over Chicago and the middle West on Saturday evening, means of transportation, mail and interstate, all but the telegraph service, and serious injury to persons and property. A man was killed at J. Indiana, by a train on the line, while he was blindly along the tracks through the snow. In Chicago a number of trains were held up by snow on the Perry sidings. One of the Mattoon, a former county sealer, was blown from his Michigan avenue apartment building and his skull fractured. A man was killed at J. Indiana, by a train on the line, while he was blindly along the tracks through the snow. In Chicago a number of trains were held up by snow on the Perry sidings. One of the Mattoon, a former county sealer, was blown from his Michigan avenue apartment building and his skull fractured.

TRANSPORTATION AND TELEGRAPH SERVICES ARE PARALYZED BY STORM—WIND TRAVELS MILES AN HOUR—A TRAIN ONE MAN KILLED, OTHERS INJURED.

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INCORPORATED 1885

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HIGHLY ATTRACTIVE AUCTION SALE. Messrs WALKER & FRASER will sell for Mr. Geo. W. Davies, AGRICOLA, one of the first settlers in the district at S. W. 1/4 16-54-22 W. 4th, 3 miles south of Fort Saskatchewan. Tuesday, March 2nd 1909 at 10 a. m. sharp, (Free Lunch at noon) one of the finest lists of Farm Stock and Implements ever offered by Auction in the district. 19 First Class Horses, 29 First Class Cattle, 11 First Class Hogs, full outfit of Implements, full outfit Horse Furnishings, etc., etc. See posters for full details. EVERYTHING GOOD. RESERVE THE DATE. WALKER & FRASER, Auctioneers FORT SASKATCHEWAN

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