

THE EDMONTON BULLETIN (SEMI-WEEKLY.)

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1907.

A WELCOME ASSURED.

It is reported that Sir Wilfrid Laurier, accompanied by several members of the cabinet, will tour Western Canada next summer. It is to be hoped the report is correct, for it is in every way desirable that the political leaders of both parties should recognize the growing political importance of Western Canada. It is now more than ten years since Sir Wilfrid made a political tour through the West, but he is no stranger to this country. When he came twelve years ago it was to a wilderness interspersed with small settlements scattered at wide intervals. If he comes again he will find the wilderness waning with grain, studded with a hundred thousand comfortable homes, traversed by railways connecting populous cities, thriving towns, and promising villages, whose names were then not on the map. In this marvelous transformation the progressive immigration and railway policies of his Government have borne a splendid part—part which will not find the people of the West slow to recognize or unwilling to admit. He will be assured a welcome far more cordial than he received twelve years ago, and the results of the tour would not be less satisfactory to him than the former pilgrimage.

GOOD SERVICE APPRECIATED.

In re-nominating Dr. McIntyre, the Liberals of Strathcona have shown their appreciation of a worthy representative. Though his parliamentary record is not long, it is one of clear-sighted, persistent and effective public service in which any member might feel proud. His record in which he has distinguished himself by his steady daily attention to business. Dr. McIntyre has distinguished himself by missing only three sitting days of the House during the two sessions he has been a member. Nor does his attention to public affairs end with the session. During the past recess he has traversed the line of the C.P.R. from the provincial boundary to the City of Strathcona, has visited every district in his enormous constituency, and has practically given up the summer to learning at first hand the conditions and needs of the people he has the honor to represent. As a result he has carried back to Ottawa an intimate knowledge of the public requirements of his constituency, and his record during the past two years is assurance that that knowledge will be turned to splendid public account. To represent well a constituency so large, with such varying needs and differing interests, and one in which the evolution is so rapid from a sparsely settled district to a populous one, is no easy task. Yet no constituency in Canada is more faithfully represented, in none are the needs of the people more clearly understood or more warmly advocated, and in none is the extension of governmental services kept better abreast of the changing conditions. His constituents appreciate such services and have testified their appreciation in a most fitting manner.

WANTED: A STRONG COUNCIL.

A regrettable feature of the municipal situation is the lack of aldermanic candidates. There are six vacancies to be filled and the candidates so far placed in the field are scarcely more numerous than the vacant chairs. Nominations take place a week from Monday. Practically the selection of those from among whom next year's council will be chosen. Nomination day is frequently prolific in the production of aspirants, but the candidates thrust in to fill up the list in this short-order fashion are frequently chosen because they are available rather than because they are eminently desirable. It is perhaps a weakness of our form of city government that the executive branch ordinarily occupies a more conspicuous place in the public thought than the legislative body. It is to the commissioners that the ratepayer makes application for improvements, to them in the first instance at least that he appeals with a grievance; only on rare occasions does he come in contact with the city council or concern himself particularly with the doings of that body. In consequence the commissioners occupy the foreground in his thought and to a degree obscure his vision of the elective body from whom the commissioners obtain their power, and to whom they are answerable. This diversion of public attention from the council

to the commissioners is perhaps inevitable under the commissioner form of government, but it is none the less harmful in its tendency to lessen public concern in the composition and behavior of the council. Having little business with the council, the ratepayer gradually loses sight of that body, and proportionately as the functions of the council fade from his apprehension the position and prestige of the commissioners loom in his view. This condition is the more deplorable because of the opportunity it affords for an officious or ambitious commissioner to exalt himself in the public view at the expense of the real governing body of the city. With the reins of power, so far as the ratepayer sees, in his hands, he may dispense favors or refuse them, reward friendship, punish opposition, and make all things work together for the gratification of his vanity or the establishment of his interests. The council is the only safeguard against this process of aggrandisement, and the council can be a safeguard only by resolute and almost unanimous vigilance. If a sufficient proportion of ease-loving or indifferent aldermen can be secured to prevent a two-thirds vote for dismissal this work may be carried on to perfection in the total eclipse of the council by the executive. The establishment of a virtual dictatorship is the peril to which the commissioner system opens the way, and that peril can only be avoided by maintaining the public recognition of the city council as the head of all authority and the repository of all power.

How readily the civic system lends itself to the obliteration of the aldermanic body may be easily learned by asking a number of ratepayers to name the present members of the city council. Probably one in three would be unable to do so, yet all could name the commissioner, and probably the heads of departments. This is an undesirable condition of affairs, and to that degree it is undesirable, to that degree it is necessary to amend it. The city council should be the publicly recognized body of authority, the parliament of the city. To be such it must be composed of strong men—of men strong enough to maintain the ascendancy of the council and to impress the public mind with the fact that the council is dominant. It is desirable to have both, but as an alternative, a strong council and a weak executive is preferable to a strong executive dominating a weak council, for a strong council would soon dispense with a weak executive. Edmonton has many citizens capable of discharging the duties of alderman with benefit. It is to be hoped a goodly number of them will be induced to become candidates.

MR. McDUGALL FOR MAYOR.

The Bulletin cordially tenders to Mr. John A. McDougall its support in his candidature for the mayoralty. It does so certainly from no spirit of antagonism toward his opponent, quite as assuredly from no desire to deny any man the credit due him for services rendered the city, and with regret that the election of Mr. McDougall will involve the exclusion of Alderman Plead from the city council for the coming year. The Bulletin must be understood as supporting Mr. McDougall, not as opposing Ald. Plead, who in no far as an oppositionist has been advanced against the candidature of Mr. McDougall on public grounds. When Mr. McDougall accepted the largely signed requisition requesting him to become a candidate, the Bulletin expressed the view that a better selection could not have been made and no argument has been advanced against his candidature sufficient to alter this view. For this reason the Bulletin tenders him its support, confident of his success at the polls, and that he will discharge with distinction the heavy and important duties which will devolve upon the mayor of 1908.

WHERE THE FARMER STANDS TO GAIN.

The Canadian farmer has much to hope and much to expect from the policy of trade expansion, accomplished in the conclusion of a commercial treaty with France and the announcement that negotiations looking to a similar treaty will be opened with Germany. The first interest of Canada is agriculture and must continue to be agriculture. Great are our resources of forest, mine and sea, the resources of our soil are greater still, and however large the volume these other sources may contribute to the wealth of Canada the product of our farms is and must continue to be the chief item in the export trade of Canada. Whatever other industries may flourish in our wide domain we must continue to be primarily a nation of farmers. The great need of Canada's agricultural interests is a broader market. Already we are producing far more food stuffs than we need, and the surplus volume must continue to increase as the unoccupied areas of our soil

are occupied and devoted to production. Every additional settler who breaks up a homestead or starts a ranch means a larger amount of grain or a greater number of cattle or horses for which we must find purchasers somewhere outside the Dominion. Already we are forced to seek a market abroad for the greater proportion of our farm products, and the proportion must be increased as the volume of the products increases. If the market now open to us does not always return a satisfactory price for the products we now have to sell what would be the condition ten years hence when we offer twice or thrice as much?

For the disposal of our surplus farm products we are to-day practically limited to the market of one country, and in that market we are forced to sell in competition with the farmers of the world. We cannot sell our surplus on the continent of America because our neighbor to the south also produces more products of this kind than he requires for his own use. Whatever the trade with the Orient or with Africa may amount to in future, there is at present little demand for farm products from these quarters. From the continent of Europe we are practically debarred by prohibitive tariffs. There remains to us only the market of Great Britain, and in that market our products come into open competition with similar products from all corners of the earth. Broadly speaking, the whole surplus product of Canadian farms to-day is sold in Great Britain, and sold there in open competition with products from all countries which have them to offer. It follows that for their surplus products, the farmers of Canada get only what the farmers of other countries would be willing to accept for similar goods. The prices we obtain in the British market depend on the volume of products offered in that market by the farmers of the world, and the greater the volume of products offered the lower the prices we are able to secure. The more wheat that is grown and the more cattle that are raised, in Canada or out of it, the less the Canadian farmer can secure for a bushel of wheat or a beef carter in the markets of Liverpool and London. If the prices now obtained are not always satisfactory what would they be if our own production was multiplied tenfold? While we have only the British market open to our products and that market equally open to the products of the world, the greater the volume of our export products becomes, the lower the prices will be able to secure for them.

Fortunately there are other markets not open to the whole of Canada which Canada may be enabled to secure access. They are the markets of France, Germany, Italy and others of the European Powers which must import largely the products which Canada is in a position to supply. From these markets Canadian producers heretofore have been debarred by tariff walls, and it is to them that the Government is endeavoring to gain access, and it is to them that the Government is endeavoring to gain access, and it is to them that the Government is endeavoring to gain access. There is a decent price for his stock, he doesn't care whether he continues in the business or not.

THE GREAT GRAFT SYSTEM.

The United States rejoice (?) in a tariff which is the envy and idol of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association—a splendid example of a tariff whose stature a member of that Association has aptly if inadvertently likened to the gallows erected by His Majesty. Nor does the similarity end with the altitude of the structures. There is a decent price for his stock, he doesn't care whether he continues in the business or not. The tariff is a platform for the whole country to be plundered at will by the protected interests. Is there in this nothing of direct concern to Canada? We have here a Manufacturers' Association clamoring for a tariff modeled and fashioned on that of the United States. We have a political party clamoring for power on a platform which can bear no other intelligent construction than a willingness to inaugurate the tariff described by the Manufacturers' Association. It is the claim of that party that a "Haman's gallows" tariff would produce in Canada the phases and forms and degrees of commercial development produced in the United States. In what other light can this be regarded or by what other term described than as an attempt to introduce here the process of commercial graft which a manufacturer himself declares to have reduced the American consumer to a victim of robbery under law? High tariff is graft itself and can produce only its like.

TESTIMONY TO THIS SIMILARITY OF PURPOSE IS BORNE BY A NO LESS WELL-INFORMED PARTY THAN A MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION—AN ORGANIZATION WHICH REPRESENTS SOUTH OF THE BOUNDARY THE VIEWS TO WHICH THE ALBERTA ASSOCIATION GIVES ITS HEARTY SYMPATHY AND VIGOROUS ADVOCACY.

Mr. H. E. Miles, president of the Association of Implement and Vehicle Manufacturers of the United States, and chairman of the Tariff Committee of the Manufacturers' Association offers this testimony in an article in "American Industries." Discussing "How the Tariff Affects My Business," Mr. Miles says: "I have made money every year out of the tariff graft. Not much, but a little." Explaining how the tariff works out Mr. Miles says the firms which supplied him with materials "have consolidated or formed trusts and have raised their prices 25 to 50 per cent." This increased cost was passed along in this way. "The tariff 'barons' raised their price \$50,000 to \$75,000. I made the charge against the 'barons' of \$25,000, and I know that 'the charged more than \$70,000 for the \$50,000 he paid me. Before reaching the consumer the \$50,000 charge became about \$100,000, to be paid by the agricultural consumer." This little chain in which Mr. Miles himself formed a link was only an illustration of the process of commercial

graft which the high tariff made possible along every avenue of industrial life. The imposition of the 45 per cent. tariff was simply an invitation to the manufacturers everywhere to combine, raise prices and help themselves. The consumer was delivered into their hands, gagged and bound, and they were invited to rifle his pockets and divide the spoils. Needless to say, they did so. The producers of raw material raised their prices, and to enable themselves to do so, combined. The "primary" manufacturers—those who convert raw material into forms in which it in turn becomes material for the factories which turn out the completed articles—followed suit. The manufacturers who bought this material and turned it into finished articles went and did likewise. The wholesalers to whom the manufacturers advanced their prices, admitted the wisdom of the precedent by emulating it. The retailer could not ignore so excellent an example, and promptly copied it. Thus when the finished article was finally delivered to the consumer, it was loaded with a series of profits charged up against it for no reason but that the tariff permitted it, and that the consumer could not help himself. He was the man at the end of the line, and from his pocket came every dollar added to its price by any of the long train of agencies through whose hands it passed on route to him. So long as the final price was not more than 45 per cent. higher than it would cost him to import the article he could do no better than pay that price. All told, Mr. Miles estimates that by the accession of take-offs, imposed on every manufactured article at every step of its journey from the raw material to the possession of the consumer, the "people as a whole are losing not less than \$500,000,000 per year.

This is neither the declaration of a rabid free trader nor of a manignorant of his subject. It comes from one who has been, and is, a beneficiary of the tariff of the United States, and from one who is selected by the organization of which he is chairman as a champion of their tariff committee. His knowledge cannot be doubted; nor could he have any intelligible purpose in exaggerating the abuses of a system which puts money in his pocket. He must be admitted both as speaking with authority and as speaking the truth. The inevitable conclusion which he leads is that the tariff system of that country is an enormous agency of commercial graft; that it enhances prices without shadow of either reason or necessity; and that it changes commerce into robbery by turning over to the whole country to be plundered at will by the protected interests.

At the annual meeting of the Medicine Hat Liberal Association, the following resolution in regard to the Alberta government was passed: Resolved—That this association expresses entire confidence in the Hon. Frank Oliver, Minister of the Interior, in his administration of that important department of the Dominion public service wherein he has shown great executive ability and a wide view of the public questions affecting the welfare of Western Canada. For many years Mr. Oliver has represented Alberta in the House of Commons and on all occasions he has been found fighting strenuously for the rights of his Western constituents, whose needs and requirements he so thoroughly understands. We desire to express the hope that at the next session of the House the proposed land bill, which has so many desirable principles and which is calculated to help the new settler will become law.

A PROTECTION "HANDICAP."

Australia is tackling a new problem in the protection hand-book—how to make the protected manufacturer pay decent wages to his employees. That this should be found a problem requiring solution at all is a severe commentary on the common logic or argument of the protectionists. Ordinarily, the argument runs something like this: If the manufacturer is protected he will make more money; therefore he will be able to pay better wages to his employees; therefore the employees will be able to purchase more goods, and hence everybody will be benefited. The manufacturer is made a kind of commercial pivot about whom the industrial and commercial worlds revolve. If he is hard run his employees will be poorly paid, and the farmer's home market dwindle; if he be made prosperous at the expense of the entire community he in turn will make everybody else prosperous. To such length is the theory carried that a nation can make itself wealthy by taxing itself to enrich one class of its citizens. Australia has discovered however that the argument breaks at the second joint. Protection enables the manufacturer to make more money all right, but it does not follow that the manufacturer pays better wages to his employees. He duly takes advantage of the tariff and boosts the prices of his products, but he coolly pockets all the proceeds and leaves the employees to struggle along on their former salaries. The breakage at the second joint of course puts the third link out of business. The employer not receiving more wages, cannot purchase more produce of the farm and the farmer's home market fails to experience the anticipated boom. Meantime both farmer and mechanic are forced to pay the higher prices for their manufactured goods. The net result is that the manufacturer waxes fat on the increased price he is enabled to charge the mechanic and the farmer, and these gentlemen are made poorer for the same excellent reason. At the same time, the manufacturer having failed to increase the wages of the mechanic, the mechanic is unable to increase the home market of the farmer. Both these parties therefore have increased their expenses without increasing their revenues; they have joined hands in enriching the third party at their expense, but he has failed to return the compliment, and to one not hopelessly infatuated with the protection theory, the course of wisdom and of justice would appear to be to lighten the burden of the farmer and the mechanic and let the manufacturer shift for himself. Curiously enough, however, the remedy Australia will adopt is not to lighten the burdens, but to increase them; not to lessen the tariff favors of the manufacturer but to multiply them. An excise duty is now to be levied on all goods manufactured in Australia; manufacturers whose employees receive fair treatment will have the duty returned, to the others it will not be returned. The result of this of course will be that the manufacturer will add the amount of the excise duty to the prices of his products, the protective tariff enabling him to do so with safety. Then, if the duty is not returned to him he loses nothing, if it is returned to him he gains that amount by the transaction. At the worst, the manufacturer will make as much as he makes to-day; in all other cases he will make more, by the amount of the excise duty. And whether the excise remains in the hands of the Government or returns to the manufacturer, it will come not from the pockets of those who have profited by protection, but from those at whose expense protection has enabled them to prosper, including the mechanic whose wages have not been advanced and the farmer whose home market has not been increased. The Montreal Star, which may be relied on to make the best of the case from the protectionist standpoint, describes how this ingenious contrivance

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ON THE SIDE.

That missing Calgarian has turned up in Montana. He was married, not murdered. Immigration from Ireland is growing, another evidence that we are getting quality as well as quantity. It is now said that O'Gorman the "Liberal" election crook was a Conservative election crook back in the palmy days of the early nineties. This leopard does not change his spots, merely his feeding grounds. The Red Deer News says: "Geo. F. Root has announced himself as willing to accept the nomination of the Conservative party should it be tendered him on December 5th. Mr. Root is one of the best known stockmen and farmers in Alberta. He is a shrewd business man and is fully capable of representing this constituency in the House of Commons. The probability is that Mr. Root will be the unanimous choice of the party 'on that occasion.' Mr. Root will be remembered as the gentleman who put Mr. Borden's meeting off-color by declaring that he was a Conservative and was opposed to high tariff. He should make an interesting candidate for the Opposition."

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A London despatch announces with no appearance of intended humor that the Imperial Government will pay pensions to all South African veterans who die of wounds within seven years of the war. This looks much like a premium for the encouragement of mortality. It might be more effective if it announced when, where and in what specie the debt would be discharged. Lethbridge Conservatives nominated Mr. McGrath as candidate for the House of Commons last week, in face of repeated assurances from that gentleman that he would not accept the honor. After the nomination he was again asked to stand, and again declined, adding that he would guarantee the party candidate neither influence nor support. Winnipeg regards the new freight rates about as the Whitney government regards Dr. Beattie Nesbitt's return to politics. Prominent Western Americans are talking of organizing a new State by joining portions of four present States—a United State as it were. If the London election crooks continue to give evidence they may convict themselves of being as bad actors as the cabinet ministers who were jailed back in the nineties. If their operations have been on a smaller scale so were their opportunities.

ANOTHER.

The following interchange of compliments is said to have taken place between two members of the Australian Parliament: Sir John Forrest—You are a scoundrel. Mr. Maloney—You are a liar. Sir John Forrest—You have favored me so much that I will not say so. Mr. Maloney—You are a contemptible cur. Sir John Forrest—You are a "thing." I must ask the chairman to compel you to withdraw. Sir John Forrest—I will make you withdraw from the House. Mr. Maloney—You are a dirty cur. Sir John Forrest—You are a whelp. The chairman here intervened. Sir John must be the Fowler of Australia.

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Australia is tackling a new problem in the protection hand-book—how to make the protected manufacturer pay decent wages to his employees. That this should be found a problem requiring solution at all is a severe commentary on the common logic or argument of the protectionists. Ordinarily, the argument runs something like this: If the manufacturer is protected he will make more money; therefore he will be able to pay better wages to his employees; therefore the employees will be able to purchase more goods, and hence everybody will be benefited. The manufacturer is made a kind of commercial pivot about whom the industrial and commercial worlds revolve. If he is hard run his employees will be poorly paid, and the farmer's home market dwindle; if he be made prosperous at the expense of the entire community he in turn will make everybody else prosperous. To such length is the theory carried that a nation can make itself wealthy by taxing itself to enrich one class of its citizens. Australia has discovered however that the argument breaks at the second joint. Protection enables the manufacturer to make more money all right, but it does not follow that the manufacturer pays better wages to his employees. He duly takes advantage of the tariff and boosts the prices of his products, but he coolly pockets all the proceeds and leaves the employees to struggle along on their former salaries. The breakage at the second joint of course puts the third link out of business. The employer not receiving more wages, cannot purchase more produce of the farm and the farmer's home market fails to experience the anticipated boom. Meantime both farmer and mechanic are forced to pay the higher prices for their manufactured goods. The net result is that the manufacturer waxes fat on the increased price he is enabled to charge the mechanic and the farmer, and these gentlemen are made poorer for the same excellent reason. At the same time, the manufacturer having failed to increase the wages of the mechanic, the mechanic is unable to increase the home market of the farmer. Both these parties therefore have increased their expenses without increasing their revenues; they have joined hands in enriching the third party at their expense, but he has failed to return the compliment, and to one not hopelessly infatuated with the protection theory, the course of wisdom and of justice would appear to be to lighten the burden of the farmer and the mechanic and let the manufacturer shift for himself. Curiously enough, however, the remedy Australia will adopt is not to lighten the burdens, but to increase them; not to lessen the tariff favors of the manufacturer but to multiply them. An excise duty is now to be levied on all goods manufactured in Australia; manufacturers whose employees receive fair treatment will have the duty returned, to the others it will not be returned. The result of this of course will be that the manufacturer will add the amount of the excise duty to the prices of his products, the protective tariff enabling him to do so with safety. Then, if the duty is not returned to him he loses nothing, if it is returned to him he gains that amount by the transaction. At the worst, the manufacturer will make as much as he makes to-day; in all other cases he will make more, by the amount of the excise duty. And whether the excise remains in the hands of the Government or returns to the manufacturer, it will come not from the pockets of those who have profited by protection, but from those at whose expense protection has enabled them to prosper, including the mechanic whose wages have not been advanced and the farmer whose home market has not been increased. The Montreal Star, which may be relied on to make the best of the case from the protectionist standpoint, describes how this ingenious contrivance

ance is supposed to work. It says: "Of course, where some of the manufacturers of a special line of goods do treat their workpeople fairly and so escape the excise duty, they will soon capture the entire market and drive those handicapped by the excise to the wall." Unfortunately this is precisely what cannot be expected to occur for the manufacturer is not the gentleman who will be "handicapped" by the excise. He will politely but firmly add it to his drafts upon his customers. If the Government does not take it from him he will be the winner; if the Government takes it he will still make the profit he makes to-day. If his profit to-day enables him to wax fat, why should the same profit drive him to the wall to-morrow? And if it did so would this benefit his employees? The "handicap" will be on the public at whose expense he has grown rich, and whom he is now to be permitted to exploit afresh. It has yet to be shown where the pinch is found which will force him to share the benefits of protection with his workmen.

ON THE SIDE.

That missing Calgarian has turned up in Montana. He was married, not murdered. Immigration from Ireland is growing, another evidence that we are getting quality as well as quantity. It is now said that O'Gorman the "Liberal" election crook was a Conservative election crook back in the palmy days of the early nineties. This leopard does not change his spots, merely his feeding grounds. The Red Deer News says: "Geo. F. Root has announced himself as willing to accept the nomination of the Conservative party should it be tendered him on December 5th. Mr. Root is one of the best known stockmen and farmers in Alberta. He is a shrewd business man and is fully capable of representing this constituency in the House of Commons. The probability is that Mr. Root will be the unanimous choice of the party 'on that occasion.' Mr. Root will be remembered as the gentleman who put Mr. Borden's meeting off-color by declaring that he was a Conservative and was opposed to high tariff. He should make an interesting candidate for the Opposition."

"IN GOD WE TRUST" HAS BEEN DROPPED FROM THE GOLD COINAGE OF THE UNITED STATES. IS THIS AN ADMISION?

A London despatch announces with no appearance of intended humor that the Imperial Government will pay pensions to all South African veterans who die of wounds within seven years of the war. This looks much like a premium for the encouragement of mortality. It might be more effective if it announced when, where and in what specie the debt would be discharged. Lethbridge Conservatives nominated Mr. McGrath as candidate for the House of Commons last week, in face of repeated assurances from that gentleman that he would not accept the honor. After the nomination he was again asked to stand, and again declined, adding that he would guarantee the party candidate neither influence nor support. Winnipeg regards the new freight rates about as the Whitney government regards Dr. Beattie Nesbitt's return to politics. Prominent Western Americans are talking of organizing a new State by joining portions of four present States—a United State as it were. If the London election crooks continue to give evidence they may convict themselves of being as bad actors as the cabinet ministers who were jailed back in the nineties. If their operations have been on a smaller scale so were their opportunities.

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TRIBUTES.

At the annual meeting of the Medicine Hat Liberal Association, the following resolution in regard to the Alberta government was passed: Resolved—That this association expresses entire confidence in the Hon. Frank Oliver, Minister of the Interior, in his administration of that important department of the Dominion public service wherein he has shown great executive ability and a wide view of the public questions affecting the welfare of Western Canada. For many years Mr. Oliver has represented Alberta in the House of Commons and on all occasions he has been found fighting strenuously for the rights of his Western constituents, whose needs and requirements he so thoroughly understands. We desire to express the hope that at the next session of the House the proposed land bill, which has so many desirable principles and which is calculated to help the new settler will become law.

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