

THE EDMONTON BULLETIN

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MONDAY, AUGUST 24, 1908.

THE "BACK SETTLEMENTS."

With aristocratic disdain the Winnipeg Telegram announces that the "back settlements" came to the aid of the Saskatchewan Government. The announcement is couched in a way that suggests that the Government is a creature of the "back settlements." The Telegram is not in a position to discuss the Saskatchewan Government with equanimity, common grace should surely restrain them from snapping at the hands that feed them.

Politically the Scott Government could scarcely wish for more than the hearty endorsement of the "back settlements." The people in this country of ours live in the "back settlements." To be popular there means to be in power. If the Saskatchewan Government value long life and happiness they will cultivate with assiduity the friendship of the men in the "back settlements." If in doing so they incur the distinguished displeasure of a few of the dear exquisites of the journalistic world, they need not be awake about it.

But this sneer is not altogether gratuitous. There is a savor of dissent and revenge in it. It is the Telegram's little way of getting even with the farmers of Saskatchewan. It was to them Mr. Haultain, and his associates, appealed. To them Mr. Ames displayed his mighty talents and recited his alleged scandals. To them Mr. Haultain cried that the Supplementary Revenue Act was a monstrous engine of tyranny. It was their indignation he expected to particularly arouse by the demand for provincial control of the crown land. Among them the officials of the Manitoba Government spent their days and nights. To them Don Hichert addressed his glowing remarks. The men who vote Mr. Haultain hoped to get by certain other means—and his hope was pretty well fulfilled; and to farmers therefore he addressed his campaign and sent his emissaries that they were not to be deterred by a letter. The sweeping conclusions of Mr. Ames rested on altogether to slim premises to carry conviction to their minds. The advantage of buying land from the Province instead of getting it for nothing from the Dominion failed to allure them. The "direct tax" they did not hide from them the fact that the Supplementary Revenue Act brought money to the School Boards from the pockets of the land speculators. Behind these unconvincing appeals stood Mr. Haultain calling on the Dominion to abandon the construction of the Hudson Bay railway and leave the Province to build it themselves or do without it. The farmers failed to see their point where their interests were furthered or their rights conserved by this kind of a deal. They answered through the ballot box. Their answer was equally an endorsement of the "back settlements." These are the reasons of the Opposition; an endorsement so sweeping as to arouse the wrath of the Telegram, a condemnation so severe as to draw from it sneer at the "back settlements."

A higher tribute could not be paid to a Government than the approval of the "back settlements." These are the reasons of the pioneers, the nuclei of thriving communities and populous cities. Their approval means that the way is being made easy for those who are laying the foundations of material prosperity and social advancement; that the men who bear the burden of the present and those burdened by the past find that their efforts produce a better order of things and are being encouraged and not thwarted that the Government is playing its proper part toward the development and advancement of the primary and basic interests of the Province.

FORESTS AND FIRES.

Moralists draw from the Fernie fire the lesson of the need of more forest rangers to protect our national timber supply. Very well, but to get down to a few figures, what would it cost to pay fire-guards enough to prevent conflagrations everywhere in the forest areas from the Atlantic to the

Pacific? We have in Canada more than 500,000 square miles of timber remaining in possession of the Crown. To preserve this against the possibility of fire would scarcely require less than one guard to each ten square miles, or 50,000 guards. These at \$1,000 each for salary, horse-keep and expenses would cost us the tidy sum of \$50,000,000 per year. Supposing the Federal and Provincial Governments went to their respective Parliaments next year with proposals to expend this sum on forest patrols, what would happen?

Nor is it by any means certain that the expenditure would be wise, even if it were possible. The Fernie fire is regarded as one of the most destructive that has visited our forests. The area burned is variously given as from 50 to 100 square miles, and the damage is generally estimated as about \$5,000,000. This estimate probably includes the town of Fernie, the mills and lumber stocks, beside the timber, but supposing it covers the timber loss alone, and supposing this represents the average annual loss of crown timber destroyed by fire, we still appear to be some \$45,000,000 per year in pocket, by not attempting to maintain a national fire brigade.

Whether otherwise advisable or not, it does not seem to be practicable for the Governments, Federal and Provincial, to adequately protect the forest areas of the country, nor even any considerable portion of it. Yet unless someone protects it we can only expect fires to continue its depredation. The sensible course therefore would seem to be to sell the timber to some one whose profit it will be to protect it. If it is in the public interest to have the timber protected, and if the public cannot themselves protect it, a part of prudence is surely to entrust the services of private enterprise to do so. For this reason, presuming that we get a fair price for it, and that proper conditions are imposed for the manufacture of the trees into lumber, the sooner the bulk of the timber passes into private possession the better. It is a case where to keep to lose and where to sell to preserve.

Government enterprise may very profitably be exercised in the protection of crown areas so situated as to be most likely of early requirement, and in the protection of areas which may be made a means of regulating lumber prices in future, and which in any event are valuable agents in the regulation and conservation of water supply.

THE ULTIMATUM OF THE HOLD-UP.

Traditionally the first duty of Parliament is to provide money for carrying on the King's Government—or, as we put it in these democratic days, carrying on the business of the country. Public affairs must be competently administered if they are to be properly administered. Public business must proceed regularly if it is to proceed properly. Public works must be carried to completion with a reasonable speed if the interests of economy are to be observed. If the public services are to be maintained in continuous efficiency, public servants must be paid their wages when due. If the country's credit is to be maintained its obligations must be met promptly. The welfare of the people both as citizens and as taxpayers, and as a people demanding that provision be made for meeting their legitimate account that may be presented against the State and for carrying on the functions of Government without interruption. It is the primary business of Parliament to make this provision.

During the recent session we had the curious spectacle of Parliament being held up from making this provision because the majority declined to bandon their right to rule to the minority. The estimates for the year beginning April last were presented to the House of Commons on December 14th. Day after day the Government moved for committee of supply to consider them. Day after day the House was prevented getting into committee by Opposition members rising to re-hash some ancient scandal or to debate some irrelevant and more or less important subject. In the six months up to the middle of May, only 23,000,000 were passed. In the next two months \$50,000,000 were passed. For was this disproportion accounted for by the Legislative output. During the six months period mentioned, 57 bills were passed, only one of first-rate importance. In the last two months of the session, 116 bills were out through, ten of them being measures of first importance. The period when the least money was voted was also the period when the most legislation demanded the most time was also the period when working estimates were voted with scarcely a thought. If Parliament was making its normal during the first six months, the Opposition have to answer for shovelling through both bills and money votes during the closing weeks. If Parliament was working at the normal during the closing weeks, the Opposition have to answer for preventing it doing so during the first half year of the session. As a matter of fact, it is admitted by both sides that Parliament was not working at its normal during either period; that it did almost nothing during the first and did more than could be properly done during the latter.

Why was Parliament prevented voting the supplies for the public service? Mr. Geo. Taylor, chief Opposition whip, explained the reason repeatedly. His dictum was: Drop a certain Government measure and you will get supplies; refuse to drop it and you will not get them. "Say you will get your vote," said Mr. Taylor; otherwise "we will stay here as our leader said till we are thinner than a pipe-stem." "Tell us you will withdraw that bill and the civil servants will get their pay immediately." Here we have the principle boldly set out; Let the majority abandon their right to rule, and we will let the estimates pass; if they refuse to do so, we will prevent them passing; Let us govern and we will entrust the supplies for government; refuse us the power to govern and we will continue to refuse you the means of government. Trim your measures to suit our opinions and we will give you money with which to carry on the business of the country; refuse the measures and the public servants may not be paid, public works may be suspended, the Government railways may quit business, the Post Office may cease to handle the mails. This was the position taken and the reason advanced for refusing supplies—abandon the principle of responsible government, relinquish the right of the majority to rule, declare by precedent and word that the right to govern resides in the party the people have rejected; refuse this, and we shall continue to paralyze the administration of the public business whatever the consequences to the public or the State. This was the ultimatum of the hold-up.

LET US HAVE A MARKET.

It is to be hoped the committee of the City Council will be able to devise ways and means of providing a market building suitable for use during the fall and winter. The interests of economy are said to make it advisable to postpone the erection of a permanent structure until next year. It should be possible, however, at comparatively small cost to provide temporary stands sufficient to accommodate the farmers and their products during the coming cold season. It must be remembered, however, that supporting systems unless they can be utilized to advantage afterwards—re-usefully. Perhaps the extra cost of providing temporary accommodation and next year replacing this by a permanent building would offset the expense of borrowing the money for the building in the present emergency. The construction of a permanent building of materials this year or an inducement also to build at once. If these economies would counter-balance the advantage of borrowing next year at a lower rate of interest, the permanent building should be undertaken immediately. Whichever seems appear the cheaper should be adopted forthwith. The citizens will certainly approve any reasonable expense necessary to convert the market square into a market.

GOOD PRICE PROMISED.

The world's wheat crop is said to be 50,000,000 bushels under the average of the past six years and the present visible supply the smallest since 1897. India and Russia are reported to have a bumper crop. Europe is likely to be dependent on Canada and the United States for its flour for the next six months. If this is true the Canadian wheat grower should receive a good price for his grain, and not proceed from our hundred million bushels should go forward toward re-establishing normal conditions.

THE PLOT REVEALED.

The other side of the Bourassa plot is coming to light. The Halifax Herald breaks the news. Quebec, it says, goes overwhelmingly Liberal, therefore the remainder of the Provinces should go solidly Conservative. To quote from the Herald:

"There is a solid bond in Canada, whose chief bond of solidarity and cohesion is not of Liberal or Conservative principles, nor in any way party political in the ordinary sense of the word. The bond is a bond of race and language—to put it plainly, a bond of kinship, binding the French-Canadian together under the French-Canadian leader, an English-speaking Canada, almost equally divided between the two political camps, is met by a solidly organized French-speaking Canada drawn into the ranks of the party."

"The combination of a solid and formidable bond on racial lines is in itself an offence to the political game. On both these grounds it calls for a counter-combination."

The Herald's proposal is the complement to the campaign of Mr. Bourassa in Quebec. Of what nature that campaign is Le Nationaliste told us some days ago. With the Herald explaining the other half of the program

we are in position therefore to judge what manner of tactics our Opposition friends are relying on for the coming contest.

Thus while Mr. Bourassa urges the people of Quebec to revolt against Sir Wilfrid Laurier, the Halifax Herald urges the people of all the other Provinces to conspire against the people of Quebec. In Quebec Mr. Bourassa declares against the imperialism of Sir Wilfrid Laurier; outside Quebec the Halifax Herald raises the cry against the provincialism of Sir Wilfrid Laurier. Mr. Bourassa bases his claim on the ground that Sir Wilfrid is lacking in racial sentiment; the Halifax Herald bases its proposal on the ground that Sir Wilfrid represents nothing else than racial sentiment. This then we arrive at: the people of the Bourassa alliance; in Quebec the cry is to be "Laurier is too English for Quebec;" outside Quebec the cry is to be "Laurier is too French for the English-speaking Provinces."

The Herald's proposal, be it observed, is that an alliance should be formed against Quebec just because it is Quebec. The people of Quebec are largely French-speaking; the great majority of them are Roman Catholics; in politics they favor a leader who is a French-speaking Roman Catholic; therefore, argues the Halifax Herald, it becomes the duty of all the other Provinces to form a "counter-combination" and return opponents of that leader to Parliament. The alliance is proposed, not for the advancement of the confederates but avowedly in antagonism to Quebec. Its idea is to readjust the lines of party cleavage and to line the English-speaking Protestants of Canada up in unbroken array against the French-speaking Roman Catholics of Canada. It is founded on the assumption that because the people of Quebec are French-speaking, are Roman Catholics, and are largely Liberals, therefore they are a menace to every other Province in the Dominion. A menace so great that these Provinces should band together for the express purpose of returning members of Parliament of a contrary complexion. In effect the Herald says that because the people of Quebec are mainly French-speaking, are Roman Catholics, and vote Liberal, their representatives should be prevented having any say in the government of our common country, and to prevent our common country from being governed by the having any say in the other Provinces for the open and avowed purpose of sending to Parliament a majority of members of the opposite political stripe.

Racial antipathy has been made the tool of unprincipled politicians in this country ever since it has been a country, but it is doubtful if a more diabolical method of design was ever given publicity than this proposal to unite eight Provinces in a deliberate attempt to destroy the representative privileges of the ninth, simply because the people of that Province are of a race and religion different from the majorities in the other seven. Fortunately there is no danger of the plot succeeding. One reason why it will not succeed is that the people of Quebec are not the blockheads they have seemingly been taken to be. Supposing the plot succeeded, what would be their condition? Suppose at the solicitation of Mr. Bourassa they voted for the Liberal Party, and that by the Herald's alliance the Opposition came into power. Quebec would then be ruled by a Government which acknowledged no obligation to represent them, which had been elected for the precise purpose of disregarding them, and then having any say in the government of the country. Clearly the Opposition do not highly value the intelligence of the Quebec electors if they imagine those electors will consent to be blindfolded by Mr. Bourassa while they are gagged and bound by the Herald's anti-Quebec propaganda.

There is danger of the Herald's proposal filling general favor among the English-speaking people of Canada. Despite what the Herald and similar firebrands have been able to do to the contrary, Canadians are still Canadians, recognizing the necessity of national unity and the folly of provincial and racial discord. They will repudiate with disgust the proposal to array themselves under the banners of creed, to single out a member of Confederation as a common enemy, and make war on the representative rights of its people.

But if the plot fails it will be by no means the fault of the party man who commissioned Mr. Bourassa to preach a crusade against Canadian ideals in the Province of Quebec, and who has chartered the Halifax Herald to engineer a coalition of eight Provinces to destroy the legitimate Parliamentary power of the ninth.

THOROUGHLY ORTHODOX.

The Edmonton Journal vigorously opposes the proposal to establish reservoirs in the mountains to conserve and regulate the water supply of the Western streams. The Edmonton lumbermen, it says, asked the Gov-

ernment to build booms in the rivers to hold their logs. The Government instead is considering the plan proposed of establishing the reservoirs by which the volume of the streams could be controlled and which would at the same time provide an ample and continuous water supply for irrigation in districts where this is necessary or advisable. This the Journal condemns because it will cost more money. It was quite willing that the Government should spend money for the benefit of the lumbermen alone, but froths at the thought of increasing the expenditure that the benefits may be extended to the farmers also, and through them to the whole community. Always for the class, always against the mass; always for the few, always against the many; always commending a contribution to some special interest, always condemning a measure for the general interest. The Journal is thoroughly orthodox.

SPARE THE DUCKLINGS.

The sound of the shotgun will be heard in the land on Monday. It is Civic holiday in the Twin Cities, and scores of sportsmen will be in the sloughs in the cold and dewy morning to lie for hours in the mud, banging at the flying birds and enjoying life immensely. Let us hope that discretion may season their ardor, and that only the mature birds will be shot. On the lakes everywhere one sees flocks of ducklings, too small to shoot, but offering an easy mark. Let them be spared. It is neither good sport nor good business to kill them. They are not worth the shot now, but they will be ducks later on if spared, and a shot at a duckling often costs the chance of a shot at a duck hiding in the vicinity. The man who shoots these helpless creatures does no credit to himself; he is akin to the fellow who steals candy from a child. Let every sportsman who understands and values the word do what he can to restrain the ill-considered enthusiasm of his less experienced or less considerate companions.

A BUSINESS PROPOSITION.

Calgary Albertan—Some weekly newspapers throughout the province are complaining of changes in the rates for telephone service since the province of Alberta has taken over the telephone business. The province of Alberta has made a change, it is true, but that change has been for the benefit of the telephone business. The Alberta newspapers would not have thought well of a proposition to sell their good will towards the Bell telephone for half of twenty-five dollars a year taken out in trade. If the company took out the required amount in advertising, the paper and the company were even up. Now the base of a newspaper man's life, particularly in eastern Canada, is the advertising. The influence of the newspaper on the general conditions of industry and commerce cannot be mistaken. Mr. Walker, president of the Commercial Union, who speaks with peculiar authority, predicts "very easy money" for next year. Mr. Jones, a successful businessman, predicts a bumper crop in Western Canada, and it met with noisy rejoicing, and with all the while a bumper crop of adversity. In 1908 there was a bumper crop in Western Canada, and it met with noisy rejoicing, and with all the while a bumper crop of adversity. In 1908 there was a bumper crop in Western Canada, and it met with noisy rejoicing, and with all the while a bumper crop of adversity.

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CURRENT COMMENT.

The conclusion seems to be that our innecerator is somewhat particular what it consumes. Special C.P.R. constables are to travel with harvesters' excursion heretofore. This is good business on the part of the C.P.R., but it does not argue much for the Whitney Government that they leave to the business instincts of a private corporation the duty of protecting the lives and property of the people in the scattered communities of Northern Ontario.

AN INDICATION OF CANADA'S PROGRESS.

Montreal Star—The statement that the revenue of the Canadian Pacific railway for the company's fiscal year ending with June 30th last exceeded seventy-one million dollars is fresh evidence of the stupendous progress this country, despite a temporary setback, is making along all lines. The income of the Canadian Pacific last year exceeded by two million dollars that of the railways of the Dominion seven years ago; it is five millions in excess of the receipts of the Dominion government in 1903; the monies which poured into the coffers of Canada's greatest railway in the 12 months ending with June were 40 per cent greater than the revenue of the United States government, aside from the postal service, in the first year of the civil war.

The position achieved by the first of our transcontinental railway lines is indicative of the status attained by the country generally. Nor is the limit yet reached. What has been attained is merely a promise of greater things to come. A LOAD. Sydney Record—About the only sane and sensible political utterance we have seen in the Halifax Herald for many years is that which we quote elsewhere today, and which is as follows: "Mr. Borden," says the Herald, "would greatly strengthen himself with the people by relegating Mr. Foster to a seat on the back benches of the party." Which is an undeniable fact, as everybody knows. Probably nobody sees it more clearly than Mr. Borden himself. But what can he do? Mr. Borden is not of those genius who can bend circumstances to their will, and so it is that in this case circumstances are too strong for him. Mr. Foster for one reason or another, cannot be relegated to a back seat so easily as the Herald seems to think, or rather did think when it gave expression to the above truth. Foster is Borden's "old man of the sea." He cannot be shaken off, and he has performed his duty though he be to be carried about on the party shoulders.

Counting the Days to Safety.

Montreal Herald—There is no getting away from the lesson of the crop returns sent out by the Government after the most thorough inquiry. Canada is reaping the most disastrous harvest in her history, and the influence of the 1908 crop on the general conditions of industry and commerce cannot be mistaken. Mr. Walker, president of the Commercial Union, who speaks with peculiar authority, predicts "very easy money" for next year. Mr. Jones, a successful businessman, predicts a bumper crop in Western Canada, and it met with noisy rejoicing, and with all the while a bumper crop of adversity. In 1908 there was a bumper crop in Western Canada, and it met with noisy rejoicing, and with all the while a bumper crop of adversity.

Canadian Agriculture.

News Messenger, Marshall Minn.—Recent attempts in certain newspapers of the northwestern states to belittle the great agricultural opportunities presented by western Canada, with unfounded reports of disastrous meteorological conditions, even to stories of snow and frost, will not have the desired effect of lessening immigration to that country from the States; in the face of overwhelming evidence of the great grain crops there this season. To pursue such a course of misrepresentation as has been, and is being made by certain of the press, and by some of the land men whose interests in the northwestern states, is detrimental to the best interests of such territory, as it must meet a lack of confidence in any claims set forth by these land men among would-be settlers from the east and south. It is true that emigration to Western Canada has been most extensive, and will continue to be for several years to come; but it is also true that no farms in this territory are being abandoned, and that for every emigrant to Canada, his place is filled by immigration hitherward from other States and from the centres of industrial population, as well as from abroad. As well might the real estate dealer of Illinois and Iowa denounce Minnesota, as for our land men to denounce Canada. So long as Canadian lands are given market value and values enhanced, no less than that can be had in the States, with equal and often greater productivity, so long will the northwestern farms pass beyond the northwestern State's search of homes. The quicker that Canadian lands are occupied, and values enhanced, the better it will be for this section of the State's agricultural domain. And the greater the number of Americans who locate beyond the boundary, the better it will be for both countries, thus hastening the time for removing the imaginary line upon which is suspended burdensome tariffs. Passing through more than three

thousand miles of western Canada's agricultural lands as was the case during the last half of July, touring the northern and southern farming belts of the province of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, the numerous agricultural drives through the great fields, were made to realize not only the magnitude and the crops, but the magnitude, in measure, of the vast territory opening, and to be opened, to farming immigration. There are hundreds of thousands of prospective farmers there, and millions of acres under cultivation, but there is room for millions more, and other millions of acreage available. The value of farm lands is much greater than two years ago, and is rapidly increasing, to such an extent that with like stimulus and marketing conditions, the values of Minnesota will soon be reached—a condition that cannot be too quickly hastened.

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It is too much to expect that Monday will fail to produce the usual list of shooting fatalities. Annually the sportsmen who take to the sloughs on the opening day are more numerous, and the more numerous the sportsmen around a slough the better the chances of some one getting shot. If every hunter were seasoned enough to keep his head and accurate enough to put the shot-somewhere in the vicinity of the bird, there would still be an occasional accident from falling shot or the premature discharge of faulty guns; and a large number of the hunters are neither seasoned nor accurate. It is by no means uncommon to see a "rattled" amateur standing in the half-light of the dawn firing at everything that moves, high or low, at any range, and at any point of the compass, while the other sportsmen bury their heads in the grass and hope that he will run out of ammunition. Still more common is to see one trailing along in the wake of a companion with gun loaded and hammer up. Then when a duck rises he fires, forgetting all about the bird. Usually the duck escapes, but not always the unwise companion. Another type of hunter deserves the unmeasured condemnation of every sportsman who values his life—the man who sucks a flask. In the dim light of the early hours the vision is none too clear and the hand none too steady. The man who persists in further blurring his vision and unsteady- ing his hand by pouring whisky into an empty stomach is a positive menace to everyone within range. He should be taken to the rear and tied securely to a tree. Some accidents are perhaps inevitable, but a free exercise of common sense would materially reduce the number. A wholesome working maxim to remember is that all the ducks that ever flew are not worth risking a human life for.

CURRENT COMMENT.

The conclusion seems to be that our innecerator is somewhat particular what it consumes. Special C.P.R. constables are to travel with harvesters' excursion heretofore. This is good business on the part of the C.P.R., but it does not argue much for the Whitney Government that they leave to the business instincts of a private corporation the duty of protecting the lives and property of the people in the scattered communities of Northern Ontario.

AN INDICATION OF CANADA'S PROGRESS.

Montreal Star—The statement that the revenue of the Canadian Pacific railway for the company's fiscal year ending with June 30th last exceeded seventy-one million dollars is fresh evidence of the stupendous progress this country, despite a temporary setback, is making along all lines. The income of the Canadian Pacific last year exceeded by two million dollars that of the railways of the Dominion seven years ago; it is five millions in excess of the receipts of the Dominion government in 1903; the monies which poured into the coffers of Canada's greatest railway in the 12 months ending with June were 40 per cent greater than the revenue of the United States government, aside from the postal service, in the first year of the civil war.

Counting the Days to Safety.

Montreal Herald—There is no getting away from the lesson of the crop returns sent out by the Government after the most thorough inquiry. Canada is reaping the most disastrous harvest in her history, and the influence of the 1908 crop on the general conditions of industry and commerce cannot be mistaken. Mr. Walker, president of the Commercial Union, who speaks with peculiar authority, predicts "very easy money" for next year. Mr. Jones, a successful businessman, predicts a bumper crop in Western Canada, and it met with noisy rejoicing, and with all the while a bumper crop of adversity. In 1908 there was a bumper crop in Western Canada, and it met with noisy rejoicing, and with all the while a bumper crop of adversity.

Canadian Agriculture.

News Messenger, Marshall Minn.—Recent attempts in certain newspapers of the northwestern states to belittle the great agricultural opportunities presented by western Canada, with unfounded reports of disastrous meteorological conditions, even to stories of snow and frost, will not have the desired effect of lessening immigration to that country from the States; in the face of overwhelming evidence of the great grain crops there this season. To pursue such a course of misrepresentation as has been, and is being made by certain of the press, and by some of the land men whose interests in the northwestern states, is detrimental to the best interests of such territory, as it must meet a lack of confidence in any claims set forth by these land men among would-be settlers from the east and south. It is true that emigration to Western Canada has been most extensive, and will continue to be for several years to come; but it is also true that no farms in this territory are being abandoned, and that for every emigrant to Canada, his place is filled by immigration hitherward from other States and from the centres of industrial population, as well as from abroad. As well might the real estate dealer of Illinois and Iowa denounce Minnesota, as for our land men to denounce Canada. So long as Canadian lands are given market value and values enhanced, no less than that can be had in the States, with equal and often greater productivity, so long will the northwestern farms pass beyond the northwestern State's search of homes. The quicker that Canadian lands are occupied, and values enhanced, the better it will be for this section of the State's agricultural domain. And the greater the number of Americans who locate beyond the boundary, the better it will be for both countries, thus hastening the time for removing the imaginary line upon which is suspended burdensome tariffs. Passing through more than three

thousand miles of western Canada's agricultural lands as was the case during the last half of July, touring the northern and southern farming belts of the province of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, the numerous agricultural drives through the great fields, were made to realize not only the magnitude and the crops, but the magnitude, in measure, of the vast territory opening, and to be opened, to farming immigration. There are hundreds of thousands of prospective farmers there, and millions of acres under cultivation, but there is room for millions more, and other millions of acreage available. The value of farm lands is much greater than two years ago, and is rapidly increasing, to such an extent that with like stimulus and marketing conditions, the values of Minnesota will soon be reached—a condition that cannot be too quickly hastened.

A LOAD.

Sydney Record—About the only sane and sensible political utterance we have seen in the Halifax Herald for many years is that which we quote elsewhere today, and which is as follows: "Mr. Borden," says the Herald, "would greatly strengthen himself with the people by relegating Mr. Foster to a seat on the back benches of the party." Which is an undeniable fact, as everybody knows. Probably nobody sees it more clearly than Mr. Borden himself. But what can he do? Mr. Borden is not of those genius who can bend circumstances to their will, and so it is that in this case circumstances are too strong for him. Mr. Foster for one reason or another, cannot be relegated to a back seat so easily as the Herald seems to think, or rather did think when it gave expression to the above truth. Foster is Borden's "old man of the sea." He cannot be shaken off, and he has performed his duty though he be to be carried about on the party shoulders.

A BUSINESS PROPOSITION.

Calgary Albertan—Some weekly newspapers throughout the province are complaining of changes in the rates for telephone service since the province of Alberta has taken over the telephone business. The province of Alberta has made a change, it is true, but that change has been for the benefit of the telephone business. The Alberta newspapers would not have thought well of a proposition to sell their good will towards the Bell telephone for half of twenty-five dollars a year taken out in trade. If the company took out the required amount in advertising, the paper and the company were even up. Now the base of a newspaper man's life, particularly in eastern Canada, is the advertising. The influence of the newspaper on the general conditions of industry and commerce cannot be mistaken. Mr. Walker, president of the Commercial Union, who speaks with peculiar authority, predicts "very easy money" for next year. Mr. Jones, a successful businessman, predicts a bumper crop in Western Canada, and it met with noisy rejoicing, and with all the while a bumper crop of adversity. In 1908 there was a bumper crop in Western Canada, and it met with noisy rejoicing, and with all the while a bumper crop of adversity.

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