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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9 1913.

ELEVATORS AND EMPIRE.

Is the safety of the British Empire worth a string of elevators? Notice the conduct of that world-renowned patriot, R. B. Bennett, whose burning fear for the cause has led the public to crown him R. Bonfire Bennett!

Mr. Bennett gave up a very desirable position as he says so himself—to devote himself to the cause of Empire—and he has said that himself, too. He resigned his position as counsel for a wealthy corporation to lay upon the altar of the nation his manifold talents, to be used as the nation desired.

Since Mr. Bennett resigned, he has spent his time occasionally in the Canadian House of Commons, endeavoring to pass legislation and vote money to save the Empire. He has been most solicitous for the welfare of the Mother Country. He has been more than that. He saw the crisis while calmly reviewing a German sausage, and an emergency of a distressing and threatening nature in the noise of a German band. To him the mysterious flitting innocently about in its nightly visitations, was a bonfire of demonstration, the work of dangerous traitors. And Mr. Bennett, in his work of bolstering up the Empire, did not hide this dangerous light under a bushel.

Mr. Bennett has labored with great diligence in this self-imposed task of Empire saving. He favored the Bordenaval scheme, which would have Canadians buy ships and force Englishmen to do our fighting for us. He spent nights and days in saving the Empire in this unique manner and in insisting that the people who paid should have no opportunity of expressing their opinions.

But while Mr. Bennett was engaged in this important task of saving the Empire, the deadly news came from Western Canada that the elevators were in danger. Mr. Bennett is the Elevator Trust of Alberta. The saving of the Empire was more pressing at Ottawa than ever before, but with the Elevators threatened by a government which was making competition to his Trust possible, the Empire-saving business was not so pressing. The Empire could postpone being saved for a couple of weeks, particularly as the elevator monopoly was in serious danger of sudden death at any minute.

It must have been a serious struggle between Elevators and Empire, but Elevators won the battle, and Mr. Bennett is with us, with all his stored-up energy, which might be used to so much profit for Empire purposes, endeavoring to defeat the government which has put the crimp into his Elevator Trust.

It was a serious blow to the British Empire, which seems, nevertheless, to have been worrying along without serious injury.

But at the present moment the Elevators are the thing.

DR. BLOW'S STANDARD

According to Dr. Blow, Premier Borden is a falsifier, an untruthful man and a breaker of sacred promises. We believe that Dr. Blow is a little too hard on his Conservative chief.

Dr. Blow in his speech, which does not vary much from night to night, concludes his address by declaring that he does not believe that Premier Borden will fulfill his promise and turn the natural resources over to the province while Premier Sifton is in control.

But Dr. Blow attended a public meeting in this city in 1911 and heard Premier Borden say that if he was elected he would turn the provincial resources over to the provinces. The Sifton government was in office at that time. Premier Borden did not say that he would fulfill his promise, provided that the Sifton administration was not in control. He addressed the electors, face to face, and he made that promise without qualification. Now not only does Dr. Blow say that Premier Borden should not, but that he will not carry out his promise.

If that is Dr. Blow's standard of political rectitude, it is not safe to send him to parliament. If he can get up on a public platform and defend a man for openly violating a sacred promise, we do not know what he would do if he ever became our representative. That is not his standard in private or business life. He should not be sent to a place where he would be tempted to depart from his high standard.

AN EFFICIENT MINISTER.

As the provincial campaign nears its close, the Hon. Duncan Marshall, minister of agriculture, is coming in for his usual share of personal abuse from a section of the Tory press. It has been for many years in Canada a systematic method of a certain kind of newspaper to try to abuse certain men out of public life. It is true the method has not worked very successfully, as the Canadian pub-

lic do not take very kindly to this treatment of its prominent citizens. It is now nearly eight years since Duncan Marshall came to the province of Alberta. A few months after his arrival here the first provincial election was held. Although Mr. Marshall was a stranger in the country, he was by no means a stranger to a good many people in every part of Alberta. His ability as a public speaker was well known, and when the campaign began he was in constant demand in every part of the province, and to say that he carried on an aggressive campaign and carried the war into the enemy's camp was putting it mildly.

The Conservatives decided that something must be done, so they selected their most unscrupulous man for the task. He gathered together the names and circumstances in all the constituencies in which anything dishonorable had been practised, or alleged to have been practised, and an article was prepared and published in The Calgary Herald charging that Duncan Marshall had been connected in some way with every one of these incidents. It will be remembered by those who were residents of Alberta then that Mr. Marshall had spoken in Calgary the night before this article appeared. As soon as he saw the article he arranged to have another meeting in the city. It was one of the largest and most enthusiastic meetings that had yet been held in Calgary, and what he did at that meeting to the Calgary Herald and its untruthful editor will be remembered for a long time by every body who attended it. So effectively did he disprove every one of the cowardly allegations made against him that he not only retained the confidence of the Liberals of the province, but gained a good many friends even outside of the province.

In the year 1909 he was nominated as the Liberal candidate in Olds, and was elected by a very large majority. When he was taken into the government of the province in November of the same year he was re-elected by this constituency. During this contest the Conservative papers had ceased their policy of blackguarding, but when later some difficulties arose in the ranks of Liberalism in the legislature, and the Conservatives had some hopes of gaining power, not so much on account of any policy they were offering the people, but through dissensions in the governing party, they again began the old system of attack, the system of which Premier Sifton has been the victim since taking the reins of power in the province. The old falsehoods with regard to Mr. Marshall were again raked up, and some of them reproduced.

When the legislature met in the fall of 1911 these matters were taken up by the minister of agriculture on the floor of the house. He took them one after the other and categorically denied them and proved them to be falsehoods. He went further than that. He offered a challenge to the whole Conservative party in the province of Alberta. He did not ask them to prove that he had been connected with ballot box stuffing or dishonesty of that kind, but made them the offer that if they could prove that he had ever been inside of a constituency during the time the ballots or ballot boxes had been tampered with, that he would resign his seat in the house and leave public life. It is well known that the Conservatives in Alberta had prominent lawyers in Toronto spend time and money trying to connect Mr. Marshall's name with dishonest election practices in Eastern Canada, and these men had to acknowledge absolute failure in their efforts. There is nothing they would not have done, and nothing they did not try to do in order that they might connect him with something that would dishonor him with the Liberal party, and all their efforts ended in the blankest kind of failure; but it will not be at all surprising if before this campaign ends, the most contemptible kind of falsehoods are published in the province in an attempt to not only discredit the minister of agriculture, but to make attacks upon other members of the government.

During all this time there has been no more able or effective advocate of Liberal principles than Duncan Marshall, and as an administrator in his department of agriculture he has exceeded even the expectation of his warmest friends. He has brought to this department the vim and energy that has characterized everything he has ever attempted. He has been all his life an enthusiastic live stock man, and he has given an impetus and an inspiration to the live stock industry of Alberta, until he is recognized not only in Alberta, but in every part of the country as a real minister of agriculture, and his efforts are giving the department of agriculture the standing that its importance in a province like this deserves. His scheme of agricultural education has for its keynote. "The instruction of the farmer's boy in scientific and practical agriculture." Born as he was in a one-room log house on a bush farm in the province of Ontario, he has the keenest sympathy with the pioneer and the pioneer's life in a new province like Alberta, and it is his ambition and determination that the son of the farmer in this province shall have better opportunities of agriculture than did the boy on the Ontario farm. And it can be said of him that few public men have ever kept in so close a personal touch with every phase of the work of their department than has the minister of agriculture of this province.

As a member of the legislature he has had charge of several important bills, everyone of which is a measure that conforms with the true democratic spirit of Liberalism, for which Mr. Marshall has always stood. It was he who introduced the act to strike chattel mortgages out of implement agreements in 1910, and this year he supplemented it with the present act respecting agreements for the purchase of agricultural implements. He also introduced the act respecting the rights of married women and the property of their husbands. The Thresherman's Lien act was also his legislation, by which the man who works with a threshing machine is given the first charge on the earnings of the machine for wages. He also introduced a new Dairy act, by which means of its providing for the

grading of cream and butter has raised the standard of Alberta dairy products. Amendments to the Weed act, the Pound law, and the Game act have been introduced by him, the result being that the game department has not only become self-sustaining, but is now revenue producing for the province. Taken all together, his work, both as a member of the legislature and a member of the government, have reflected credit on both himself and his constituency, and on the entire Liberal party, and of course, as a consequence of his aggressiveness and ability, he will be, during this campaign, subject to the contemptible and personal attacks that the opposition papers make a habit of making against every energetic Liberal.

Editorial Notes

If the credit of the province is injured by the A. & G. W., the financiers in London know nothing about it, and are paying as much for Alberta debentures as they are for Saskatchewan, and more than they are for British Columbia. They should know nearly as much about it as Rev. S. E. Hillocks and other great financiers.

The Conservative press questions the correctness of an interview an Albertan reporter had with Leader Michener, who was not as optimistic as the premier about winning out in the province. The leader has not contradicted the interview, and cannot contradict it, because it is a correct report of what he said, and the statement made by him was not unreasonable, except in one or two respects, such as the probable outcome of the election in Medicine Hat.

During the last few meetings Rev. S. Bacon Hillocks, the candidate in North Calgary, has not told the story which made him somewhat famous. He has not explained where he was wrongly quoted in the early part of the campaign.

While opposition speakers in Alberta are trying to make themselves believe that they are criticising the government for its direct legislation enactment, the Conservatives in Ottawa are trying to force through legislation of an unprecedented nature, to choke off free speech in the house and prevent the people of Canada giving any expression of their opinion on the question of the navy.

Dr. Blow is not bringing the university question into the fray, but he gives every person the impression that he has such a notion. He sits quietly by, while his speakers prance up and down the platform, flaunting it, and waving it to the breeze. The university question is not one for party politics. It has never been a party question, and never should be. If Dr. Blow has the interest of the university at heart, he should call off his tailless supporters.

Rev. Dr. McQueen, president of the Society of Temperance and Moral Reform, is satisfied with the temperance record of the present government, even if Mr. Grindstone Hunt is not, and Dr. McQueen is not a near machine agent either.

The spectacle of R. B. Bennett leaving his task at Ottawa of saving the British empire to come double quick to Alberta to save "my elevators," gives one some idea of the value that he places upon the elevator situation.

Mr. Bennett now says that he is only a small peg in the big elevator trust, which does not seem to be correct. He represents the trust in Western Canada, and is he not the same R. B. Bennett who referred to "my elevators" in a speech in Calgary a few months ago? We rather believe that he is the same man.

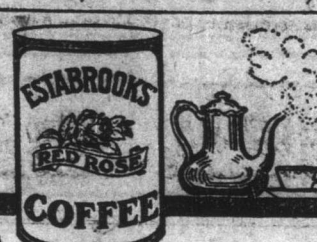
A wireless to The Albertan describes in a very commonplace manner the meeting of Horatius Robertson and your old friend, James Weir, in Hanna last Saturday night, as the most celebrated encounter since the original Horatius held the bridge against the whole army of the Brutes, but history does not repeat itself in Horatius' episodes, and Mr. Weir was an easy winner, without any assistance from anywhere. What Mr. Weir did to his opponent in the oratorical encounter would be cruel to relate.

The Medicine Hat Call (Independent) says that there is nothing ambiguous about the promise of Clifford T. Jones, the Liberal candidate for South Calgary, about women suffrage. It was straightforward and direct. Women, it adds, should take a hand in his election; if they wish the public to take seriously their aspirations for the ballot.

The statement of the part that Rogers is taking in this contest is not exaggerated. A homestead inspector was the principal speaker in a campaign meeting in Carleton Place on Monday night. That looks like Rogers' interference.

The Conservative speakers have been censuring the government for years for guaranteeing the bonds of the Edmonton, Dunvegan and British Columbia railway, not because the road was not needed, but because it made more valuable the property of a man who was brother-in-law of a man who was brother of the premier of Alberta. That was a long distance excuse, but the premier has spotted that by pointing out that even Mr. Purrows had no timber limits near the Dunvegan route.

Auto Bandits Blow Up Bank. Bank of Commerce at Summerville, Ga., early today, robbing the safe of \$2,000 in cash, securities, and several hundred dollars in Alabama.



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Halifax May Have Airship Plant

Halifax, N. S., April 8.—There is a prospect that Halifax may have an airship plant within the near future. The recent speech of Right Hon. Winston Spencer Churchill in regard to Britain requiring an aerial craft has made it plain that England has entered the field. It is understood that inquiries have been quietly made here by capitalists as to the feasibility of establishing a station at Halifax for the purpose of constructing airships of the rigid, semi-rigid and non-rigid type. It is also hinted that attention will be given to the development of aeroplanes.

No Racing Commission in Ont.

Toronto, April 8.—Because of a technicality, in the wording of the measure, Arthur C. Pratt, member for South Norfolk, has decided to withdraw from the legislature this session his bill to establish a racing commission for the regulating of racing in Ontario. One of the flaws in the bill is the omission of the word "horse" though obviously it was the intention to confine the legislation exclusively to horse racing. Under the rules of the house, Mr. Pratt cannot introduce a new bill this session, but instead will bring up a resolution before the legislature embodying his views on the subject. Mr. Pratt said today that his resolution was now in the hands of Sir James Whitney and that it was to the effect that the government should take steps in regard to the proper taxing of the race tracks in the province, and also the establishment of some plan of systematic control.

Flood Damage Claims in 'Peg.

Winnipeg, April 8.—Claiming that an aggregate damage of \$250,000 was done by the recent "flood" and that either the city or the Consolidated Rubber company, or both, were responsible, a deputaion waited on the board of directors of the city of Winnipeg, to demand that the city should take steps in regard to the proper taxing of the race tracks in the province, and also the establishment of some plan of systematic control.

Ontario to Breed Fur Bearers

Toronto, April 8.—A bill designed to encourage the breeding of fur animals was before the fish and game committee at the legislature today. Dr. Reaume, minister of public works, said the bill was designed to facilitate the breeding of fur bearing animals, an industry for which there was an assured future. He thought there should be a provision that any one securing, selling or purchasing animals must have a permit from the department. The bill will be re-drafted and reported with amendments.

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THE TRUTH ABOUT THE RAILROAD DEVELOPMENTS

(Continued from Page 1.)

During the year 1912, the Canadian Pacific railway built 93 miles, the Canadian Northern railway built 53 miles, the Grand Trunk Pacific railway, 254 miles, and the Edmonton, Dunvegan & British Columbia railway, 25 miles, making a total of steel actually laid on December 31st, 1912, of 395 miles. In addition to the above the following grade is complete: Canadian Pacific railway 117 miles, the Canadian Northern railway 318 miles, the Grand Trunk Pacific railway 27 miles and the Edmonton, Dunvegan & British Columbia railway 45 miles, making a total of 818 miles of grade ready for steel, on December 31st, 1912.

It is interesting to note that more miles of steel have been laid by the various railway corporations in the last three years, than in all the previous history of the territory now comprising the province of Alberta. The mileage of railway, under the existing guarantee of the province, is 1,000 miles. Of this mileage, 782 miles was laid up to December 31st, 1912, a little over 78%, and an additional 218 miles of grade ready for steel, which is 34% of the total guaranteed mileage.

Archbishop McNeil Recovers

Toronto, April 8.—"As well as ever he was," was the reply made to a reporter's inquiry today as to the health of Archbishop McNeil, who cancelled his engagements Sunday owing to a slight indisposition. Rev. Dr. McNeil states that the archbishop is quite over his indisposition.

Vancouver Man Suicides

Vancouver, B. C., April 8.—J. Wiley Donaldson, secretary of the North Vancouver board of trade, committed suicide today by shooting himself. He was quite a prominent realty dealer. Financial worries are ascribed to be the cause.

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The Office News

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CALGARY, ALTA, APRIL 9 1913.

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