

provincial assets or investments, yielding revenues indirectly, but none the less surely to the Edmonton treasury.

How is it that a Province which began political existence less than 10 months ago, almost without roads, bridges, ferries, telephones, and other large conveniences, now has all these good things in uncommon abundance, yet owes nothing, and is able to start out on a magnificent yet very sane railway scheme? The answer cannot but be of large interest to all students of politics. They have talked and have been told over and over again, ad nauseam, of the advantages that could not but accrue from uni-party or no-party government. Well, that is what the sensible people of Alberta started in September, 1905, when they began political existence practically unbedeviled by an organized rigid, party system.

### NO PARTY SYSTEM.

The people had not then been really divided into two hostile and mutually cursing camps. Efforts to so divide them failed in the specified year. They had come, mostly people of the great races (American, Canadian, British, Irish, Scandinavian, German, French, Swedish, Norwegian, Icelandic), from all their various native regions quite recently. They were required to choose men to manage the public affairs suddenly given over to their control by the Ottawa Government. They took the common sense course of choosing the best men in sight. It happened that these men were called Liberals, and the Liberal party is therefore entitled to claim credit for the good results. But, in fact, the people set up uni-party or no-party government. That is what it amounts to.

The good men who called themselves Liberals—and all Canadians, except a few stick-in-the-muds, are Liberals in the right meaning of the term—were elected in the proportion of 24 to 1. They were put in sole control, and therefore put absolutely on honor. This came about partly because the so-called Conservatives (who attempted in 1905 to introduce the largely damnable two-party system where there was no sort of real need for it), were obviously 'machine' men, and as obviously inspired and directed by the C. P. R. interest, which the people jealously regarded as dangerous to their interest. The local C. P. R. solicitor was leader and chief bow-wow of the so-called Conservatives. But, no matter how the utter defeat of him and his "tail" came about, the result was to establish uni-party government, which is just about the same thing in a new region as no-party government would be. Complete power was given to ministers obviously devoted to the Provincial interest alone.

### THE ALBERTA MINISTERS.

It should be noted that these ministers were obviously good men. If the people had not chosen such, the fine experiment must have