

**THE EDMONTON BULLETIN**

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**A CELEBRATION OF SUCCESS.**

It comes to few men in a lifetime to accomplish so much and to attain the object of their ambition so satisfactorily as has Hon. Frank Oliver. Coming to Edmonton a pioneer and taking a large share in the hardships incident to a new country, hundreds of miles from railway communication he learned in the school of experience the rights and the grievances of the settlers of Western Canada. He established the Bulletin for the double purpose of publishing the news and expressing his own opinion of the administration of public affairs both in the government of Canada and of the North-West Territories, and until two years ago when the duties of his present office, that of Minister of the Interior, called for his whole time and attention, the Bulletin was valued most for the vigorous opinion of its editorial chief.

In the struggles for self-government in the North-West Territories Mr. Oliver took a leading part and though content to remain a private member of that legislature probably no man contributed so much as he to the victory of the people's representatives in the North-West over the petty tyranny of the lieutenant-governor and the domination of the authorities at Ottawa. He chose the larger field of Dominion politics as the place where he could best serve the people who like himself had come to this great western country to build homes.

And the part he played in the House of Commons has indeed been creditable to himself and the electorate he represented. He asked favors of nobody, pandered to nobody, performed his duty as he saw it, and his place on the front benches of the Commons became his by right, and finally his selection as Minister of the Interior was made by Sir Wilfrid Laurier, not because of influence, persuasion or petition, but because he was the man for the place, which the session of the House of Commons recently closed has amply proven, as even the Toronto News was constrained to repeatedly remark that Mr. Oliver came to the debates armed with that very refreshing commodity, facts.

As Mr. Oliver was advancing in politics the Bulletin was growing with the city and country, and with his usual enterprise the founder of this newspaper recognized the psychological time to enlarge the plant and make the necessary preparations to meet the demand for a metropolitan daily paper, and the large, commodious premises and splendidly equipped plant of the Bulletin of today is the result, and the gathering of some sixty employees of the Bulletin company, on Saturday evening to honor the founder of this newspaper, was a striking evidence that the realization of Mr. Oliver's ambitions as a newspaperman has been quite as marked as his success as a parliamentarian.

This gathering on Saturday evening was an evidence of good will toward, and pardonable pride in the man who made the Bulletin, and every member of the staff took genuine pleasure in assisting at a function that was not only thoroughly enjoyed, but of which the privilege of taking part in, was appreciated by every employee of the Bulletin.

**PROSPERITY ABOUNDING.**

Western people are often accused of always thinking and expressing themselves in superlatives. It is customary for non-westerners to discount the reports of western progress and development. It seems incredible to them that in one decade a land that was unknown and neglected has become the cynosure of the eyes of the whole world. The truth is that the west is in its growing stage, that it is having a rapidity of development hitherto unparalleled in the history of any nation. It is all eager, persistent and irresistible activity, laying the foundations upon which the well being of a great people is destined to rest securely.

The scepticism of non-westerners is not due to malice but to want of acquaintance and extensive knowledge of the growth of the last few years. As

yet, in some centres of capital the west is regarded as a field of investment with a doubtful future. Doubts of this nature are disappearing before the propaganda of facts. No westerner is ashamed of the facts with regard to his town, city or district. Those who are eager for a fuller measure of growth recognize the need of a vast quantity of new capital, to secure which nothing requires to be done except to tell the truth, and publish the facts as set forth in a careful statistical examination of what is taking place.

The history of the financial institutions in the west, the commercial houses, the sale of lands, investments by loan companies, imports, bank clearings, increase of live stock and grain, the building trade and most significant of all the influx of settlers bear ample testimony of the prosperity of to-day, the days to come and the productive forces of the country. A study of the following statistics, comparing 1906 with 1907 will indicate the growth in a manner that requires no explanation:

	Per Cent. Inc.
Head of horned cattle	123
Bank clearings at Winnipeg	371
Foreign imports	129
Sale of Hudson's Bay lands	62
Population of towns and cities	130
Banks and branches thereof	300
Total foreign trade	166
Increase in land values	85
Fire premiums paid	144
No. of horses	200

Possibly the prosperity of the west is better reflected in the increase in the stocks of large corporations whose assets are largely in the west. C.P.R. stock has increased from \$8 to 122 in 5 years. Canada Northwest Land from 25 to 400. Hudson's Bay shares risen 208 per cent. in the last four years. Looking over the entire field of industrial, financial and commercial activity there is nothing that does not reflect abounding prosperity and a wholesome optimism. Nothing shows any depreciation but the chronic pessimism of ten years ago.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier's clear-sightedness in not demanding a colonial preference as a quid pro quo for the Canadian preference has been fully vindicated by the course of the British Government at the Imperial Conference. His interposition between the eager Preferentialists and the ancient free trade wall behind which the present British Government rests will possibly be of untold benefit to future relations.

The tightness of the money market is sometimes used by the pessimist to indicate the approach of hard times and business depression. Financial tightness is a condition today that is not confined to the West; nor is it ominous of hard times. On the other hand it is the outcome of industrial and material development all over this continent and particularly in Western Canada. Money is being taken from the savings banks and turned into the channels of trade and business. Since January 1st the deposits in the savings banks have decreased \$20,000,000, and a corresponding increase is noted in loans. The money tightness is not a thing of today, but a condition of finance which the finances of the west are gradually coping with. It emphasizes the fact that Western Canada, with its rapidly increasing commerce and farm-dotted prairies has become a factor in the world and feels its impulses.

**GORKY'S PICTURE OF NEW YORK**

Mr. Maxim Gorky the Russian patriot pays his respects to New York in an article with the caption, "The City of the Yellow Devil." A translation is the leading article in The Monthly Review for April. It is not complimentary to the great American metropolis. A brief excerpt will show this: "The street is a greasy ravenous throat; therein, somewhere deep down, float the town's murky food scraps—living people. Everywhere—over head, under foot, on a level—lives and rears sinister iron, triumphant in its victory. Evoked into life by the power of gold, inspired thereby, it envelops man in its close meshes, stuns him, drains blood and marrow, devours muscles and nerves, grows and expands. Spreading its chains ever wider, reposing on silent stone." In another passage he says: "I have seen such beggarly faces I am acquainted with. . . Yet the horrors of destitution on the east side are blacker than anything known to me." The full meaning of this statement can only be appreciated by those who read Gorky's Tales of Russian Beggar Life.

**GRAIN GROWERS AND THE ROYAL GRAIN COMMISSION.**

The prosecution of certain members of the Winnipeg Grain Exchange by the Grain Growers' Association of Manitoba last fall seems to have borne fruit. At any rate, the farmers of Manitoba are thoroughly aroused by the revelations set forth in the evidence taken in the alleged conspiracy case before Police Magistrate Daly.

A conference of all the Reeves of all the municipalities of Manitoba is called for June 5th and 6th in the legislative buildings at Winnipeg to discuss the situation surrounding the handling, storage, sale and transportation of grain and to make recommendations to the provincial and federal governments. Ten amendments to the charter of the Winnipeg Grain Exchange are to be asked for. Dealing in futures or options the Grain Growers want abolished; also amendments in the criminal code in respect to combines and restraint of trade will be asked for. The list includes government ownership of line and terminal elevators, reciprocal demurrage and the use of the central as a sale unit.

The discussion of these subjects at the conference will no doubt be productive of good and crystallize public opinion on many questions now in a contentious phase. However, the government is likely to await the report of the Royal Grain Commission before adopting any drastic changes. The information tendered the federal authorities will serve the useful purpose of affording the government a means of checking up the work of the Royal Commission. To introduce any legislation of these matters before the commission's report is submitted would be to publicly discredit the useful work of that body.

**CANADA'S NEW ARBITRATION LAW.**

The recent session of the Canadian legislature is likely to be made memorable by the act in relation to industrial disputes which it placed on the statute books. The Dominion press speaks of this measure as the feature of the session. Its full title is: "An act to aid in the prevention and settlement of strikes and lockouts in coal mines and industries connected with public utilities." It is a natural sequence and extension of previous conciliation and arbitration acts, but it introduces a strong element of compulsion. And though it relates only to controversies affecting coal mines and public utilities, other industries may bring their disputes under the act by voluntary agreement between the parties.

The theory of the act is that common sense and fairness in the initial stages of industrial disputes are certain in most cases to prevent their assuming the acute forms of strikes or lockouts. Hence it provides that any controversy arising in connection with the industries named shall, at the request of either of the parties, be submitted to a board named by the minister of labor. Pending the investigation and proceedings of the board, it is unlawful for the employees to strike or for the employer to declare a lockout. Further, it is made the legal duty of employers and employees in the industries affected by the act to give at least thirty days' notice of an intended change with respect to wages, hours or conditions of work, the object of this provision being to enable the party that may be dissatisfied with a proposed change to apply to the minister for the appointment of a board of conciliation and arbitration. Violations of these provisions are punishable by fines.

**EARLY CLOSING.**

The early closing-by-law comes into effect on Saturday of this week. There has been a general understanding for some time that stores should be closed about six o'clock and the merchants have complied with it fairly well, all the leading business men closing their places promptly. A by-law was supposed to be in force a while ago, but when tried in court it failed in securing a conviction, hence the necessity of passing the new one.

It is not necessary to argue in favor of the desirability of closing places of business at this hour. The clerk, who does his duty between eight o'clock in the morning and six in the evening has earned the leisure of the remainder of the day, and the one who has not earned this much for recreation deserves to be fired. In fact, so potent is the desirability of early closing, both to the employer and employees that the only necessity for a by-law at all is to compel the one unreasonable man from taking an unfair advantage in the struggle for business over the one hundred men who would willingly close without the by-law. It is to be hoped, and it is generally expected, that the by-law will not require any enforcing in Edmonton, but that its provisions will be immediately and cheerfully complied with by all the business men of the city.

**OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATIONS.**

A movement has begun in the various towns and cities of Western Canada that is calculated to have a profound effect than its promoters imagine. That movement is the old Boys' Associations that are being formed everywhere. There is the Bruce Old Boys, London Old Boys, Toronto, Peterboro, etc., etc. Old Boys. These associations will form a link between the old and the new sections of our native Canada and create sympathy that will promote an intelligent understanding of the conditions that prevail in the East and West, respectively. One practical aim that is engaging the attention of the various associations this summer is to obtain from the railways cheap excursion rates to the Eastern cities in order that those who live in the West may have the same opportunity of travelling eastward that easterners

have of coming West. The West can yet learn a few things from the East. There is no danger now that the boys who come West will want to remain in the East, because they have a convenient opportunity of visiting the old Quebec or Ontario farm again. The lure of the West is too strong.

Railway managers and officials have long ignored public opinion and criticism. It now remains to be seen if they will ignore the prison stripes. Public opinion is stiffening and will be heard from in the future. In this connection the Toronto News says: "The horrible wrecks that disgrace our railway systems must be stopped. Doubtless the railways desire it. But when they find that life is cheap, and that these corporate crimes go unpunished, that claims for damage may be 'frozen out' through a discredited system of repeated appeals, and generally that it is cheaper to have wrecks than to pay for equipment and men and system which will prevent wrecks—they grow careless of public safety and callous to private suffering. This iniquitous business must stop. The guilty must be punished, be they humbly employes or high officials behind tiled doors."

"We have imbibed too much of the spirit of cynical disregard for the sacredness of human life which has prevailed in the United States. But there has come a marked change in public sentiment in the republic. The popular clamour against railways in the United States is chiefly due to two causes, dishonest financing and the terrible wrecks and loss of life which disfigure most of the roads. Most of these accidents could be prevented. Prevention may be expensive. What if it is? Is human life and suffering to go for naught?"

"Judges should be instructed by the courts that manslaughter or murder on a railway and by a railway are no different from the same crimes committed by other persons, and that the guilty must be punished precisely as though no railway was concerned. A railway charter gives no license to murder or maim the patrons of the road.

Crown attorneys generally will have to be more vigilant and not so averse to making trouble. They are paid to make trouble. Every man from wiper to president who is charged with culpable negligence should be tried, and the prosecution should be vigorous. If it is found that high officials are really responsible, then prosecute them. Official title is no license to maim or kill passengers."

Of course, such a programme the Canadian Club of Edmonton has undertaken or has been suggested for it might not at all appeal to the Canadian Clubs of other communities. There might be more pressing needs; and it is the genius of the Canadian Club movement that each club is its own master, to order its activities as it sees best and to suit its programme to the needs or features of the place or the time. It is not impossible that in time there may be a general Federation of Canadian Clubs, but any thing which would cramp the local liberty of each organization would be foreign to the general spirit of the movement and inimical to its prosperity and usefulness. If each Canadian Club had as definite and laudable an aim as the Edmonton Club, the movement would spread even more quickly than it has.—Toronto News.

**THE MIRROR OF THE PRESS.**

Federal law requiring the adoption of conciliatory efforts in advance of a strike or lock-out is absolutely impartial in the protection it extends to employe and employer. It affords also protection to the general public which usually suffers more than either of the contending interests in the case of strikes that tie up public utilities.

(Toronto News.)

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**NOTE AND COMMENT.**

Carnegie has given six millions to the Carnegie Institute of Pittsburgh Another institution for Andy to found should be a School of Reform for the Pittsburgh millionaires.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier, with his shrewd political instinct and remarkable talent for great affairs, has held an invulnerable position in the fiscal controversy at the Imperial Conference, and has neither embroiled himself with the British parties nor exposed himself to serious attack in Canada.

The cartoon in the Toronto News on May 13th portraying the present situation in India and representing John Bull throttling a venomous serpent, is an unworthy bit of caricature that misrepresents the situation. The News is surely not going to reiterate the prejudice and inspire the excess of passion that characterized public opinion in England when the news of the Mutiny reached that country fifty years ago, which led Disraeli to say that it was time to take down the altar of Christ and set up the altar of Moloch.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier is noted for saying the appropriate thing at the right moment. Addressing Frenchmen from France at a banquet in London, he said the sentiments of the French-Canadians came "from Canada which preserved them, from France which inspired them, and from England which respected them."

The root garden season has opened again in New York, and we may expect another Thaw.

They are so used to seeing big things in Kansas that a Kansas man recently mistook a grasshopper for an angel flying over the state.

Oleomargarine has been discovered on the Canadian market. Another argument for Henri Bourassa that we are being Americanized.

The U. S. government are spending \$100,000 to erect a monument perpetuating the memory of Columbus. While Carnegie is spending two hundred millions himself for the same purpose.

Toronto is agitated over the Georgian Bay canal scheme, by which it fears it will be sidetracked. Toronto is like Calgary. It thinks it is on the highway to Heaven and the world's markets.

**A WORKING CANADIAN CLUB.**

The Canadian Club of Edmonton has undertaken a laudable work in its effort to arouse the citizens to take an active interest in a comprehensive scheme for beautifying the city. The open and free discussion of such projects will go far to mould and crystallize public opinion and stimulate public action. The Edmonton Bulletin suggests that: "The institution of a public library is another question that might be taken up in the 'near future by the club. At present 'few towns and cities of the province possess public libraries. In this respect the desire of the Alberta Government has outrun public opinion, and has issued what is virtually a 'challenge to the municipalities of the province to do something to put 'the means of intellectual enlightenment before the community.'"

Both of these channels for Canadian Club influences may do much for Edmonton. Both are sound examples of civic patriotism and illustrate the concrete good which follows closely after the formation of such bodies as the Canadian Clubs of our towns and cities.

Of course, such a programme the Canadian Club of Edmonton has undertaken or has been suggested for it might not at all appeal to the Canadian Clubs of other communities. There might be more pressing needs; and it is the genius of the Canadian Club movement that each club is its own master, to order its activities as it sees best and to suit its programme to the needs or features of the place or the time. It is not impossible that in time there may be a general Federation of Canadian Clubs, but any thing which would cramp the local liberty of each organization would be foreign to the general spirit of the movement and inimical to its prosperity and usefulness. If each Canadian Club had as definite and laudable an aim as the Edmonton Club, the movement would spread even more quickly than it has.—Toronto News.

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(Toronto News.)

Advices from the northwestern states indicate that a small acreage of wheat has been seeded. Things are shaping to give the Canadian Northwest farmer a monopoly of the wheat supply next fall. Sow more wheat, then sow some more again.

A new Bourbon has been born heir to the Spanish throne. It is to be hoped that an infusion of British blood will cure the old disease of never learning anything and never forgetting anything which was so fatal to the old Bourbons.

Some Tory newspapers which abused Mr. Aylesworth for standing up for Canadian rights are much concerned about Newfoundland's rights in the fishery dispute, and are attacking the British government. Mr. Aylesworth is a Liberal and the British government is Liberal. Save?

**DOING EFFECTIVE WORK.**

One of the acts that stands most to the credit of the Laurier Government is that of creating the Board of Railway Commissioners for Canada. No corporations were in more need of regulation than the railways. For a long time they had been immune from almost any governing authority and the belief was abroad that the railway companies were all powerful in this country. The appointment of a railway commission had been discussed and delayed for years until the people almost despaired of its appointment and feared that were it established its powers would be too limited to be effective, but the work of the commission has been so "direct and so practical as to disarm all criticism."

If we take but one act of the Commission this year, that of ordering a three-cent rate on the railways in Western Canada, we get some idea of the power of the Commission, and the acceptance of the rate by the railways is significant in showing how the latter regard the authority of the Commissioners, which, by the act that created it was made about as broad as possible.

The work of the board has been facilitated by the fact that it travels to the place of dispute and settles the matter at the place where it occurs, instead of calling witnesses hundreds of miles away to meet the commission. In fact, the members of this board have not hesitated to make a personal inspection of many situations where they were called as arbitrators.

The personnel of the board was well chosen. Judge Killian has made an excellent chairman, and his practice on the bench has no doubt been of great value to him in performing work that is essentially that of a judge. The other members have shown excellent capability, and the whole work of the commission in effectiveness and despatch has exceeded even the expectations of its most sanguine advocates.

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**NATIONAL TEXT BOOKS.**

A few weeks ago the Mail and Empire in calling attention to the widespread interest aroused by the Imperial conference of education which meets in England at the close of this month referred with apparent surprise to the activity of Alberta and Saskatchewan in educational affairs, and said that even these provinces were sending delegates to the conference.

For the benefit of the Mail and Empire and for other newspapers in the East who still imagine that the West is only a synonym for woolly, it may be stated that Alberta and Saskatchewan are keenly alive to the interests of education and the intellectual enlightenment of their people. To attain these ends they have enacted legislation and established a working machinery for its efficient administration.

In this connection, it may be noted that Alberta and Saskatchewan have taken the initiative in a movement that has for its goal the publication and use of a national series of text books for our primary and secondary schools.

The subject is on the program of the Educational Conference in London, where a reciprocal proposition along the lines of uniformity and co-operation in school text books will be discussed. The representatives of Alberta and Saskatchewan are expected to give hearty and outspoken support to the plan, since the two provincial governments have recently completed negotiations authorizing the use of the same readers in both provinces.

Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec are known to favor the scheme and both legislators and educationists have emphatically endorsed it in their public utterances and writings, although as yet no governmental action has been taken.

The advantages of this policy are obvious. It would at once cheapen the cost of text books and increase the field to the publisher. It would be a great advantage to pupils who are transferred from one province to another and tend to consolidate our whole educational system.

But most important of all would be the federal and centripetal effect of nationalization. Education is recognized by true imperialists as one of the most potent of imperial forces. Uniformity of text books is an instrument that will facilitate the operation of the Empire idea.

(Toronto News.)

**NOTE AND COMMENT.**

The money market needs the gold cure.

There's many a slip twixt spring and summer.

The "Baboo" are attempting to "hoodoo" British prestige in India.

Fine weather has so often walked right in; turned right round and walked right out again this season.

The green bug affects more than the wheat crop—it puts a bee in the bonnet of Wall street.

Shepley is conducting an investigation into the methods of the Bell Telephone Company and instinctively Foster and Fowler hit a King's plate gait for the tall timbers.

The Doukhobors would rather give up their farms than their creed. The modern convenience of a reversible conscience has been apparently ignored by them.

Judging by the way the last lot of immigrants talk, the natural thing when a man gets out of work in England nowadays, is to strike out for Canada. That may not be just what suits England, but it suits Canada pretty well.

National school text-books for the Protestant schools of Canada are now being talked of. It will certainly be very gratifying for the Ontario child or the Montreal child to be able to move into Manitoba without finding that the history of the British Empire has changed while he was crossing the border.

Calgary, May 20.—Most of the travelling general agents of the different wholesale implement firms in Calgary spent Sunday in the city. They came from all along the line of the C. and E. railway, north and south, and all report that the country is in excellent condition and that the backward spring has not in the slightest degree discouraged the farmers. That there is an optimistic feeling may be judged from the fact that there is more machinery being sold this spring than ever before in the history of the country. The local agent of one company at Claresholm has already booked seventy-one orders for binders and expects to reach one hundred before harvest. This was done at an agency where there was another agency of the same company only eight miles distant on either side. From other places similar reports are received.

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**HOME RULE OR NOTHING THE**