

ALBERTA COMMISSION

Report of Investigation into Alberta and Great Waterways Company Submitted to Legislature

Edmonton, Nov. 10.—"It can only be said in the opinion of your commissioners that the evidence does not warrant the finding that there was any personal interest on the part of Dr. Rutherford or Mr. Cross, as suggested by words of the resolution of assembly.

These are the concluding words of Chief Justice Harvey and Judge Scott, two members of the waterways commission, in their report of their investigation into the affairs of the Alberta and Great Waterways railway, which completely exonerates all members of the late Rutherford government of any suggestion of collusion or corruption.

"In my opinion, the imputations thrown upon them have been disproved. Mr. Cornwall's evidence established to my satisfaction that while he was at one time interested in the Athabasca railway he ceased to have that or any interest therein by reason of an agreement made between him and Clarke in July, 1908. This was evidenced by the agreement of July 20, 1908.

"No Personal Interest. "(2) That with the above exception to Mr. Cornwall, neither Mr. Rutherford, Mr. Cross nor Mr. Cornwall were at any time up to the date of this inquiry interested either personally or indirectly by himself or through others in the erection, incorporation or organization of the Alberta and Great Waterways Railway company, or in making or entering into or carrying out a certain contract between the government of the province and the Alberta and Great Waterways company, or the guaranteeing by the province of the securities of the said company or the sale thereof, or in the proceeds of or the amount realized from the disposition or sale of the said securities or otherwise, however, in connection with the said company.

"All of which is submitted. (Signed) "N. D. BECK" W. R. Clarke has also emerged with flying colors, as the report does not implicate him at all in any way in wrongdoing.

His reason for giving a separate report is also set forth by Judge Beck, who says that the evidence made quite a different impression on his mind than it did on the minds of his colleagues.

Part Cushing Played. Referring particularly to the part Hon. W. H. Cushing, ex-minister of public works, had to do with the transaction, he says: "My colleagues are of the opinion that it is not important to find what is the truth with regard to Mr. Cushing's knowledge of what took place at the meeting of the ministers in Calgary in July, 1908. In my opinion it is of the greatest importance to do so. Criticism is made of Mr. Rutherford and Mr. Cross on the ground of their knowledge of various things at various stages of affairs, which are the subject of inquiry and from this, coupled with Mr. Cushing's supposed ignorance is drawn an inference or at least a suspicion of an undue favoring of this company on their part with the intent of obtaining benefits from it while not even a suggestion of suspicion is made against Mr. Cushing. I made none, and I think there is no ground whatever to do so, but if it is a fact and in my opinion the evidence establishes it to be a fact, that he had a knowledge of all important steps in the affair, then it seems to me to be illogical and unreasonable that the same circumstances should be made the ground of adverse inference or suspicion against Mr. Rutherford and Mr. Cross."

Cause for Suspicion. Although their exonerate Messrs. Cross and Rutherford completely, the report of Justices Harvey and Scott says that their action as trustees in making agreements in excess of what was granted to others for similar work and with absolutely no knowledge of work to be done other than that offered by Clarke and his engineers, could reasonably give rise to the suspicion that they might have been actuated by some other motive than regard for interests, it was their duty to protect.

It is in this connection that the report says: "The imputation of the words of the resolution of the assembly set out in commission is that the motive is personal interest. Many of the facts and circumstances related are consistent with such a conclusion."

The large general store belonging to Kilgour Bros., at Grassy Lake, was destroyed by fire Thursday night. The loss is estimated at \$25,000, with insurance of \$10,000. The building was of wood and was entirely consumed, the headway of the fire being too rapid to admit of any of the contents being saved. The fire broke out at 10 o'clock, and as the store was closed at 7 no cause for the fire can be assigned.

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WANT MORE TIME.

Several Applications for Extension in Construction of Railways.

Ottawa, Nov. 11.—Several more applications for extension of time of construction of railways are to hand. Among them are the Ontario, Hudson Bay and Western Central, Athabasca Northern, Canadian Western, and Alberta Central and Hudson Bay.

Application for incorporation are: Saskatchewan and Hudson Bay railway, from Saskatoon via Melfort to Pas Misson; Pacific and Peace Railway from Bella Coola, B. C., via Teis Chuck, Cheslatta and Fraser Lake to Dunvegan, Alta.; Skeettle River Valley railway from Penitton, B. C., to Ogogoos Lake to Allison or Princeton and from Coldwater River to Fraser River and to Steamboat Mining Camp; Southern Central Pacific, from North Saskatchewan to Dunvegan, Peace River, Parsnip River and Necanic River, and from Elk River via Waterton River to Coult.

ENGLISH ELECTION

Figured That The Government Will Appeal to The People Either in December or in January

London, Nov. 11.—An early general election being assured, the only question now agitating the country is whether it will take place in December or January.

Herbert H. Asquith, the prime minister, who must decide this question, thus far has kept his own counsel. He left town quietly this afternoon and not even the members of his cabinet knew his destination until the newspapers announced his arrival at Sandringham, where King George is in residence. The object of his visit is to acquaint His Majesty, who, like his father, often confers with the cabinet ministers, of the failure of the constitutional conference and to advise him of the course the government intends to pursue.

It is believed that the cabinet has decided not to carry on any further work with the parliament without such guarantee as would ensure success to the government's policy. Ordinarily the resolution on the power of the House of Lords which passed in the House of Commons at the last session would be discussed in the upper chambers and the government would await its rejection before taking action. The refusal of the constitutional conference to accept the government's compromise, however, makes discussion of the veto-resolution useless, in the view of the radicals, and the opinion prevails that the government either must resign or advise the dissolution of parliament.

FAMILY HOCKEY MATCH

Smiths of Ottawa, May Meet the Banfords of Edmonton.

Ottawa, Nov. 13.—Although nothing has yet been arranged, it is possible that Henry Smith, the well known contractor, will be able to set forth his claim as having the champion family hockey team of the world before long in undisputed fashion. Away out in Alberta there are two families, the Smiths and the Banfords, who have a mighty opinion of themselves as hockey artists, and already the Edmonton settlers of brothers have made application to the Edmonton City Hockey League for admission, and it may be that they have still higher ambitions.

According to an Edmonton despatch the Banfords have established a good reputation for themselves as hockey players in the wheat country, and even though they are a couple of thousand miles away, a match between the Banfords and the Smiths may yet be booked.

The hockey history of the Smith family is too well known to be repeated, and, with Dan, Jack, Al, Harry, Tommie and Billy with professional records in the big leagues, and George a city league star, the Smiths ought to be able to take the measure of any family seven in the universe.

The Ottawa boys are scattered at present, but in case a match should be signed, there would be little difficulty in rounding up the famous combination.

ALBERTA LEADER

E. M. Michener, M. L. A. for Red Deer, Chosen By Conservatives

Edmonton, Nov. 10.—By the unanimous voice of the convention, E. M. Michener, M.L.A. for Red Deer, was yesterday chosen leader of the Conservative party in Alberta. His selection was foreseen at the caucus held in Westaskin the previous night, following the announcement that neither Mr. McGrath or R. B. Bennett would accept the position.

Both Mr. Bennett and Fred Morrison allowed their names to be mentioned in connection with the leadership, but the former withdrew in favor of Mr. Michener. A strong delegation from Vegreville and Vermillion backed Mr. Morrison and at the last moment Mr. Bennett smoothed the troubled waters and declared for Mr. Michener.

W. B. Allen, of Hamilton, formerly private secretary to Hon. J. M. Gibson, the present lieutenant-governor of Ontario, committed suicide by shooting at 7 no cause for the fire can be assigned.

REACHED NO AGREEMENT

Canada and United States Failed to Come to Terms on the Tariff Question At Ottawa Meeting

Ottawa, Nov. 10.—At the conclusion of this afternoon's meeting of the Canadian and United States trade negotiators, the following statement was given out by Mr. Fielding, Finance Minister:

"The conference between the representatives of Canada and the United States on the subject of improved trade relations terminated on Saturday, the 5th instant and was continued on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. The whole session was of a most frank and friendly nature. While no conclusion was reached, the ground was cleared for a further conference, which will be held in Washington probably early in January. The members of the conference, Messrs. Hoyt, Pepper and Foster for the United States, and Messrs. Fielding and Patterson for Canada separated with the strong hope that on the resumption of the conference at Washington, an arrangement can be reached that will prove acceptable to the people on both sides of the boundary line."

Americans Pleased

Mr. Pepper, speaking for the American members, said:

"We leave Ottawa feeling that the outlook is good for a successful issue of the negotiations when they are resumed at Washington. We have appreciated very much the cordial manner in which we have been received in Canada and the frank and friendly spirit in which the Canadian negotiators have met us. However, we cannot make a statement as to any conclusions having been reached because there have been none."

Mr. Pepper exclaimed that there had been a general discussion of the situation and that the ground had been cleared of preliminaries and that January would find much pioneer work done.

It is understood from the commissioners of both countries that the January meeting will result in an agreement being reached.

The feeling at Ottawa is that the natural products from Canada will be given easier access to the United States and that some American manufacturers will be given free admission to Canada. There are a good many lines of those which Canada could admit on easier terms without disturbing the vested interests. Among these are watches and clerks' instruments and many other lines of refined manufactures.

Messrs Hoyt and Pepper will leave Ottawa on Saturday.

WOULD BUILD TO HUDSON BAY

Alberta Central Railway An Applicant for the Construction of the New Road in North Country

Ottawa, Nov. 10.—The Alberta Central Railway Company has entered into the field as one of the competitors for the construction of a line to Hudson Bay, and through its solicitors, Smith and Johnston of Ottawa, has given notice of application to parliament for an act with power, among other things, "To enter into agreement with His Majesty, King George V., as represented by the governor-in-council for Canada, with the minister of railways and canals or with other railway companies to construct, operate, etc., a line of railway in common use, or as may be defined by the proposed act from Saskatchewan northeasterly with terminals at both Fort Churchill and Fort Nelson."

The Alberta Central Railway Company is now constructing its line of railway 70 miles westerly of Red Deer and 40 miles easterly are under construction, while the route easterly has been approved to Moose Jaw. The company is authorized to build westward as far as the Yellow Head Pass and in addition to its line to Moose Jaw has power to build to Saskatoon or Wainman.

The present application is to obtain authority to build several branch lines to project its line southerly to a point on the International boundary and to extend the Saskatoon branch to Hudson Bay and if necessary to construct the latter by agreement with the government or other lines of railway to be the general road in common.

Canadian Bankers.

Toronto, Nov. 10.—At the annual meeting of the Canadian Bankers' Association here this morning, Stuart Strathy, general manager of the Traders' Bank, was elected to the executive council. Mr. Strathy's election came about because of the dropping out of E. T. Thorpe of the Union Bank of Halifax, which followed the merger of that bank with the Royal Bank. This was the only election, all last year's officers being re-elected in their positions.

There is some talk of holding the next annual meeting in Winnipeg in recognition of the growing financial importance of the west.

This matter has not been definitely decided, but it is understood that it will go through.

A GRUESOME REPORT

Four Boys and Man Drowned, and Body of Child Found at Landham, Saskatoon, Nov. 13.—A tragic chapter of events at Landham, about thirty miles northeast of here, is indicated in a report received by the R.N.W.M.P. The report states that four boys had been drowned, that a man had lost his life in the river, that the body of a young child had been found and also a box containing human bones had been discovered.

The report contained but meagre details, but it appears that the drowning of the boys occurred some days ago and that the man lost his life by being thrown off his wagon while backing through the river, they making their way home upgaged.

Detective Sergeant Reeves is investigating. Coroner Isbister went to Landham today and reports having investigated the finding of the box of bones. The discovery was made about four miles from the village. The bones were quite bleached and apparently had either been placed in the box in that condition or the body had been cut up.

TOUGH TIME IN THE NORTH

D. E. Stefansson, Collector of Specimens, Suffers Extreme Privations—Subsisted on Skins and Snowshoe Thongs

Ottawa, Nov. 14.—Forced by lack of food to subsist at different periods on skins and snow shoe thongs, D. E. Stefansson, who is representing the American museum of natural history and the Canadian geological survey in some Arctic explorations, was reduced to extremities last winter on Cape Lyons, one of the most northern points in Canada.

Dr. W. Brock, director of the geological survey, has received a letter written on April 16 last by Mr. Stefansson. This narrative had to be carried several hundred miles by an Eskimo on snowshoes from Cape Lyons to an eastern point in Alaska. Mr. Stefansson, who is a native of Winnipeg, had with him Lieutenant Anderson of the American army and five Eskimos. The party had many difficulties and extreme privations to encounter during the winter.

In his letter the writer tells of many times when they had practically no food except skins and snowshoe thongs. For three weeks steadily they lived on a diet of deerkin, the Eskimos during that time eating up all the zoological specimens collected by the scientist of the party.

Throughout, however, they were able to retain their records and their instruments. Dr. Anderson and two of the aborigines had pneumonia and ten dogs died from the rigorous climate.

At the time Mr. Stefansson wrote the party was about ready to start for Coronation gulf about 200 miles east of Cape Lyons. There was, he reported, no further fear of a shortage in the food supply, as game was plentiful.

One difficulty still confronting the explorers was the great lack of dogs, which makes travel across northern Canada exceedingly difficult. Mr. Stefansson sent down some of his best dogs during that time, and he had a half year spent in the mid-winter months. He expects to return in the fall of next year. The coming winter will be spent in the vicinity of Coronation gulf.

CRIPPEN PETITION.

Eminent Toronto Specialist Takes Initiative in Securing Names.

Toronto, Nov. 10.—A petition asking the home government to grant a reprieve of the sentence of death of Dr. Harvey H. Crippen is in circulation today among the down town financial institutions. The movement was initiated yesterday and its sponsor is stated to be an eminent consulting specialist of the faculty of the University of Toronto and an authority on neurology.

On occasion of the necessity for prompt action the petition is being presented only to prominent clergy, physicians, bank managers and other leading men. "It is intended that it shall be forwarded to England by mail closing tomorrow evening and it will be sent to Mr. Arthur Newton, to be attached to the petitions being circulated in England. Up to last night it was reported that about twenty signatures had been secured these being represented as prominent people in social and business circles. The petitioners state they don't approve of capital punishment, that the evidence didn't prove Mrs. Crippen dead and that since his arrest Crippen had showed admirable qualities.

Another Quebec Election. Sherbrooke, Que., Nov. 9.—A report comes from Lavalin that Hon. Mr. Jules Allard, minister of crown lands, and who represents Drummond county will shortly resign his seat. Report also says that the country will again be in the throes of another election within a month. Mr. Allard was elected by a large majority over a Bourassa candidate at the bye-election and it is expected that the Bourassa party elated over victory for the federal seat, will again put forward a candidate. Provincial rights will take the place of the naval question.

The Manitoba Legislature meets Nov. 24.

Keep Minard's Liniment in the house.

A VICTORIA SHOW PLACE

Songhees Indians Transferred to New Stamping Grounds—Occupied Reservation in Heart of City

Victoria, Nov. 14.—Unless something entirely unforeseen and unexpected occurs, one of the oldest "points of interest" in Victoria will have passed away within a month or two, when the Songhees Indians depart from their old stamping grounds. For many years the reserve across the harbor and, to all intents and purposes, almost in the heart of the business district of the city, was a show place for visitors. Set along the waterfront, bordered by a fringe of dugouts and the Indian craft of every description, the Indian life within a stone's throw of the most important events in local history. While the old reserve was picturesque and interesting, it was a source of regret to those interested in the development of the city. By the successful arrangement now arrived at by the Indians will have better homes and the impediment to the city's progress which has existed for more than half a century will be removed.

Many a story of interest might be told of the reserve soon to be vacated. Some of the biggest potatoes were ever sold on Vancouver Island were staged there. In the early days, not long after the Indians had been placed on the reservation, had blood arose between them and the whites, and there are men living in Victoria today whose memories take them back to certain days when fighting men stood in readiness to repel expected attack by the Indians.

One of the chief features of the reserve from the point of view of the tourist was the large group of Indian hieroglyphics done in black on a background of white and spread over the broadside of one of the largest community houses facing the river. Many were the explanations made of this mysterious group of figures. Every tourist with a camera made a picture of it, and it is safe to say that count. The hieroglyphics were scattered over the civilized globe. Not very long ago The Colonist received a letter from a young man in the Middle West. The States asking for further light on the question of hieroglyphics. This young man enclosed a copy of a picture he had made of the sign during a visit to Victoria, and he also gave some of the details of the "explanation" given him by some party or parties unknown to the said sign. In the group on the wall an eagle is represented with a whale in its talons, while sharks also form a part of the picture. "I understand," wrote the young man in perfect sincerity, "that the picture is a warning placed there by a disgruntled hop-picker. The eagle, representing the United States, is shown with a bull whale in its claws in the act of 'peddling the bull' to the Canadian Indians who have come to the States for the hop season. Nearby the sharks lurk to steal the Indians' money are also seen. But in trying to explain the thing to friends here, I cannot make out what stands for the Indian."

The young man sought information and we turned his letter over to the proper authorities. As nearly as the group can be explained, it may be said to represent a dream of a West Coast Indian whose only daughter was during the salmon fishing season. The huge sign was placed there by the father, Jacob Chip, a Cloosie native, who, although he is said to have swam for seven hours in an effort to reach shore with the girl, was unable to

save her life. By this sign he informs his brothers of the West Coast of the reserve while away the sunny days sitting about the doors of the big community houses or visiting from lodge to lodge. One pretty little Eastern school ma'am even had a faint notion that the braves hunted the beaver all day in birch bark canoes while the women hoed corn and chopped wood. Wide and strong is the influence of "Hiawatha!"

As a matter of fact, many of the men of the reserve work in the city, in canning factories and on the wharves. Others cultivate small farms, raising hay and vegetables, while many more are fishermen. It is one of the sights worth seeing to watch the Songhees fleet of fishing boats starting for the Fraser in tow of a strong tug when the salmon run begins.

On the new reserve new houses will be built, of course, and it is expected that they will be great improvements on the old structures. It is likely that among the older people who will live on the upper portion of the new reserve, some distance from highway or railroad track, the community house will prevail still, while the younger members of the band will probably erect separate cottages. The new reserve, while it will only be a short distance from town, will, by reason of its location, be difficult of access to the older ones, do not take kindly to intrusion, and it is likely that the tourist will find them a much more rare curiosity than formerly.

The reserve from which the Songhees have agreed to depart after all the years marked by futile attempts to have them move, comprises 112 acres and lies just across a narrow arm of the harbor from the main waterfront of the port of Victoria. Yet it is not altogether surprising that the Indians sought to cling to this piece of land as long as they did. Its history it dates back to the earliest days of the settlement; it had its origin in the first ordered attempts to secure civilization at the point where the city of Victoria now stands, and it was the birthplace and lifelong home of practically every member of the band now residing upon it. More than half a century ago the Songhees, who, when the great Hudson's Bay Company came to Vancouver Island, occupied and hunted over the whole southern portion of the island, were gathered together by Sir James Douglas, representing the Company, and placed upon the reserve opposite the present day city of Victoria. Up to that time their village had been at Cadboro Bay, now a charming residential suburb of the city. Then, about 1850, the band entered into an agreement with the company whereby they transferred all their land and gave the reserve on which they had been placed to the fur traders for a small sum approximating fifty-two pounds, ten shillings sterling.

By 1859 Victoria had grown into a town of some importance, and an effort was made to have the Songhees move. The legislative council of Vancouver Island petitioned Governor Douglas in the matter, and he advised them that it would be impolitic to break the engagement entered into with the tribe by removing them summarily. The attempted removal fell flat, and from 1859 down to the present time attempt has followed attempt, all with no result until now. In 1873 Indian Commissioner Powell revived the question of removal and was instructed by the Government to take up the question. He recommended the purchase of an island about 20 miles from Victoria for the use of the Indians. This was approved by all but the Indians. They declined to move and nothing was done further.

In the year 1881 Commissioner Powell reported that a majority of the Indians had agreed to remove to Cadboro Bay, their old stamping grounds, provided suitable land could be obtained for them there. The Hudson's Bay Company agreed to sell the land needed, more than 1,000 acres, for \$56,250, and this arrangement was urged by Mr. Powell as there was already an offer of \$60,000 for the old reserve. However, this attempt too came to nothing because it was con-

considered that the offer of the old reserve was insufficient.

Three years later Mr. Powell and Reserve Commissioner O'Reilly were instructed to take steps to ascertain on what terms the best site for the Songhees could be obtained. Two years later these gentlemen replied, recommending the purchase of two lots in the Metchoshin district—a fertile ranching country—but the Deputy Superintendent-General reported against their purchase until a sale of the Songhees reserve was assured. Sir John A. Macdonald, who was then minister, concurred in this. Up to 1888 correspondence in respect of this proposed arrangement was continued with no effect. Meanwhile Mr. R. Dunsamuir, acting for the Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway Company (since acquired by the C.P.R.) offered \$60,000 for the reserve. He was authorized to treat with the Indians for the sale, but he failed to gain their consent to move. It would be tedious to trace in detail the tedious attempts that ran through the years. The removal of the Songhees became a standing problem inherited from generation to generation. Visits were made to Ottawa, Ottawa made visits to Victoria; elections were won and lost on the reserve settlement issue; the Indians themselves made proposals which were unsuitable, and those interested on the other side made proposals which the Indians would not accept. The list of names of those who set themselves to the task of settling the vexed question would look like a section of the voters' list. At times settlement seemed so near as to be almost assured, but invariably something would go wrong at the last moment until the problem seemed hoodooed. Now, after more than fifty years of trying, success has been achieved!

One of the most gratifying points about the solution of the long-standing problem is the fact that the Songhees themselves are entirely satisfied. They were ready to trade the land they needed to be treated with consideration. At all events nothing but praise of the men who brought about the settlement is to be heard from the Indians, who describe the arrangements as a "Delate cloosh hoy-hoy kimanox Boston-man pi Songhees."

A Miserable Stupend

Montreal, Nov. 10.—An example of the princely salary and treatment the school teachers receive in this province was shown today when Miss L. Monette, of St. Francois de Salles, took action to recover \$97.00 from the school commissioners. The young lady was engaged three years ago at a salary of \$250 per annum, out of which she had to pay \$120 as an assistant. This left her \$130.50 a month. During those three years she swept the floor of the school, scrubbed it, lighted the fire and supplied wood, paying for it. It is in compensation for these services that she now claims \$97, or \$32.33 a year. The number of children graded in the school where Miss Monette taught is ninety-five, with an average attendance of sixty. Judgment was reserved.

Suggests Annexing Maine.

Charlottetown, P.E.I., Nov. 11.—The political union of the State of Maine with Canada is advocated by the Charlottetown Daily Guardian, which says: "It is high time that the statesmen of Canada gave serious consideration to the possibility, to use no stronger term, of admitting the adjoining state of Maine into the Dominion. "A glance at the map is sufficient to show that the State of Maine belongs geographically to Canada rather than to the United States, but being how a foreign country, is to some extent an obstacle to the right development of our great transportation systems, while at the same time the state is shut out."

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