

### The Albertan

A. A. MOORE, W. M. DAVIDSON,  
Business Manager, Editor

MORNING ALBERTAN  
Per Year \$2.00  
Per Month .15  
Per Copy .05

WEEKLY ALBERTAN  
Per Year \$1.00

Telephone 33  
The association of American Advertisers of New York has examined and certified to the circulation of The Albertan.

TUESDAY, MAY 31, 1910.

#### A PREMIER'S RESPONSIBILITY

The Calgary Herald insists that Premier Sifton must be held responsible for the shortcomings of his predecessors. "He will not be permitted to get away from that responsibility. It is not reasonable that he should be."

The Herald has a new idea of responsible government. The Rutherford government was forged to resign because of a bad railway deal, which the people would not tolerate.

The present premier has the confidence of the members because he is opposed to the railway deal, which led to the downfall of his predecessors, yet according to the Herald, he is to be held responsible for the things he did not do, and for a policy which it is supposed, he is directly opposed to.

If Premier Sifton had been a member of the wrecked government, then the contention of the Herald would be reasonable. At the last election Mr. Bennett declined to be held responsible for the action of his predecessors, though there had been no shifting about or revolution of any kind.

You might as well say that Mr. Borden must be held responsible for the irregularities of the Conservative government of 1893 and later, that he must be held responsible for the Pacific scandal and the family compact.

That is not reasonable and it is not done. This is a new government and it must be held responsible for its actions and not for the actions of the defunct government which preceded it.

#### FINANCES OF THE PROVINCE

The Calgary Herald prints an alarmist article about the condition of the finances of the province, and says that Alberta has a debt of something like \$8,000,000. It does not get behind its statement, but qualifies its by "it is said."

Unfortunately, that is about as near as any person can come to the real condition of affairs at the moment. When the public accounts of the province were placed upon the table of the house at the last day of the first part of the session, the Alberta reporter asked to see the statement. But the premier refused to allow any person to go to the table, and the statement was not printed, so the reporter was unable to get it.

On the day following the report was informed that the statement had been looked away in a safe and that the man with the combination was away, and as far as we have been able to ascertain has never come back. The Alberta remonstrated editorially at the time, but of course remonstrances did not go very far with the treasurer of that time in those days.

It is not so terribly alarming even if we have some debt. If the money was well expended and nothing extravagant was done the mere fact that the province is in debt is nothing to be worried about. If the debt is not excessive.

The province went into debt to the extent of \$2,000,000 or so for telephones. That was a very wise investment, and the Herald will find some difficulty in making the point of the investment. The cost price was considerably less than in Manitoba, and an aggressive campaign of expansion has been carried on ever since. It is possible that the Bell company would have made more out of the telephone than the province, but it would have limited the service, and instead of having the wire all over the province, we would have been tied down to the principal points.

The province received a grant of some \$90,000 a year for public buildings, but the expenditure greatly exceeded that amount, the public buildings in Calgary alone costing almost that much, and yet the Herald made its campaign at the last election that Calgary wasn't getting anything.

The problem that was before the province was whether Alberta should build the public buildings out of revenue, or borrow money and make the next generation bear its share of the burden. If we built them out of current revenue it would mean a long delay and also curtailing the annual expenditures for roads, bridges, education and such like. The Alberta believes that the province acted wisely in borrowing money for the construction of these permanent works.

#### THE WONDERFUL WORLD

The world grows more extraordinarily vivid and varied and interesting every day. There never was such a present and future. Mr. Edison tells us that electricity is as yet a mere putting infant, and that it is going to do hundreds and thousands of things as it grows up that will require names we have at present no conception of.

We turn to such a usually prosaic catalogue as the Board of Trade returns, and we find there for the first time the classification among the re-exports, imports, and exports—air-planes, airships, balloons, and parts thereof. Thus the commerce of flying machines marks with other things the rapidity of economic changes.

Once upon a time, not so long in the past it took twenty or thirty years at last for new inventions to win their way, and economists used to argue that changes in employments were so gradual as to reduce to a minimum the hardships occasioned by the adoption of new inventions. But new inventions now come into use with a hey presto and it is done. For instance, it has only taken a few brief years practically to destroy the London horse-cab industry, for new pneumatic taxi-cabs supersede such change does not tell so much on the owner of the vehicles, which have mostly had time to wear out, but on the more mature and inelastic men employed as cab-drivers and cab-builders.

In the same way the construction of the use of concrete has revolutionized in a brief space as has witnessed the apothecaries of the horseless vehicles. Who shall say that the flying machines will not revolutionize transport, and society almost as quickly and efficiently? All this goes to hammer home the need of the study of modern science, of widespread technical education, if a country is to keep in the van of progress. The new unit of society, says one, must be well posted in the principles which underlie the rapid changes which are taking place around him, if he is to be an intelligent and useful member of present-day society.

As wonderful a revolution has been in progress in agriculture as in mechanics—and science is again the father. Only a few weeks ago, Sir William Crookes warned the world that its foodstuffs were in danger, and a famine was threatened, because of the scarcity of nitrogenous fertilizers. But since then we have found out how to supply all the nitrogenous fertilizer needed for a long time to come if not forever by means of a microbe. We used to know that clover fertilized land, but did not know how. In a less surprising way, the western world is rapidly enlarging its sources of food supply. Recently, Dr. Josiah Olden, apostle of vegetarian diet, and one of the leading figures in the Golden Age movement, has pleaded the cause of the humble nettle for spring dietary, and our own delightful dandelion, which is freely used as a vegetable by our incoming population, finds sponsors in the scientific world, and is beginning to be sought after even in Great Britain. Young bracken and wild fern are likewise being turned to culinary uses, as are young shoots of hops, which have found an advocate in the British Board of Agriculture.

Hops in Britain and here have hitherto been associated almost exclusively with beer and yeast, but on the European continent the hop-shoot is now looked upon as a delicacy and esteemed quite as much as asparagus. In Belgium hop-shoots can be obtained in the restaurants from the beginning of March, and figure on the bill of fare as the earliest of spring vegetables. Here then is a beneficent use for the hop. We all remember when the banana was more or less a curiosity, and now it appears daily on the humblest table, while the peanut is more and more taking the place it deserves in the dietary. London—and other cities will follow—is becoming every day more cosmopolitan in taste regards articles of food. The yam, the sweet potato, the mango, the Cape plum, the naseberry, and other foreign vegetables and fruits, are becoming quite recognized articles of diet in the West End, and are gradually reaching the poorer people. And so we might proceed with other specific examples to illustrate how the world is ever finding out new things, extending the use of the old, making the best of everything.

#### EDITORIAL NOTES

The last victory recorded for the peace movement was an additional \$134,000,000 by the United States for more sea fighters.

By the length of time that Mr. Sifton is talking to build the cabinet he seems to be determined to have it solid and Waterways proof.

It is a pleasant reflection that before Mr. Halley and his speedy comet left us we had already started upon the completion of a city hall.

Great dates in history. C. W. Cross and W. R. Clarke at the corner of some side street in Edmonton after dark during the session of the legislature.

The only objection that has really been urged against the suggestion that the province aid the Calgary University is that its name happens to be Calgary.

The Calgary Baseball club has caught the infection and it, too, is roasting serenely, but rather firmly at the top rung of the Western Canada league races.

Now that we are not going to have a beer ad. on the back of our street railway car tickets, the temptations of a great city have been very considerably removed.

In addition to his own abortive campaign for the premiership, Mr. Sifton is also a member of the Liberal party.

A straight, honest, healthful cream of tartar baking powder.

Made from Grapes.

Contains not a grain of injurious ingredient

**Dr. PRICE'S CREAM BAKING POWDER**

Fifty Years the Standard

No Alum No Lime Phosphate

The Calgary Herald believes that a political leader should be held responsible for all those of his predecessors, provided that he is a Liberal leader.

It is pretty certain now that A. McLean and Judge Mitchell will be members of the Sifton cabinet and that is pretty good for a start. No person can find any fault with that selection.

Despite the knocking of one Southern Alberta newspaper the Calgary University is receiving encouraging support from the people, not only in Southern Alberta, but Northern Alberta as well.

The United States people honor the memory of the brave and illustrious dead by having two baseball games during the day instead of one, and having a more than ordinary number of prize fights in the afternoon.

If this flying business keeps improving and people get moving at the rate of 100 miles an hour, business men living in the city may be able to get out, examine their suburban property and return home again on the same day.

The commissioners have decided not to run beer ads. at the back of the street railway tickets, and now some wise outside newspaper, probably the Edmonton Journal, will attribute this decision to a supposed hostility of this city to the lighter intoxicating drinks and will suggest some distillery ad.

#### King of Greece Wins Victory

Greece owes a deep debt of gratitude to King George, for while his ministers and the principal statesmen of his kingdom have been engaged in a long series of foolish squabbles, which have accomplished nothing beyond discreditting the nation to a still greater degree abroad even than formerly, he has been successfully using his personal influence with the foreign powers to secure through them from the sublime porte its consent to the construction of the very brief connecting link between the northernmost points of the Hellenic railroad system, at Larissa and the point of the Ottoman railroad system nearest the Greek frontier.

For several years Greece has been vainly endeavoring to secure this concession on the part of Turkey. But it was in vain, for Sultan Abdul Hamid held that as long as Greece was out of the final emancipation of Crete, that of course, matters did not progress. At length when things quieted down, King George took hold of the subject himself, and instead of dealing with the sublime porte through any Greek statesman or diplomat, he caused the question to be reopened at Constantinople through the ambassadors of his brother-in-law, the late King Edward, and of his nephew, Czar Nicholas of Russia.

When Abdul Hamid was overthrown, negotiations were again started by Athens with the new Turkish government in the expectation that the latter would prove more amenable. But just at that time the Military League in Greece acquired the upper hand, and there was so much talk in connection therewith of a war with Turkey for the final emancipation of Crete, that of course, matters did not progress. At length when things quieted down, King George took hold of the subject himself, and instead of dealing with the sublime porte through any Greek statesman or diplomat, he caused the question to be reopened at Constantinople through the ambassadors of his brother-in-law, the late King Edward, and of his nephew, Czar Nicholas of Russia.

#### WHAT ELECTRICITY WILL DO FOR HUMAN BODY

Eminent Canadian Doctor Says it is Only in its Infancy

London, May 30.—In an interview Sir James Grant of Ottawa, an eminent Canadian physician, said the action of electricity on the human system was only in its infancy, and the day was not far distant when thousands were suffering from debility as a result of imperfect assimilation of food and defective power of their blood will have such deficiencies corrected to a remarkable degree by a scientific application to the great ganglionic bioblast centres.

"I feel confident," Sir James said, "that we are at the commencement of the discovery of the uses of electricity, which for years, more or less, has been used more as a toy than anything else."

#### Prominent Barrie Man Dead

Barrie, Ont., May 30.—Mr. W. R. Triffin, superintendent of the northern division of the Grand Trunk railway, died here last night, after two weeks' illness from paralysis. He had been fifty-two years in the service of the company, starting as messenger at the age of 15 years.

#### IN THE COURTS OF EUROPE

Emperor Nicholas' government announces that no recourse will be had to the money markets, either at home or abroad, in connection with the huge sum of \$400,000,000 which is needed for the reorganization of the army and the reconstruction of the navy.

The minister of finance, Kokoszewski, one of the ablest financiers in Europe, who enjoys in an altogether exceptional degree the confidence of the haute finance in the various foreign capitals, declares he will be able to provide for this great expenditure without asking for any loans, by means of a considerable increase in the tax on alcohol and by the raising of the price of all that portion thereof that is produced and sold by the state under the latter's right of monopoly. As drunkenness is the besetting vice of Russians of every class, and is particularly rampant among the masses, this move on the part of the government can only be commended, since it is calculated to discourage intemperance and at the same time to fill the treasury.

Then, too, the minister of finance proposes to inaugurate for the first time in the dominions of the czar a tax on all incomes, no matter from what source, above a certain figure. People with small incomes will escape altogether, and the impost will fall on the rich and the actively rich who are well able to pay.

The income tax, moreover, affords an additional means to the government of exercising supervision over the unexpected either of ordinary crime or of revolutionary intrigues. There already is a system of death or succession duties in Russia, which affects none but fortunes of a certain magnitude. This tax it is proposed to make much heavier.

The project of the minister of finance already has received the unanimous approval of the cabinet, of the council of the empire, and of the czar, and is now under consideration, already is committed to the necessity of completing the reorganization and regaining of the army, and of the urgency of reconstructing the navy, no matter at what cost, the means derived by the minister of finance, which place most of the expenditure in connection with the program upon the shoulders of the rich and of the drunkards, are certain to receive legislative approval.

Moreover, every patriotic Russian feels a certain amount of pride in the idea that despite all foreign prognostications of Muscovite national bankruptcy a year or so ago, the Russian government is able to embark on this big expenditure without recourse to loans at home or abroad.

The reconstruction of the navy provides for the immediate building of six new battleships of the Dreadnought type, six large and two heavily armed and heavily gunned cruisers, in addition to smaller cruisers, destroyers, and submarines.

#### REFLECTIONS OF A BACHELOR

(From the New York Press.)  
Much swearing of means much more swearing on.  
A woman's faith can long outlast the reason for it.  
The poetry of courtship gets very early knocked into the prose of marriage.  
If a girl made up her mind to, she could fall in love with a man that was not even born yet.

#### POINTED PARAGRAPHS

(From the Chicago News.)  
Occasionally a man gets so discouraged that he feels like writing poetry. After a girl has been in love three or four times she ceases to regard it as a serious matter.  
When you see a girl with a bathing suit on it's a sign that she thinks she has a good future.

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**HOT WATER WHEN YOU WANT IT**

Only one movement of the handle required: Half way, and your cold water runs; all the way (your light is lit), and in 4 SECONDS your HOT WATER is running. The same small space of time to get back to cold water.

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and office buildings, fac-

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**WEST.**

ford for the 125 yard

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**New World's Record.**

Ohio, Pa., May 30.—M

the Irish American A.A.

made a new world's r

feet 1-inch in showing

weight for height in total

record in this city. This bea

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the competition was only

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