The West

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UNION LABEL

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24, 1909.

The Hudson's Bay Road.

What do the farmers of these western provinces think of the government now? One of their strongest planks at the last general election was their policy with regard to the railroad to Hudson's Bay. One would almost think from reading their campaign literature and from the addresses of the Liberal speakers that the road would have been almost ready for operation by this time. Strange to say, parliament is not to be asked to consider the question at all this session except by way of granting a sum for surveys.

Judging by the statements of Mr. Graham, minister of railways, the government has not even considered the question yet. When R. S. Lake asked Mr. Graham if it was to be a government undertaking his reply was just a reference to the statement made by Sir Wilfrid Laurier at Niagara during the campaign when he said it would be built by the government.

Why doesn't the government get busy? The people of Saskatchewan supported the proposal to build the Hudson's Bay road and are the people to have no consideration at all? Perhaps the Hudson's Bay road is to be kept aside to be trotted out at another election.

Poor Terms.

Just why the Dominion government gave such poor terms to the two western provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan has not yet been made known. It is obvious to all, however, that Saskatchewan would have been far better off if we had got our lands. Referring to this subject the Calgary Herald says: That Alberta should have her lands, minerals, water rights, timber, in a word her birthright, her natural heritage, has been the constant demand of the opposition. Mr. McCarthy brings a return from Ottawa that amply justifies this contention. Before the province is fairly well known, before the soil has been fairly scratched, before the mineral wealth has begun to be prospected, the dominion government rakes in hundreds of thousands more than is paid this province. Was it love for western Canada or love for some bucaneer friends of the federal government that dictated this grave injustice? The province is literally being butchered to make a grafters' holiday. Ontario has an area of 260,000 square miles and a revenue from lands of over $3,000,000 every year. Alberta has an area of 250,000 square miles and a revenue of $357,000. The most it can be is $1,125,000 with a population of 2,000,000. Ontario receives over three million dollars from her crown lands. With a population of 5,000,000 Alberta will get $1,125,000.

Newfoundland Too.

In Newfoundland they evidently have machine politics and they have had a government that handed out cash before election time as the following from the St. John's Free Press would indicate:

"It is a matter of notoriety that at the general election the powers of government were wielded to the uttermost, and it will come as a surprise to few to know that the expenditures in some of the districts during the few months preceding the election was nothing short of scandalous. We have heard of one district where over 100 voters were given $10 a piece for well digging, whilst in another district the expenditure on wharves was of the most corrupt character. Doubtless the new government will avail of the opportunity to throw "the garish light of day" upon the transactions of the past few months. In addition to the employment of the machine, pressure from within and without was brought to bear; sectarianism in its worst form was employed; and cries of the most false character were started with more or less success against the people's party. Despite all Bond failed to triumph, and had he done as any other British premier, colonial or otherwise, would have done, he would have tendered his resignation before December 1st He preferred to hang on to office until the last possible day, and then made a request for a dissolution, forgetting that he had already appealed to the country and had not been sustained. In accordance with constitutional usage, Sir Edward was called and his government is now at the head of affairs."

Editorial Notes

If Laurier's party was returned to power we were to have the "immediate construction of the Hudson's Bay railroad." And again a number of electors were fooled.

By the way, perhaps Walter Scott made a mistake and dropped the letter containing his resignation in the new post office. In that event it will be made public any day now.

Alberta is to be congratulated on having R. B. Bennett in the legislative assembly. He is a strong man and needless to say the government will have to exercise a little more care with their legislation.

Each of the thirteen months preceding February showed heavy decreases in Canada's imports. In February, however, there was an increase of $2,188,614 over February 1908. This is, it is hoped, a sign of better times returning.

The G.T.P. have asked the government of Canada for a loan of $10,000,000. This is what comes of letting Sir Wilfrid Laurier finish his work. According to Sir Wilfrid's estimate before the arrangements were made for the new transcontinental road, it was only to cost $13,000,000. If we are to believe some of the Liberal papers this latest loan is one of the grandest things that ever happened, but how they can justify it, when the rank extravagance of this railway has been so often pointed out beats us.

Press Comment

(Toronto Telegram.)

Crow's Nest Pass coal fields have passed under the control of James J. Hill and will be managed as the Canadian annex of his United States railway systems.

What better does Canada deserve? A country that permits private greed to grab 250,000 acres of the best anthracite coal fields in the world, as the Crow's Nest Pass coal fields were grabbed by the Globe's friends, does not deserve to have any coal fields.

Canadians by their dealings with the Crow's Nest Pass opportunity have earned the rank to which James J. Hill has promoted them—that of hewers of wood and drawers of water to the United States.

(The Commercial)

In the struggle against mail-order houses, the retail merchant should have the enthusiastic support of his local paper. There are many reasons for this, one of which is that if the catalogue houses drove the country merchant out of business there would soon be death to the town paper. There is much said about how to combat the evil, and the gist of it all appears to be that the consumers must be educated to see the folly of trading with such gigantic concerns to the detriment of their own localities and at the expense of quality.

The country paper should be in a good position to reach the farmer, and explain the situation to him. When the local paper takes up the cause of the retail merchant in his town, he is working in the interests of the farmer. That is our firm belief, judging from a wide perusal of matters pertaining to the relation between the farming community, and the community's town or village.

The local paper in each town, the retail merchant and the farmer should all join hands in their own interests, and work together for the good of their locality, shutting out the mail order house.

(Bystander in Toronto Sun.)

Homage is due the late Queen for her domestic life and for the purity of her court. That she never made a mistake can hardly be said. But she was guilty of neglect and conscious neglect of duty in persistently refusing to visit Ireland, where she would have been received with enthusiasm and perfectly safe. The Irish heart was left without the object of personal loyalty for which it yearns, and the place of which was taken by the agitator and the plotter of disruption. The island, a large part of it, at all events, is now evidently being given up to deplorable lawlessness, and there is imminent danger of cowardly concession which would be sure to result in dismemberment of the United Kingdom. This, while blood and money are lavished to annex the Transvaal republic and ambitious projects are on foot for an empire with members in every part of the globe. Had the late Queen done her duty, the Irish peasant, as those who know him best say, would have been satisfied with a measure of land reform.

The Roman Catholic clergy of Ireland are good in their professional way, though too prone to political agitation. But their encouragement of early marriage, if it prevents sexual vice, must socially and economically be mischevious by causing undue increase in population.

(Winnipeg Tribune)

The Conservatives of Ottawa have on opportunity to follow up their threatening policy to do something radical and really DO something radical.

In connection with the Grand Trunk Pacific it is reported that unless the government comes down substantially with more aid, and still later with more aid, (the same old song) that the company will have difficulty in carrying out their contract with the country.

Here is an opportunity for the Conservatives to revert to the sort of half-stated, half-inferred policy of the election preceding the last one, namely, complete government ownership and operation of the whole transcontinental line. The bargain at present is a shockingly one-sided one. The government is making it more so by this proposed $10,000,000 loan.

Mr. Graham, minister of railways, isn't quite sure just how the whole railway gift business is going to end, but he believes all will come out well in the long run. This opinion from a gentleman who has studied the railway problem in a desultory fashion for a year or two, is about as comprehensive as the average opinions expressed at the capital. It is not to call encouraging.

The Conservatives have their opportunity once more to urge that the government take the fat as well as the lean in connection with this enterprise. The people who view the railway game dispassionately cannot reach any other conclusion than that the whole business as negotiated by the government is a huge swindle on the people. Will the opposition see its opportunity, or is it patiently waiting for power as a result of the breaking up of the present combination through internal rottenness and disregard for the public welfare?

Dr. Price's Cream Baking Powder

A pure grape cream of tartar powder. Its fame is world-wide. No alum, no phosphatic acid. There is never a question as to the absolute purity and healthfulness of the food it raises.

Death of Mrs. Sifton.

The death occurred early last night of Mrs. J. W. Sifton at the family residence, 167 Hargrave street, after an illness of only a few days. On Monday last Mrs. Sifton was down town shopping and contracted a slight cold. A physician was called and a nurse sent for and, under their care, her improvement was so marked that Mr. Sifton went to his office yesterday morning, but on returning home at 1 o'clock he found that she had suffered a relapse. Doctors were at once summoned, but despite all they could do, she passed away about 6.30 o'clock.

Mrs. Sifton whose maiden name was Kate Watkins, was in her 78th year. She came to Canada when a mere child and was married to John W. Sifton in 1863. Five children were born, three sons and two daughters. Three of these died while children. She is survived by two sons, Arthur Sifton, chief justice of Alberta, and Hon. Clifford Sifton, M.P. for Brandon, and ex-minister of the interior. The first twenty years of Mrs. Sifton's life were spent in Ontario. In 1874 she and her husband came west to Manitoba, where she has since resided. Deceased was a devout member of Grace church, and her wide circle of friends will be greatly shocked by the news of her sudden death.

Telegrams were sent last night to her two sons, Chief Justice Sifton, and Hon. Clifford Sifton, apprising them of the sad news, and the funeral arrangements will not be completed until their arrival in the city. Interment will take place here.—Winnipeg Telegram of Saturday.

COL. STEELE FOR OTTAWA.

Ottawa, March 18.—The organization of the Strathcona horse as a branch of the Canadian Mounted Rifles has been practically completed. The headquarters of the force will be at Calgary with depots at suitable points in Alberta south of Red Deer.

Col. S. B. Steele will have command for organization, but will be transferred to headquarters staff at Ottawa within a year. It is hoped that arrangements can be made to transfer the banners of the original Strathcona horse which fought in South Africa to the new western corps.

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"The physician attending me prescribed, on my rallying from an attack of rheumatism, your *Scott's Emulsion*, which I have been taking every winter since. I find it most valuable in strengthening and building up one after a severe illness. I have not had rheumatism since the time mentioned above and I owe it to your most valuable *Emulsion*. It is my life now, and makes me strong and healthy."—R. PICARD, Grand Ligne, Quebec.

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H. L. Carpenter of Stoughton, inspector of wolf pelts.
L. Kidd, Foam Lake, inspector of wolf pelts.
G. McDonald of Guernsey, inspector of wolf pelts.
Eugene Bossard of McTaggart, game guardian.
Fred DeMong of Hoodoo, inspector of wolf pelts.
Alexander Campbell of Green Lake, justice of the peace.
A. B. Lander of Saltcoats, registrar of vital statistics.
C. R. Trench of Bavelaw, game guardian.
W. F. Tait of Kisby, inspector of wolf pelts.

SENATOR PASSES AWAY

Another of the Prominent Men in Canada's Public Life Gone to His Reward—Brief History of Sir James Gowan.

Barrie, Ont., March 18.—Sir James Gowan died this morning after a few days illness. The deceased was at one time a prominent figure in the public life of Canada as a lawyer, jurist and parliamentarian. He was a son of the late Hy. Hatton Gowan for many years deputy clerk of the crown and pleas for the district of Simcoe. He was born at Cahore, county Wexford, Ireland, on December 22, 1815, and received his early educatian in that country. He came to Canada with his parents in 1832. He studied law in Toronto and while a student performed his first public act, serving as a volunteer during the rebellion of 1839. He was present at the fight between the rebels at Gallows Hill, and in 1838 was appointed a lieutenant of the 4th North York regiment of militia. He was called to the bar in 1839, and four years later was appointed judge for the district of Simcoe, under the Baldwin-Lefontaine government. He was on the bench for 41 years. He retired in 1883 and in 1885 he was appointed to the senate of Canada. His services were varied and continuous for over half a century, and frequently elicted recognition and approval from the government, and the bar and educational and municipal authorities. Besides the duty proper of the judicial bench he held so long, his outside voluntary services, at the instance of the government were numerous and covered a variety of subjects, for the most part connected with legal improvements. He was an active worker in conjunction with Sir Henry Strong, Justice Gwynne, and Justice Patterson, of the supreme court, under a special commission of enquiry into the constitution and jurisdiction of the several courts of law and equity in Ontario with a view to the "fusion of law and equity." In the several revisions and consolidations of the statute law of the country he also took an active part. He was consulted by and cooperated with Sir John Thompson in the important work of the criminal code of Canada in 1892. He was for over thirty years, from time to time employed in the confidential work of parliament and other drafting under successive governments, and in his voluntary aid therein was in after years duly acknowledged by those for whom he acted. He was a member of the high school boards for Barrie and district for many years, generally as chairman. In 1855 he founded the first law journal in Upper Canada, which is yet in existence In recognition of his services to the public he was knighted by Queen Victoria in 1893. He held a number of scholastic degrees. He was a Free Mason of high degree and one of the oldest members of the fraternity in Canada.

Play Ball.

Oh, I'm longin', yes I'm longin'
For the comin' of the spring.
Not from feelin's sentimental,
Would I see it come, by jing!
Not because of south winds blowin,'
Not to hear the robin's call;
But because I am a-yearnin'
For the welcome yell, "Play ball!"

I am no poetic geezer,
To write yards an' yards of guff
On the "little buds a-bustin',"
An' that sort of mushy stuff.
Not for me the "grassy medders,"
Or the "brooks that leap an' brawl
All the springtime dope that charms me,
Is that welcome yell, "Play ball!"

You can have your "blossomed hillsides,"
An' your "leafy, shady bowers,"
An' your canyons "deep and mossy"
An' the "perfume of wild flowers."
But the only dope on springtime,
Out of which I take a fall,
Is when I can hear the umpire
Give his welcome yell, "PLAY BALL!"

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