













### A REVIEW OF THE SESSION

A review of the session of the legislature, which has just been concluded, is in order. It easily ranks first among the three sessions that have been held. This is true both of the nature and volume of business done. It has also been one of unusual importance for both the government and opposition have faced one another in full strength. The government, which without its leader, was so disorganized that it dare not meet the House in the fall was under his direction while the opposition, all members present for the first time during the life of the legislature, was led by Mr. Haultain who was in good form. Under these conditions a real trial of strength was possible and the country has had an excellent opportunity of judging the strength of both parties. Aside from its showing in the debates even the strong supporters of the government must admit that it was unable to carry out its program of legislation. This is particularly true in respect to rural municipal legislation, the failure to enact which means that the local option in the rural parts has been indefinitely postponed.

The Acts are sixty-four in number. The most important of these are: Free School Books, creating a Municipal Commission, Public Telephone, those relating to city, town and village municipal organization, the Redistribution Act, the act respecting the Legislative Assembly, and the Liquor Act. Government organs may magnify some others into importance and it cannot be doubted that they have an important character. As compared with the bylaws of a rural municipality, every act of the legislature is perhaps of great importance. Judged by the work of legislatures as a whole it may not be so. It is by this standard that we judge the work of the recent session.

Municipal legislation may rightly be given first place among the work of our legislature. It deals with the every day life of the people, wherever they are found, and affects their every action. Because of this it is very regrettable that the bill dealing with rural municipalities should have been withdrawn. It was to create that which did not exist. As for the other municipal bills, they were chiefly revisions, and at best added to existing machinery, which, if inadequate, nevertheless gave fairly good satisfaction. This was particularly true of the City Bill; for it was based upon the charters of Regina, Saskatoon and Edmonton. But

the rural municipalities bill dealt with a very large part of the country, which most needed municipal organization. To the people living under these conditions its withdrawal is a privation. On its effect to delay the introduction of local option, we have already commented.

The telephone legislation must have been a surprise to the public, which by reason of the utterances of the members of the government and the general demand for government operation of this utility, had been led to believe that this principle would be the distinguishing feature of the government's policy. But instead of this being so, the government's operation principle is of least importance. It applies only to the trunk long distance lines. The secondary lines—municipal—will be operated by municipalities if they desire to do so; the rural lines are left to private companies. Thus it may with reason be charged that that part of the country which most requires telephone communication, has been left a prey to a system from which almost all communities are endeavoring to escape, namely, private ownership. It was at least expected that the government would, in this matter, take a leaf out of Alberta's book. But that it had no intention to afford the rural parts much relief is evident from its neglect of rural municipal legislation.

The Liquor Act was equally a surprise and a disappointment. A surprise in that the government went so far, a disappointment because it rendered inoperative so much that had apparently been given. In discussing the act it must be remembered that the government was not actuated by an unalloyed desire to assist the cause of temperance reform. Premier Scott in theory is as strong a temperance advocate as Hon. Mr. Motherwell, but in legislating on this subject is a politician first. Friends and opponents must admit that Premier Scott and Hon. Mr. Calder are cunning—we will put it stronger—crafty politicians. Their first concern is party advantage. Consistency or regard for principle has little place in their calculations, which fact must be evident to all who follow closely their course. In framing the Liquor Act the government apparently gave nearly all that had been requested; but they gave it with a sting attached. Closing the bars on three holidays, the banishing of liquor from clubs and the shortening of the hours of sale were pure

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der, and has pointed to the approximate equality in the unit of representation. Now it is very easy to get approximately equal units of representation in one goes to the length of settling townships and putting seventeen sides to a constituency; and that is what the government has done. Premier Scott admitted that, as far as the two long-disputed seats in the south-eastern division were concerned, they were divided with a view to the interests of his party friends. In fighting the measure the opposition has been handicapped through lack of information not having the copious notes of the hon. member, inspectors and generally an army of outside officials. Of this one may be sure that a government that permitted the Prince Albert election scandal, would not hesitate to frame a bad gerrymander.

The Free School Books Act bears the earmarks of an extraordinary deal. To begin with it is misnamed. In reality it is a bill to ratify a contract for five readers made with the Morang Co.; its other noteworthy feature being the granting of power to municipalities to purchase school books and supplies, and to charge the cost to the taxpayer, and permitting the Minister of Education to arrange for the publication of school books. Whether the school books are good or bad is not an important question. Equally good books were offered by other publishers, for which the selecting committee expressed a preference. It is of more importance that the principle of awarding contracts by tender was ignored; that the contract awarded was given at prices that ranged from thirty to fifty per cent. higher than competitors; that books recommended were not purchased, and that the books are being produced in the United States. In awarding the contract money seems to have been of but small account. Even a first free distribution of readers at an estimated cost of \$15,000—was waived aside. The successful tenderer announced that he had the contract eight months before the Commissioner said the contract was awarded. The apparent reluctance of the government to produce the papers in the case, confirms the impression that it feared the tell-tale evidence of official documents.

The course of the government throughout the whole session showed a disinclination to act on "the square." Craft and cunning characterized the placing of the legislation before the House. What better evidence of this was needed than the indefensible action of introducing during the flying hours of the session an appointment to extend the life of the legislature from a four to five

years? Such an act as this, for which there is only one precedent in Canada should have careful consideration. But the government did not introduce it early even during the day, but at the eleventh hour of the night before prorogation took place. A weaker case for a change than that which the premier made out, it would be difficult to conceive. Summed up it was merely this—that the people are tired of elections. How did he know that? No representations to this effect had been made to the government. Such a reason was to be found only in the imagination of the administration. As a matter of fact the legislature is only three years old. Who really knows whether its term is too long or too short? The truth is that the government did not desire to know the real opinion of the country as expressed by its representatives; for discussion was stifled by delay. The explanation is this: With the province gerrymandered in its interests, the government, with the aid of Laurier, expects to carry the next election, and the new amendment is trusted to keep them in power for five years.

The finances of the province is a subject which requires special consideration. Suffice to say that the criticism of the opposition, which has revealed an alarming state of affairs, in the main stands unanswered by the government. Why? Because it is unanswerable. The province is being starved by an inadequate federal subsidy; while its revenues are being spent wastefully. In conclusion it must be said that, notwithstanding the presence of the great "fallier" Premier Scott, the government has been unable to carry out its legislative program. True, his presence, gave his followers heart; but on the other hand it may be questioned if this was not counterbalanced by the revelations of mismanagement. Much useful legislation was passed, in work the opposition co-operated very heartily. That it is to such a degree useful is due to the great assistance of the wisest legislator in the west, F. W. G. Haultain, whose opinion is not only accepted, but solicited by the government.

I was cured of Bronchitis and Asthma by MINARD'S LINIMENT. MRS. A. LIVINGSTON, Lot 5, P.E.I.

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### DOMINION DAY SPORTS

#### A Good Program Has Been Arranged for July 1st.

Regina Board of Trade, which will have charge of sports here on Dominion Day have about completed the arrangements and a splendid program has been outlined. The morning will be devoted to the parade of military forces, school children and floats, raising the flag on the new city hall, firing salutes and patriotic speeches.

The afternoon will be devoted to sport for which the following events will be held at the exhibition grounds:

Free for all, trot or pace, \$150.  
Boys' pony race, 1 mile heats, 2 in 3, \$30.  
Named race for class A, gentlemen drivers, 1 mile heats, 2 in 3. Silver cup.  
Named race for class B gentlemen drivers, 1 mile heats, 2 in 3. Silver cup.  
Shetland pony race 1 mile heats, 2 in 3, \$15.  
Liquor team race for gentlemen's saddle horses 3 in each team, total distance 1 1/2 miles. Gallop half mile, dismount and touch your nearest man who must be on foot. He will then mount and follow the same course. Prizes three silver cups.  
Indian race, 1 mile heats, 2 in 3. Purse \$15.  
Squaw's race, 1/2 mile heats, 2 in 3. Purse \$15.  
Automobile race, 5 miles, \$100.  
Musical ride by the Royal North-West Mounted Police, hurdle race, hurdle jumping and push ball.  
ATHLETIC SPORTS  
100 yards open, \$15, \$10, \$5.  
100 yards for boys under 16 years, \$10, \$5, \$3.  
220 yards open, \$15, \$10, \$5.  
4-mile open, \$15, \$10, \$5.  
1/2-mile open, \$15, \$10, \$5.  
High jump, standing, \$10 and \$5.  
Running high jump, \$10 and \$5.  
Running high jump for boys under 16 years, \$5 and \$3.  
Long jumping \$10, \$5.  
Running long jump for boys under 16 years, \$5 and \$3.  
Pole vaulting, \$10 and \$5.  
Three-legged race, 50 yards with turn, \$10.  
Sack race \$10 and \$5.  
Needle and thread race, \$0, \$5.  
1-mile bicycle race, \$15, \$10 and \$5.  
Greasy pig race, prize, the pig, value \$10.  
A silver cup, value \$25 will be given to the winner of the largest number of events.  
Indian foot race, 1 mile \$5 and \$2.  
Squaw foot race 100 yards \$5, \$2.

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If you want to keep your children healthy, rosy and full of life during the hot weather months give them an occasional dose of Baby's Own Tablets. This medicine prevents deadly summer complaints by cleansing the stomach and bowels. The mother who keeps this medicine on hand may be as safe as if she had a doctor in the house. The Tablets are equally good for the new born baby as for the well grown child. Mrs. W. H. Witzer, Ekfrid, Ont., says: "I have used Baby's Own Tablets for my children and have always found them just what was needed to keep them well." Sold by medicine dealers or by mail at 25 cents a box from The Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

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