

HAD APPROVAL OF THE CROWN

Lemieux's Mission to Japan Was Endorsed by Colonial Secretary in Federal House.

Ottawa, Jan. 23.—In the House today the premier brought down the communications which were exchanged between Earl Grey and the imperial government in relation to Mr. Lemieux's mission to Japan.

Four days later the colonial secretary replied giving a draft of the message which it was proposed to send to the ambassador at Tokio.

The feature of the afternoon session was an attack upon Attorney General Bower, British Columbia minister, by Duncan Ross and McPherson.

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WILL EXTEND THE PRESENT PLANT

City Council Decides not to use Gibbons' Property for Power Site.

After an important discussion lasting for four hours the city council last evening decided to abandon the Gibbons property, west of the city, as a site for the new power plant, and to install a new plant, consisting of a gas producer engine of 1,500 horse power and a 2,000 volt generator.

The question of the advisability of placing the new power plant upon the Gibbons property was discussed at some length. It was decided that unless there was a good supply of coal available it would not be worth the expense.

The council resolved itself into a committee of the whole to consider the question of the extension of the power plant and the pumping station.

Referring to the Wellington Colliery, Ross expressed his opinion that Dunsmuir had signed the contract on the advice of Gotoh's solicitor, Bower.

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HUDSON BAY RAILWAY.

Projected From Fort Simpson by B. C. Capitalists.

Victoria, B. C., Jan. 23.—A petition has been presented for a private bill to incorporate the Hudson Bay Pacific, which will shortly ask Ottawa for a federal charter for a railway from Fort Simpson to Fort Churchill.

The main feature of the afternoon session was the adoption of the address and the rejection of the amendment framed by the member of High River.

This statement of the member of High River, who is representing the floor of the House, was brought out by a reference in the attorney general's speech to what made him a Conservative party here and its leaders concerning prohibition.

The Conservative party, said Mr. Robertson, has no question of either being left. Both are leaders in the House.

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TWO LEADERS OF OPPOSITION

A. J. Robertson Disclaims Leadership of Party—Two Divisions Taken in Legislature.

Yesterday afternoon's session of the legislature was one of interesting debate, briskly carried on, in which the members said what they had to say in a brief, but with spirit.

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BIG REDUCTIONS IN PRICE OF LUMBER

British Columbia Manufacturers Are Forced to Dispose of Large Stock on Hand by Banks Demanding Reduction of Overdrafts.

Vancouver, Jan. 23.—At a large meeting of lumbermen representing the manufacturers both in the mountain district and on the coast, held here today, important reductions in prices were decided upon.

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RECALLS CONFLAGRATION OF FEBRUARY 1904. Million Dollar Fire in Portland.

Baltimore, Jan. 24.—The most disastrous fire in the history of Baltimore since the great conflagration of Feb. 1894 broke out at midnight in the rear of the printing, engraving and lithographing establishment of E. B. Roth, Sons & Co.

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CONFESED TO CONSTABLE

Sergt. Dubuque Gives Evidence in Trial of Wolesley Murderer.

Wolesley, Sask., Jan. 23.—The trial of Sam Prior for the murder of Rosa Wolesley, continuing, the case being adjourned at a late hour.

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Entry by proxy may be made at an agency on behalf of the father, mother, brother or sister of the homestead.

W. W. COREY, publisher of the Interior. The Manchester House (Established 1886). Wool Lined Shoes. HIDE STOCK. PHOTO-SUPPLIES.

The Manchester House (Established 1886). Wool Lined Shoes. Are far more comfortable and serviceable than felt shoes for weather such as we are having this winter.

W. Johnstone Walker & Company. 267 Jasper Avenue East.

THE WEEK'S BANK CLEARINGS. Toronto, Jan. 24.—Bank clearings for the week ending Jan. 23 were as follows: Montreal, \$28,484,074.

EDMONTON MAN APPOINTED As Assistant to Ross in the Forestry Branch. Ottawa, Jan. 23.—A. Mitchell, of Edmonton, has been appointed by the forestry branch of the department of the interior as assistant to Mr. Ross in the work of tree planting in that district.

Italian Victim of Assault. Toronto, Jan. 23.—A deep scalp wound on the back of the head, nose and ears cut and both eyes blackened. Rocco Bagliani, an Italian, 35 years of age, was assaulted by a man named...

Death of Brother of Member. Chicago, Jan. 23.—John B. McKenny, husband of Clara McKenny, was the brother of Henry W. McKenny, M.P.P. for Edmonton, Mrs. M. D. Van Buren, M.P.P. for Calgary, died here yesterday at 4704 Calumet avenue. He was well known in Winnipeg.

Oppose License Reduction. Toronto, Jan. 23.—The Board of Trade has come out strongly against the proposal of the newly elected city council to reduce the license, declaring that such action would tend to illegal selling and create a monopoly.

THE EDMONTON BULLETIN (SEMI-WEEKLY)

DAILY—Delivered in City, 84 per year. By mail, per year, 83. By mail to United States per year, 81. Subscribers in the United States \$2. All subscriptions strictly in advance.

BULLETIN CO., Ltd., DUNCAN MARSHALL, Manager.

MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 1908.

THE TRIBUTE OF THE OPPOSITION.

The leader of the Opposition said what he had to say in criticism of the Rutherford Government on Tuesday. Perhaps it would be more correct to say that he demonstrated by elision how much he could not find fault with, and by voice how little there was for him to find an adverse argument on. It is significant that on no broad phase of provincial policy did he take ground opposite to the Government and that on the smaller matters to which he devoted criticism he had few remedies to suggest, and none to which he appeared willing to commit himself and his associate, Mr. Robertson's protestations to the contrary, it is difficult to see wherein his criticism rose above the traditional formality that requires an Opposition leader to differ with the Government in the first debate of the session, and still more difficult to detect in it any contribution of note to the better understanding of the more efficient management of provincial affairs.

Mr. Robertson regretted the absence of allusion to the money stringency in the Address and suggested that the Legislature memorialize Parliament to amend the banking laws. Well and good, provided the memorandum asks for amendment where amendment would be effective, which was assuredly not the direction indicated by the leader of the Opposition. His theory was that the banks withdrew money from Western Canada to loan in eastern Canada because they could get larger returns from it there. Clearly the gentleman is of those fortunate individuals who have not found it necessary to get accommodations from the banks, or he would know that the interest charges in Western Canada are anything rather than lower than the charges in the other provinces. But the course of the banks was not that they withdrew money from the West, but that they stopped loaning money in the West. They did not take money from us, but they declined to loan it to us as freely as they had previously done. Their offense was that they consented and assisted in the development of conditions in the West that made it no longer safe for them to continue to loan freely, and that when those conditions had been produced they consented their own interests with disregard for the interests of others. If the banking law is to be effectively amended, the amendment must prevent the banks conniving at the creation of conditions which they cannot maintain with safety to themselves. Prevention is the only effective cure in this case.

The leader of the Opposition devoted considerable time to what he called the intention of the Government to the interests of the farmers, but he wisely refrained from getting down to details and pointing out wherein the intention was exhibited. He favored the establishment of an agricultural college, a project the Government has undertaken and will have in operation by the time there are a sufficient number of pupils wanting training. The forests of the northern districts might be tapped by a Government railway and lumber made cheaper—an enterprise which has already been begun by a railway company. Coal was dear in some parts of his constituency. This he thought might be remedied by the Government acquiring coal areas to be operated if necessary to regulate prices—a proposal which is by no means new and which certainly did not originate with the member for High River. Meantime Mr. Robertson omitted to mention that the substantial sum of one million dollars was spent last year on roads and bridges throughout the Province, a matter of primary interest to the farmers of the Province, and quite as much in line with the business of a Government as the building of railways or the operation of coal mines, and a species of institution that is not likely to send the farmers up in arms against the Government. Nor are the legislators likely to be worked into a frenzy over the alleged affront offered them in publishing the report of the beef commission before they had perused it. The Commission was appointed by the Government; the findings were of supreme public interest, and a delay in giving the results to the public would no doubt have provoked louder

complaints from the Opposition members than did the course pursued. The Provincial telephone system Mr. Robertson wanted placed under a Commission—a proposal involving an expense neither warranted by the present dimensions of the system nor called for by the public interests. The Opposition leader was displeased because the Government had gone outside the Province to secure men specially qualified for certain positions in the civil service—an appeal that efficiency be subserved to prejudice which is not likely to do much harm to the Government nor much good to the Opposition. He was pained that the Address forecasted new temperance legislation, but he did not charge either that the legislation of last session was not beneficial or that it had not been well enforced. There was the usual appeal to sectionalism, the assertion that the Government was concentrating so little of its things of the Province in Central Alberta and an indirect appeal to the South to become insulted and rise in wrath. Mr. Robertson concluded with the usual scriptural allusion to the individual who sold his birthright for a mess of pottage. He assured the legislators that had the Province the control of the coal lands the income from royalties could be made to exceed the subsidy in lieu of lands; but neglected to explain how this could be accomplished and the price of coal reduced at the same time.

Altogether, the speech of the leader of the Opposition is the best assurance to the people of Alberta of the excellence of their administration. That he omitted any opportunity for criticism is not to be supposed, that he could find so little to criticize is exceedingly gratifying; that the little he found was in minor matters rather than important lines of public policy bespeaks the thorough grasp which the Government have displayed of their opportunity to better conditions in Alberta; and that he did not venture to squarely oppose the Government in the matters he criticized is his tribute to their soundness of judgment.

A TIMELY AMENDMENT.
Alderman Armstrong proposes an amendment to the city charter to make city commissioners dismissible on a majority vote of the council. At present a commissioner can be removed only for satisfactory cause and by the votes of two-thirds of the members of the council. The amendment does not of course propose to interfere with the stipulation that there must be good and sufficient ground for dismissal. The proposed amendment is a move toward making the commissioner body more responsible to the people, which may be taken with safety and which will meet with very general approval. At an earlier stage of the city's affairs when the commissioner system was new and public and council alike unused to the broadened powers conferred on the executive branch by the city charter, there was a possibility that a commissioner who took his instructions directly from the charter might find himself in trouble for doing what he considered the charter empowered him to do but what the council thought lay beyond his powers. Under such conditions a straight majority vote might have been recorded against a commissioner through misunderstanding rather than because of fault on his part. Perhaps it was as well therefore that in the earlier years of the system the commissioners should be guarded against such emergency, and given assurance to take up with confidence the duties assigned to them by the charter.

The necessity for such guaranty, however, has now been removed. By use of the public the council and the commissioners have come to understand the respective powers and duties of the two branches of the civic administration. The boundary line of authority is now pretty clearly defined. Points which were by no means clear in the earlier stages have been settled by precedent, have not decided by interpretation. There is now no danger of the commissioners suffering through a misapprehension of the part of the council as to the duties which fall to them. Nor is there danger of them falling victims to a feeling that in discharging their duties they are encroaching on the privileges of the executive body. The safeguard may, therefore, be abandoned with assurance that the aldermen will not seize upon the opportunity to unnecessarily interfere with the commissioners, and that the commissioners will not be hampered in their duties by any unreasonable fear of dismissal.

On the other hand, it is desirable that the public servants should be answerable to the representatives of the people, as directly as the employees of a private concern to the management. The government of the city has been often compared to the

directorate of a joint-stock company, the commissioners corresponding to the departmental managers. In such a concern it is not considered necessary that two-thirds of the directors should be convinced of the inability of an employee before he can be replaced. A simple majority of the directors is considered sufficient to request his resignation. It is difficult to see why there should be any difference in the case of the commissioners of the city.

THE ADVOCATE OF IRRESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT.
The Manitoba Government has engaged the services of a highly-salaried telephone system, and efficiency can be found advisable in future it does not require a telephone expert to see the folly of loading down our present telephone system with an expensive board of managers. Yet if it is ever found advisable to select a telephone commission for Alberta, it should be a board of highly-salaried men. Efficiency is the first requirement of a telephone system, and efficiency can only be secured by having competent men at the head of it. The Manitoba Government are not subject to criticism on account of the salaries they are paying to the Commissioners, provided they have secured men worth the salaries, and if Alberta should find it desirable at any time to appoint a Commission, we too would have to pay the price to get the men. Meantime the system is being capably handled by a competent manager under the supervision of the Minister of Public Works.

The ground on which the Opposition urge the appointment of a telephone Commission for this Province is that the system might some day fall under the control of a Government who would utilize it for their political welfare, rather than operate it for the welfare of the public, that it would be made to provide offices for Government supporters regardless of whether or not they knew anything about telephones, and thus its efficiency would be destroyed. As Mr. Robertson does not aver that anything of the kind exists under the present Government his argument may be merely a foreboding of what would happen in the remote possibility of the present Administration being replaced by one under the leadership of the honorable member for High River.

This is the argument commonly advanced for the establishment of a Commission to control public utilities. It is urged that such enterprises under the management of men dependent for their positions on votes, the temptation is to engage as employees men who have been successful in securing votes rather than men who are qualified by training and experience for the work to which they are assigned. That the temptation cannot be denied; that it has frequently been yielded to is common knowledge, and certainly the party to which Mr. Robertson belongs is admirably qualified to tell us of its evils. The advent of that party to power either at Ottawa or at one of the provincial capitals in Canada has followed inevitably by the wholesale dismissal of men whose only offense was that they were suspected of being Liberals, and the offices filled with gentlemen free from such taint, and also very free from any suspicion of fitness for the duties pertaining to the offices. The success of the Whitney Government in Ontario has followed by the resignation of the public service of that province to party purposes, and in this the Whitney Government has only testified its through-going loyalty to the party traditions. It was only when the Opposition at Ottawa found themselves an Opposition and likely to remain so for an unlimited period that they discovered the evils to which the patronage system sometimes leads, and it is not presuming on the probabilities to suggest that Mr. Robertson would never have made the discovery had he too not been in opposition and likely to remain there.

It is commonly assumed by the advocates of commission government that this expedient would free us from the evil of an abuse of patronage. That remains to be proven, for the experiments so far tried have not always and altogether worked out that way. It has been found quite frequently that a Commission can be as faulty as though the heads of the party nominated the candidates for vacancies; it has been found that as often as not the party which dominates the Commission is the party in which the electors have refused to place their confidence; and it has been found quite as often that a Commission when not so dominated may establish a system of its own quite as vicious as that of a party, and that it is not altogether explained on the grounds of personal ability, for the issue of the contest as reflected in

the newspapers was the business record of the Government against the mud-slinging tactics of the Opposition. The result can be construed only as an approval of Government policy and a repudiation of Opposition tactics; and coming from a constituency whose political complexion was by no means certain both the approval and the repudiation are the more significant. The moral of South Huron is that unsupported slander cannot antagonize a normally well-informed Canadian constituency against a Government of known ability and integrity. Nor does it strain the political vision to detect the corresponding moral that the wages of slander is political death.

KEEPING POSTED.
A timely innovation at the city hall is the presentation of financial statements each week showing the record for the week on both current and capital accounts. The current account sheet shows the expenditures classified under the headings bills payable, city hall, debt interest, engineer's department, E. L. and P. department, finance, fire department, health department, interest, market, police and license, power house, pound, revenue, stores and works department, telephone department, water department, etc. The capital account sheet is itemized to show the expenditures for bills payable, E. L. and P. construction, fire department improvements, interest, incinerator, local improvements, pavings, street railway, sewer construction, telephone construction, water construction, etc. Three columns on each sheet, show respectively the amounts previously paid on each item during the financial year, the amounts of the present accounts and the totals. At the bottom of each sheet is shown the total cash receipts of the week, the total disbursements and the bank balance in respect of the account. A glance at the sheets thus shows the alderman at a glance what the city has paid out during the year on any item in either the current or capital account. Copies of each statement are delivered to each alderman for inspection and record. If the members of the council of 1908 are not continuously and fully informed on the financial affairs of the city the fault will certainly not be that they have not the information at hand in very convenient form. The credit for this much needed innovation belongs to Mayor McDougall.

COAL LANDS THAT YIELD NO REVENUE.
The Minister of Public Works drew attention on Tuesday to the enormous area of coal lands within the Province which are exempt from yielding government revenue. That the area is great is generally well known, but how great may not have been clearly realized. Of the total of one million tons of coal mined in the Province last year two-thirds yielded no royalty to the Government. This amount was mined on lands alienated by the former Federal Government under conditions which permit no royalty to be collected from the output. However great may be the production of those mines the treasury of neither the Province nor the Dominion benefits one cent. Nor does the proportion for last year appear to be abnormal. Considering the location of the mines now open, and the areas of Hudson Bay lands, railway lands, and other lands disposed of in the days when surface rights carried also coal rights, it is not an unreasonable estimate that not more than one-half the coal lands of the Province are subject to royalties on the output.

On the one-third of the output on which royalties were paid last year the total revenue of the Federal Government would be about \$30,000, of which princely sum we are therefore to understand the Oppositions both at Ottawa and Edmonton ask us to forego the cash subsidy of a half million dollars annually, which we now receive in return for our public lands. The coal lands, it must be remembered, are necessarily the most productive part of the public domain. The homestead lands can only be administered at a loss. Land sales cannot be made a source of revenue in a country where land is being given away, and where the difficulties of bringing land under cultivation are recognized as equivalent to a fair price for cultivated land. More, the immigration policy is an essential part of the settlement policy, and its cost must be borne by the Government and no Legislature, however well-intentioned, is entitled to threaten the wishes of the people in order to govern according to their own opinions, however strongly they may be convinced of the correctness of those opinions. It is the privilege of the members alike of a Government and a Legislature to advocate their opinions as strongly as they may deem wise, but it is not their privilege to impose those views upon the public

lands in accord with the notion of our friends opposite. And against that deficit we would have only the returns from the coal lands—now amounting to the sum of \$30,000 per year. Clearly if anybody got a bad bargain in the Autonomy Act it was not the Province of Alberta.

It is asserted by our friends opposite that the royalties from the whole coal output of the Province would equal the subsidy received in lieu of lands, and perhaps exceed it. But the point is that there never can be royalties collected on the whole coal output, and probably never on more than half the whole output. The critics say so that when they were in power. So generous were their notions of the deserts of their party friends and corporation allies that the resource which might have yielded revenue to us was cut in two and one half made non-revenue producing forever. If therefore we would be better situated in future with royalties from the coal products of the Province than with the cash subsidies we shall receive, the credit for our loss lies at the door of the gentlemen who made it impossible for any government to collect royalties from a great part of these coal products. And the difference between the amount which a royalty on the whole output would have yielded and the cash subsidy is one item of the price we paid for having our affairs administered on the principles, and by the practices of the Opposition. The cash subsidy is an allowance made us by the present Federal Government in consideration of the wrongs done us by the preceding Government. Had they not depleted our resources, we could have received either the royalty from the whole coal output of the Province or a fair cash equivalent from the Federal treasury. Our friends are caught in the net of their own laying. In power they placed half our coal resources out of business as revenue producers, in opposition they urge that we be forced to derive our revenue from those resources, or left without revenue. The present Government recognized that as it was a Dominion Government that despoiled our resources, the Dominion should make restitution to us for them. If the Opposition consider the restitution insufficient they should propose to buy back the coal lands they alienated, and present us with the whole unimpaired coal resources of the Province, unhampered by a restriction that any portion shall not be subject to royalties. Meantime we decline restitutions by any means, but we do so especially but firmly, as we do not intend accepting what coal lands the former Government failed to exempt from royalties in place of a cash subsidy that appears to be a very, very liberal equivalent.

PROHIBITORY LEGISLATION.
A prohibitory law that does not prohibit is several degrees worse than a license law that does prohibit to the extent to which it is intended to prohibit; for the reason that a law which is violated with impunity brings all law into contempt and breeds general lawlessness and disorder in the State. A prohibitory law can only prohibit lawfully by approving and vigilantly enforcing it. The law against murder is effective only because an overwhelming majority of the people are opposed to murder and readily lend their assistance to the apprehension of the murderer. Similarly a law prohibiting the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors can only be enforced when the people want it enforced and are prepared to assist in enforcing it.

There is no reason to believe that public opinion in this Province today is strongly in favor of prohibitory legislation or that the public generally would exert themselves to secure the enforcement of such law. A legislature that would place such law on the statute books would therefore only be imposing on the Government an impossible task in the present state of public opinion; and by passing a law that could not be enforced would invite public disregard for their legislation generally.

While it is desirable that a Government and a Legislature be leaders of public opinion rather than laggers in the march of social progress, the administration of a Government and the legislation of a Parliament can not and should not run too much in advance of public opinion. In democratic countries, the people rule and have a right to rule, and no Government or Legislature, however well-intentioned, is entitled to threaten the wishes of the people in order to govern according to their own opinions, however strongly they may be convinced of the correctness of those opinions. It is the privilege of the members alike of a Government and a Legislature to advocate their opinions as strongly as they may deem wise, but it is not their privilege to impose those views upon the public

in the form of laws against the public wish. And against that deficit we would have only the returns from the coal lands—now amounting to the sum of \$30,000 per year. Clearly if anybody got a bad bargain in the Autonomy Act it was not the Province of Alberta.

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SEED GRAIN.
It is satisfactory to know that the Western Provincial Governments are co-operating with the Department of the Interior to secure a plentiful supply of seed grain in all parts of the West. The task confronting the Governments is believed to be not the importation of seed grain, but the distribution of the seed in the country. While in some sections there is a shortage of grain suitable for seed, in other districts there is a surplus and taken altogether there is probably enough seed in the West for all requirements if it were equitably distributed. Obviously the time to deal with the difficulty is to deal with it before this grain has been exported. To do this, information must be secured, and speedily secured, of the conditions in every portion of the country. This done, the distribution of the seed available can be undertaken systematically. It has been suggested that in some cases advances, either of seed or of the price of seed, may have to be made to farmers not in position to pay for their whole requirements at once. If so, it should be kept clearly and persistently before the world in the advances are loans and not gifts. The farmers of the West do not require and do not ask that seed or anything else be given them for nothing. Were financial conditions normal they would be practically every day able to secure the loans necessary on the security of their property alone. But conditions are not normal, and the farmer of the West experiences exactly the same difficulty as the manufacturer or merchant of the East in borrowing money and no more. But the important point is that during the coming months many farmers must secure loans, or the equivalent of loans, or else the country and every interest in it must suffer. Loans advanced to farmers under such circumstances are by no means favors extended to a class against other classes, but an expedient to conserve the interests of the whole country by securing the welfare of the industry upon which the interests of the whole country depend.

MORE AMERICAN JINGISM.
Seattle Alderman Thinks Japs Are Trying to Control Water Supply.
Seattle, Jan. 22.—Councilman James Conway has asked the city council to investigate the alarming reports sent out from White River valley between Seattle and Tacoma regarding the actions of the Japanese. Robert Bridges, former state land commissioner, who owns a farm on Orilla, says the Japanese are making determined efforts to get possession of every ranch between Seattle and Tacoma, and that they are all armed with rifles and that many secret meetings have been held at night. Signal lights are kept burning all night long. Councilman Conway thought that the Japanese are seemingly quiet and believed the situation well worthy of investigation. The big water mains from Cedar River that supply Seattle with water pass through White River valley, and they could cut off the city's water supply without the least trouble. There are two hundred Japanese living in the valley, which is one of the richest dairy districts in the state.

TWO LEADERS OF OPPOSITION.
(Continued From Page One.)
Federal Government Bought Land.
The point he desired to bring was that this country was being bought by the Hudson Bay company's agents, consequently belonging to its owner, the Federal Government. He said after its purchase the Conservative government, then in power, proposed to carve out the province of Manitoba from the bulk of territory.
"If our Conservative friends are why its public lands were not given to Manitoba then I will more readily answer why the control of her public lands was given without a word to Alberta," said Mr. Puffer.
The land purchased by the federal government and paid for out of the revenues of the constituent provinces did not belong to the provinces. The land was given to the confederation owned their own land and the government, of course, did take them, but Alberta, stated speaker, stood in quite a different position toward the government and did not claim its public lands.
He pointed out that across the border public lands were not owned controlled by any individual or business it were the province of Texas, of 45 states and six territories in solitary state owned its own land he said. One of the reasons for the revolutionary war, the American revolution, was the American lands which owned their own lands. He mentioned the government at Washington to take over their own financial responsibilities therewith.
Federal Control in States.
Furthermore, the States carved out of Louisiana, never owned their own lands, though they were of provincial control were found, containing they did. Texas, however, in joining the confederacy, stipulated that they should still own their own lands, and this condition was granted them for a large sum. In the minds of some of the opposition, Mr. Teller continued, there was an idea that the Confederacy was now giving away its lands to their friends. He desired to turn to statistics, he stated that in the 18 years when the Confederates were in power at Louisiana, little over 31,000,000 acres of land on the other hand, only 5,000,000 had been disposed of during the time the Liberals have been in power.
The sales of land for settlement during the time of the Confederacy amounted to something over 2,000,000 acres, he continued. During the period of the Confederacy, the Confederacy government dealt with a colonization company and their own imposing on the some settlements duties in return for cheap lands. These, said the member for Lethbridge, were the lands of the Confederacy, all—342 settlements in all, and 17 of companies are looked as bringing up.

Lands Under Conservatism.
The present federal government accused of giving timber limits away to friends. It is desired to state fully that these are not given friends, but are instead sold to the highest bidder. The Confederacy government dealt with 7,000 square miles, for which it received \$7,000,000, or \$4.50 per acre. The Confederacy government up to this time have sold 4,500 square miles, for which they were paid \$297,229, or \$66 per mile.
The computation goes to show that the Liberal government got 15 times as much per square mile as the Confederacy government did. Of the early grants 46 were made to parties carrying with them the obligations of members of provincial assemblies and 18 political workers. The Confederacy government with very transfer to the government of today can be said to have sold land in a business transaction." (Applause.)

W. F. Puffer Speaks.
W. F. Puffer, the member for Lethbridge, on rising to reply, was greeted with applause. He congratulated the mover and seconder of the address upon their capable speeches, but also the leaders of the opposition and his colleague upon the manner in which they handled their side of the question. He desired, however, to take exception to one statement of the leader of the opposition—that which he denounced any measure of direct taxation. He further recalled that during last session this honorable member had raised no protest against the small measure of direct taxation proposed at that time.
A tax had then been placed on railways and corporations to meet the case of thousands who lived outside the provinces but contributed nothing to it, even while deriving large revenues from the country. They had been also a very light tax placed on residents of Alberta in settlements outside of organized school districts. The people on whom this was imposed did not contribute to the revenue in any other way, while at the same time they received direct advantages from the province by attending their children to the schools, organized school districts, to which they contributed nothing. Further, the light tax mostly fell upon the specialist or holding land from settlement lands upon the actual settlers, who specifically organized school districts after their arrival.
All the money realized from this tax was devoted to the purpose of spreading educational facilities throughout the province, and it was considered by the framers of the enactment that it was one of the best methods of equalizing the burdens all had to carry.

To Raise Contention.
Mr. Puffer also scored Mr. Robertson in a calm but very effective way for his remarks on the location of the Dominion Government. He stated that he intentionally or not, to put the north of this province against the south. This matter he had long settled at the conference in August, 1906, when it was agreed that the

BUFFALO POSE FOR SIGHTSEERS

Members Visit the Buffalo—Holiday Trip of Members of Legislature to Fort Saskatchewan and Park to See Valuable Herd Now Owned by Canada.

Not since Fort Saskatchewan was established by Inspector Jarvis and his division of mounted police in 1874 has Fort Saskatchewan, now a lively young town, been invaded by such a light-hearted party as the legislative assembly out on a holiday this week.

They had come on the invitation of the mayor and citizens of Fort Saskatchewan to visit Elk Island park and see the famous Pablo herd of buffaloes secured for Canada by the minister of the interior during the past year. And as one citizen of the Fort said, "they came; they saw; and went no home disappointed."

When the lakes and streams froze over last month the keeper, Ed. Simmons found it practically impossible to induce the buffalo to go out on the ice to the water holes for a drink. Their feet were painfully awkward on ice and the stupid-looking animals were sufficiently alive to the discomfort to stubbornly refuse going on the ice.

Then when Ed. Simmons had thought out the problem the choicest of hay was spread over the plain ice all the way down to the water holes, and the buffalo cautiously made their way up and down the water holes in the most natural way possible. Now quite a large space has been converted into a feeding ground to which the animals come and go at will. In anticipation of the visit over 250 head of buffalo were taken to the park. There are 60 buffalo calves in the herd, three of these being less than two months old.

The animals are all in splendid condition, fat, peaceful, contented, evidence of the best care on the part of the keeper and his assistant, Percy Ashby. The contrast between them now and the day of their arrival from Montana is immense, for after their arrival many of them showed spindly, bleached sides, and their coats were smooth, brown backs and the bulls stood in silent savage contemplation, just as the Indian does when he sees an abstracted snail, and the mother buffalo licks her calf with fine bovine tenderness. The most harassed of the herd were the young calves, between which and the vehicles passed. There was an exchange of greetings and pleasant comment on the bright appearance of the youngsters. One school was practically composed of German.

gives an impression of high dark waves rising and falling on a sea, when the animals run quickly in a herd as they did a couple of times on Wednesday. Their faces vary greatly from a pleasing, well outlined face like a little Holstein cow, to a fierce brutish face that is like nothing else but a buffalo. A very funny appearance is lent many times by the shaggy, translucent appendage of hide on the front legs. Their attitude on the whole made quite clear the description of them given by Father LaCrosse, the venerable missionary, who has been at many buffalo hunts in the old days. The buffalo, he says, has the heart of a little bird—is timid, when free on the prairie, but wounded or attacked it has the ferocity of a demon.

Their sensitiveness to impressions caught on from another, their stupid inclination to stampede en masse if one or two were provoked to run and their deep content were the outstanding features of the impressions they left on the visitors. They seem to have prepared well on the over-sea Dominion of the gracious sovereign, Edward VII., and will scarcely turn to their own choice ever if returned to Montana. They make no effort now to leave the park, and only one died shortly after their arrival.

The calf, Minnie, whose mother, a grey-headed buffalo cow, died early last summer, is now a strapping young buffalo over 500 pounds in weight. She is both affectionate and playful with her trainer, Percy Ashby, a cowboy who came over from Oxfordshire to Montana and then to Elk Island park. She obeys his call, leaves the herd for him and has a fine appreciation of the measure of good white oats he gives her. "She was brought up by hand," the crowd murmured as they look on at her antics. But too much attention for the buffalo was threatening to ruffle Minnie's amiable humor. Members of the legislature came along on a challenge to ride the buffalo-call. The one is a noted cattle-man of the south country, the other a daring rider of the north. The calf simply walked through the effort of the two riders and the other is still wondering which way he would like to come down from a buffalo if he could even mount one.

On the return to the park-keeper's house a number of crisp short speeches were delivered before the house and hearty cheers given for the hosts of the day. Hon. Mr. Finlay was the first speaker, in a neat address thanking the mayor and citizens of Fort Saskatchewan for the delightful opportunity—a sentiment which the visitors pressed unanimously with cheers and a tiger.

A. J. Robertson made a pleasing short speech, saying if there were no reunions like this between the people of widely-separated parts of the province all sectional feeling would speedily disappear. J. R. Boyle, deputy speaker, formally expressed the party's thanks for the hospitable welcome of the south and his wife, Simmons, a former Perry Sound resident, whose love of the woods and animals and knowledge of every foot of this country made him the man for the post when the previous buffalo came.

Repeated calls for Frank Walker brought out the popular representative of the Fort, who set forth many words of welcome to the crowd and praise of the Fort, then slipped back into the crowd in a private car. "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow," Ally Brick, the member for Peace River, was then called to the front, and though to take his seat in the house this year he had to drive down 20 miles across the wire fence, he was not clad in blankets. He was in fact a very up-to-date person, well groomed and graced with a heavy coat of hair, might enjoy. He told the audience of his pleasure in being there and intimated that there was a herd of buffalo indefinitely located "up north," which he hoped yet to have tourists going up to see.

James B. Holden, the genial member for Vegreville, who had been pointedly attentive to the buffalo all day, threw light on his attitude when by announcing that many of these buffalo were his constituents, as half of this park lay in his constituency. He proposed, he said, having half of them driven down to the Vegreville end and then he would invite.

His hospitable intentions were broken in upon by a voice trumpeting from the rear over the heads of the crowd: "Well hold!" And the voice sounded very like unto that of the stalwart member for Fort Saskatchewan. "John W. Woolf and Fletcher Bredin were called upon for speeches, the former inviting his northern friends down to the south, where, if he couldn't show them buffalo, he'd show them some of the finest cattle in Alberta. Fletcher made one of the hits

AN AGREEMENT OF SALE CASE

Motion Before Courts Dealing With Subject On Which Opposite Decisions Are Recorded.

The question of whether a purchaser who signs an agreement of sale to buy certain parcels of land, and after making the first payment fails to complete succeeding payments, forfeits the amount paid upon the cancellation of the agreement of sale, is revived again by an action now in process in the courts here.

The vendor, Herbert D. Merriam, entered into an agreement to sell two lots in Norwood to Mike Parsh for a certain sum, part cash and the remainder in payments. Parsh paid \$450 on the first payment, but did not complete the balance of the purchase price. Merriam thereupon put the matter in the hands of his legal adviser, J. R. Macdonald, who in chambers on Friday morning will apply to the judge to have the agreement cancelled and the money which is already paid forfeited.

The case can hardly be said to be a new one, however, owing to the attitude of the purchaser, Parsh. When the next payment came due, it is alleged, he did not communicate with Merriam at all. He made no offer to make the payment, did not say he could not meet it, and made no reply to the communications of the vendor or his solicitor. In fact, he appeared to have abandoned the contract. A notice had been served on him that an application will be made before the judge in chambers to have the agreement cancelled and the money forfeited, but up to the present time he has, as far as can be learned, taken no action.

Methods of Settlement. There are three methods which might be pursued by the judge in dealing with the present case. He may order the agreement of sale cancelled and the money paid on the property returned to the purchaser, less the costs of the court. He may cancel the agreement and declare the money forfeited, the purchaser to return to the original owner. Or he may cancel the agreement of sale, declare the money paid on the property to be the property of the vendor, and if he believes the property has increased in value he may order it sold by public auction and the original value of the property returned to the vendor, and the balance over and above this given to the vendee.

Two Conflicting Decisions. This case brings up two conflicting decisions made recently with regard to the forfeiture of money paid when an agreement of sale is cancelled. About four months ago a case in the nature of the present one was decided by the Supreme Court of Saskatchewan, at Regina. In giving judgment he said that a man having agreed to make his payments in certain dates and having defaulted, it was beyond his power to help him out by public auction and the original money paid would be forfeited if the vendor so elected. The present case is a similar case at Calgary at about the same time, stated that under the circumstances the money paid would be returned to the purchaser if he so elected.

Mr. Justice Stuart, of the Supreme Court of Alberta, in a decision similar case at Calgary at about the same time, stated that under the circumstances the money paid would be returned to the purchaser if he so elected. The other application of yesterday's decision is to the political situation in the province. In the election in 1904 it was a matter of sincere regret among Liberals that such Liberal candidates as North Bruce and three Hurons showed up in the Liberal party. Since the general election John Tolmie recaptured North Bruce and now South Huron has, by Mr. McLean's victory, been put in the column to which it belongs. When the proper times arrive Mr. McLean will be said without arrogance, the Hurons will be all restored to the cause of good and progressive government.

Hon. Mr. Graham was in charge of the Liberal forces in Ontario since his unopposed election in Brockville, it is to be congratulated on his second notable victory achieved within the past few weeks. They have been auspicious of intelligence, in which the main issue has been the government's record, its program for the future, and the worth, patriotism and public spirit of its great leader.

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South Waterloo Liberals Give Ovation to Ontario Leader. Galt, Ont., Jan. 2.—The Liberals of South Waterloo had a convention here today to nominate a candidate for the legislature. The Liberal leader, Hon. A. G. McKay, received a splendid reception. Six gentlemen were proposed: Dr. Thompson, Galt; Dr. Meyer, Preston; Mr. F. E. Becker, New Hamburg; Mr. Geo. R. Barrie, Galt; and Mr. John Brown, Preston. None of these gentlemen felt themselves able to accept the nomination, and it was the unanimous wish of the delegates that the selection be left to another convention which will be held shortly.

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SOUTH HURON IS BACK IN THE FOLD. NEW PLANT WILL COST \$140,000

E. Y. McLean Turns Conservative. Majority Into Liberal. Reply To Scandal Mongers. Extension of Electric Power System Will Involve Large Expenditure of Money By City. Toronto, Jan. 23.—The Globe will say tomorrow: The Conservative majority of 111 in South Huron was changed into a Liberal majority of 134. McLean, editor of the Huron Examiner, was the Liberal candidate, and he is to be congratulated not only on carrying the constituency, but also in reversing the vote so completely in his own town. Parliament will gain a member more than commonly well versed in public affairs, with a keen insight into public opinion in this province, and familiar with the wants and views of the people of his own constituency.

The result in South Huron is important from two points of view. It is another step toward the Ottawa opposition that the country takes no stock in mad-throating, where the mud is cast, and the mud is cast. Before a fair-minded constituency can be induced to convict an administration of wrongdoing something that can be regarded as a proof must be offered. The Liberals of Huron, like the Liberals of every other part of the Dominion, remember that in the days of Conservative administration specific charges were made and proven before a committee so that those against whom their accusations were made and the agreement stated that the money paid would be forfeited if the vendor so elected. The present case is a similar case at Calgary at about the same time, stated that under the circumstances the money paid would be returned to the purchaser if he so elected.

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Legislative Assembly Visits Buffalo Herd at Elk Island Park—Herd of Over 250 Buffalo in Foreground With Visitors in Distance. A huge bonfire was built behind the house and there in picturesque proximity to the wall and the old oaken bucket some score of men stamped around and in the jolting fashion possible enjoyed a buffet luncheon of hot coffee and sandwiches and homemade cake served from the kitchen veranda. There is a story that the sandwiches and cakes were brought in packing cases. In any case the scores of feasters looked very content after their meal.

It was a fine sight to see this largest assemblage of pure-bred buffalo in America. The animals with their deep sullen eyes, shaggy black heads and shining horns, were gathered peacefully together—driven now this way, now that by Mr. Simmons, mounted on his superb chestnut saddle horse which came up from Montana with the buffalo. The peculiar lump rising high behind their neck

Murder in New Brunswick. At Stephen, N.B., January 23.—Andrew Higgins, aged about 70, who lived alone on Princeton road, was found dead this morning and murder is suspected. The body was among some bushes near his house. He was seen Sunday and was known to have \$25, which are now missing. The body shows evidence of death from clubbing.

CLASH WITH UNEMPLOYED. Berlin Police Break Up Demonstration—Many Injured. Berlin, Jan. 23.—There was a serious collision late today between the police of this city and a number of unemployed who earlier in the day had attended one of the mass meetings organized and addressed by the Socialists. The police used their sabres when the crowd hurled missiles at them and before order was restored many men were wounded.

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