The Leader

THE LEADER CO.
Walter Scott,
Manager.

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Thursday Evening, Nov. 12, 1896.

RIGHTS OF MAJORITIES.

At the late session of Assembly, Mr. Reid of Prince Albert proposed an amendment to the school law. As the law stands, in any district where a separate school exists all minority ratepayers may be compelled to pay their taxes to the separate (or minority) school notwithstanding that they may send their children to, and wish to support, the public school. Mr. Reid's amendment proposed to remove this compulsory power. Mr. Haultain opposed the amendment, not because he was opposed to the general principle of it,—he believed the amendment was in the line of what the law ought to be—but because it was contrary to the provisions of the North-West Territories Act;—in effect, the Assembly had not power to make the change proposed by the amendment.

A contemporary quotes Mr. Haultain's remarks and exclaims that his stand was extraordinary. We fail to see that there is anything so particularly extraordinary about the position. The N.W.T. Act is plain. It provides that the Assembly may pass school laws upon certain lines. It would certainly be a senseless proceeding for the Assembly to pass school laws upon other lines. So there was nothing extraordinary in the fact that the Assembly refused to pass laws upon other lines. The other lines may have been intrinsically proper, but they were ruled out of question. It may be intrinsically proper for the Assembly to authorize its Executive to borrow money upon the public credit, and such procedure might conduce to the great and general benefit of the country; but under the Act by which the Assembly is constituted, the power to borrow money is not given to the Assembly. So in this circumstance the Assembly would be foolish to indicate its wish that the Executive should do the meritorious act of borrowing a few millions to stimulate development in the country. It would have been equally foolish for the Assembly to pass Mr. Reid's amendment. So much for that phase of the matter. Upon the actual merits of the question there is room for difference of opinion. Our opinion is that so long as the constitution purports to uphold the separate school system in the Territories, the law upon the point under consideration should remain as it is. To make the proposed alteration would reduce separate schools to an impossibility. The talk about the hardship to the minority ratepayer who does not wish to support the minority school is more sentimental than real. We have uniform text books, uniform inspection; and the efficiency of minority schools is guaranteed similarly to the public schools. There is not really any greater hardship imposed upon this protesting minority ratepayer, than is imposed upon the ratepayer to a public school who has no children at all, and who votes religiously against the establishment of any school in his district. So long as we have the separate school system, whenever the majority of the minority in any district (be that minority Protestant or Roman Catholic) wishes to have a separate school, such majority of the minority, have a right to such separate school. To make it by law easy for the minority of the minority to burk such establishment would be, in our mind, quite as unjust as to give to some few people in any public school district power to withhold payment of their rates, and consequent ability to close the doors of the school.

Macleod Gazette:—Surprise has been expressed that one Indian should have been able to elude all the police and Indians who have been looking for him for a week past. If these persons knew the country, there would be no occasion for surprise. In the first place the fugitive is a very clever Indian, and in the second place, as long as he is able to remain in the brush or timber, it is next to impossible to corner him. A number of the police who are after him are old and successful hands at this sort of business, and they have been assisted by Indians, who should know something about it, and civilians. The brush in the bottoms near the Peigan reserve is so thick that it is next to impossible to force a way through it, and one could pass within a few feet of a man and not see him. Everything that experience and skill can suggest has been done and is being done, and we believe that the murderer's capture is only a matter of a very short time now. Major Steele and the officers and men under him deserve the greatest credit for the energy and perseverance with which they have followed this Indian. They have kept him dodging, and are giving him a very uncomfortable time of it.

Pleasant as syrup; nothing equals it as a worm medicine; the name is Mother Graves's Worm Exterminator. The greatest worm destroyer of the age.

SECESSION

Shall the Territories Be Divided?

The Debate in the Assembly on the Constitutional Memorial—Dr. Brett Proposes the Principle of Secession of Alberta—Insinger's Reply—Magrath for Secession—Fearon Champions Unity.

The Memorial to the Governor-General in Council endorsed by the Assembly, setting forth the position of the Territories and our immediate requirements, was published in full in THE LEADER last week. This week we commence the report of the debate on the question. THE LEADER possesses the only accurate and complete report of this debate that exists or was taken. It was probably the most important debate that has taken place in the Assembly for years, and, as such, is deserving of the space which will be devoted to it:—

MR. ROSS

in moving that the House go into committee of the whole to consider the drafted memorial from the special committee, setting forth the legislative and financial position of the Assembly, suggested that if discussion were to take place on the contents of the memorial, asking for Territorial autonomy as against provincial autonomy, it would be better for it to take place at once rather than in committee where questions of principle ought not to be dealt with. Having already made a lengthy speech regarding the subject, he need say nothing now, except to express his pleasure that the memorial practically was along lines he had suggested.

MR. BRETT

(Banff) said he agreed the time for presenting the memorial had arrived. The present question was probably the most important the House had before it for consideration. While, however, it was only a temporary measure the memorial asked for, he was one of those who believed the time had come when they should with no uncertain sound tell the Dominion Government, or indicate to them in what position they would like the Territories placed. He was not going to state that the memorial should indicate that a more radical change than was asked for therein should take place at once. It was a serious thing to too rapidly get to an advanced condition if the conditions of the country would not warrant it; still at the same time it was equally bad that they should linger along and not do that which they considered was for the best advancement of the country. In considering that question they were called upon to consider two great principles. In the first place should they ask for responsible government, and if they did should they ask it for the Territories as a whole? He did not think that was something they could arrive at very suddenly, nor did he think it was probably wise to take his ideas or opinions on the matter, for everyone should be prepared to give his own views, and have good reasons for those views. There was no use disguising the fact that if the people of the Territories as a whole were asked "Do you want the Territories erected into a province such as Ontario, or any other province of the Dominion?" he believed a large majority would at once exclaim "No!" (Hear, hear.) That answer would be very largely due to the fact that many people were not sufficiently educated on what it really meant to get provincial powers and to be established into a province. Many people were laboring under mistaken ideas with reference to the expenses that would naturally attach to the erection of a province. Some had the idea that immediately on the erection of a province they would be forced to form municipalities. That would not be necessary. It was true that in Manitoba and other provinces municipalities had been formed. British Columbia, however, was an exception. The Territories had just as much power to-day in forming municipalities as they would have, had they full responsible government. In British Columbia they had a less number of municipalities than there were in the Territories.

Mr. Haultain: They have direct taxation.

Mr. Brett: So far as direct taxation is concerned we possess all the powers to-day of direct taxation of any province of the Dominion. The direct taxation in British Columbia was poll tax, and the Territories could have the same thing. But it did not follow that if the Territories were formed into a province, these powers would be exercised any more than now. He thought that would dispose of that objection. There were sufficient other considerations for them to think of in debating their present conditions. Was it going to be any advantage to them? If it was going to cost more than now, if they were going to have less money to expend on the industries of the country, and on improvements in the country, under provincial formation of government, that would probably be one of the strongest reasons that it was not advisable. If they were going to undertake a responsibility they did not think they could carry out, that was probably another reason why they should give it due consideration. As the memorial sets out, they are not now receiving as much money as they are entitled to. It was fair to assume, then, that so far as their financial position was concerned they would be better off were they in the form of a province, than they are now. The next thing for consideration was, were they prepared to undertake the responsiblities? He claimed that the Territories, with the present population, were as well qualified to assume responsibility as was the province of Manitoba, when she undertook full provincial government,—as was the province of British Columbia (hear, hear). Another point was, in what position would it place the Territories with reference to the making of laws? He believed in a better. Another question was, had the time arrived when they should take this step? Some would say the time had not arrived because they were not strong enough to assume the responsibilities. They were not strong enough to go to the Dominion Government and make a contract with them. He was not unmindful of the fact that there was a great deal in being strong. The stronger they were the better bargain probably they could make. But as he understood the manner in which portions of the Dominion had been taken into confederation and established as provinces, they entered in on a basis which was stated in the British North America Act and which no government could go behind. If the Territories were taken into confederation to-day they would only receive the same amount per capita as they would were they ten times stronger. They would certainly receive more as population grew for expenses of government. That amount was regulated according to population. Manitoba received $35,000 for expenses of government, while latterly a better arrangement was made them, and now they get $50,000. The same thing would attach to the Territories. Another question to consider was,—as to the amount of money that should be claimed in lieu of lands over which they had no control. That resolved itself into the question of making a bargain. They could state an amount they were willing to begin with, and the bargain need not be made in a manner that finally settled it, so that later they could go to the Dominion Government and ask for a greater amount in lieu of their lands. Another objection, to undertake great responsibilities now, was that business was depressed, and we had hard times; wait until there was a revival of trade, and so on. Times had been bad all over the world, and the sooner they could help themselves, all the sooner would they relieve themselves of the depressed condition. They would not, of course, interfere with the cause that had made the depression so general, but they could during depressed times,—if they had it within their power,—go on with public works, do things that in other provinces were doing good for the people. Thus, he said, they would be hastening the time when they would not be suffering from the effects of these hard times. The question of the Territories remaining as they are must come to an end sometime, and it was for the House very largely to determine whether it should come now or be deferred. He believed that so long as they curtailed their demands simply to a portion of what they were entitled to, they would receive less and less every year. The time had come when they should tell the Dominion Government in unmistakable terms that at the expiration of this Assembly,—two years hence,—they would expect full provincial powers would be given to the Territories, either as a whole or divided. He had stated there were no provincial taxes in Manitoba, nor would it be necessary to have them here. He might be asked,—In what way are you going to raise the revenue to carry on the Government? In the first place they would get a grant of money sufficient for the expenses of Government as they do in British Columbia. Then they would have in their power the collection of other taxes, license fees, and so forth, as in British Columbia. He would now refer more particularly to Alberta. If provincial government would be a good thing for the whole of the Territories, he claimed it would not be unfair for a portion of the Territories to ask for it. The time had come not only for the Territories as a whole to ask for provincial powers, but it was high time something should be done in the direction of giving to the western portion of the Territories full provincial powers. The conditions of the eastern and western portions of the Territories were quite different in many respects. In the west there were resources which would greatly assist the country generally if properly developed. They had ranching, grain growing, minerals, coal, industries in coal oil and so on, which under proper conditions would make that portion of the country one of the richest, if not the richest part of the whole of the Territories. With proper railway facilities those coal fields would immediately be got into active operation. That would largely increase the population in those parts. Those people would furnish a local market for those who raised cattle, grain and vegetables to the north of them. They had diversified interests there but that made them stronger because they could deal with each other. The benefits they would obtain from having a provincial form of government would be that they would have power to do as they thought best for the development of the country. Nearly every member of that Assembly must have a feeling of disappointment with reference to the North-West Territories. They had been standing still—marking time. He did not think the best efforts had been made in their behalf. The powers of the province would make them progress much more rapidly than it had. British Columbia to-day was attracting the attention of the world. They had not got the rich mines in the western part of the Territories as in British Columbia, but they had mines which if developed, they did not know but what they might be as valuable as those in British Columbia. The mines being developed in British Columbia would not be developed were it not that the B.C. government had made good roads, and so made it possible for the people to get into the mountainous districts. Had British Columbia been dependent year after year as the Territories were, and asking for something and only getting a small amount, that province would not have progressed as it had done. There was another thing which might be an argument in support of his contention for provincial powers for Alberta. There was a good deal in a name. The name "The Territories," had an altogether different sound to intending immigrants than that of a "province." They did not dissociate in their minds the United States territories from the North-West Territories. It was a cold, inhospitable name. The Territories was thought to be a land of cold and snow for about two-thirds of the year. He had heard many people say the name was bad, and retarded immigration. People said they would try "a province." It was a more civilized name,—a more congenial name. Were they a province, the name of "The province" would enhance their chances of getting immigrants above what they were now. He hoped the House would amend the terms of the memorial by recommending to the Dominion Government, that at the expiration of that Assembly the time would have arrived when Alberta and Athabasca should be erected into a province. He hoped the House would remember he was speaking for Alberta.

Mr. Haultain: What part of Alberta?

Mr. Brett: I am speaking for that portion as I understand it, and for that portion where my interests lie. Some might say, Why ask for Alberta to be set apart? The eastern and western parts of Assiniboia had not such a large population as Alberta.

Mr. Insinger: No, no; the hon. gentleman is very much out there.

Mr. Brett thought if the hon. member would carry out the figures as they were in the memorial he would find that Alberta had a larger population than the Assiniboias. No, (continued Mr. Brett, looking at a paper crowded with figures) the two Assiniboias had a population of about 10 per cent. more than Alberta, carrying out the figures on the same lines as was done in the memorial. Some might say, why have not Assiniboia and Saskatchewan asked to be made into a province? He had never seen a stronger appeal made than Saskatchewan was making some time ago for some form of provincial government. He would now speak for Alberta as he understood it; not for the whole of Alberta but a portion of it.

Mr. Haultain: Hear, hear.

Mr. Brett, continuing, said if they would look at the increase of population as figured out in the memorial they would find out that in the years 1891-94 it was 57 per cent., much larger than in Assiniboia.

Mr. Page: Does the hon. member contend that the increase has been the same during the last two years, that it was during the three preceding years?

Dr. Brett replied that he was discussing a memorial which had been placed before the House, and he dared say it had been prepared very carefully and with due regard to absolute correctness.

Mr. Haultain: But that is Territorial increase.

Mr. Brett: Yes, that is certainly Territorial increase, but if in 1891-94 Alberta increased 57 per cent. there was no reason to his mind, why that increase had not gone on since then. The increase of 40 per cent. claimed for the whole of the Territories in the memorial was based on the figures that Alberta had increased 57 per cent., Eastern Assiniboia 35 per cent., Western Assiniboia 24 per cent., Saskatchewan 33 per cent. Taking that as a basis the increase during 1891-97 would be Alberta 90 per cent., the two Assiniboias 92 per cent., and Saskatchewan 110 per cent.

Mr. Insinger: How does the hon. member compute these calculations out of the memorial? I know a little about the figures there, and I don't see how under any circumstances the deductions can be drawn from the memorial. The increases in the memorial are based on the whole population, but to jump from that to the increase that happened in different parts is something a little absurd.

Mr. Brett answered that he would stand accused of being absurd,—but the figures showed a general increase in 1892-95 of 57 per cent., and in the Territories of 40 per cent., and there was no reason to show that Alberta had not increased as much since. He obtained his figures in the office, and he believed they were absolutely correct. They were from the census returns taken by the N.W.M. Police. If the hon gentleman who composed the committee to draft the memorial were warranted in saying that the whole of the Territories had increased at the rate of 40, that was ten per cent a year, it was fair to assume, in the absence of anything to the contrary, that Alberta had increased in the same rate since 1894 (Hear, hear.) That was a fair thing. He might appear ridiculous, but he certainly didn't realize to a very large extent that he was ridiculous in making a computation of that kind. He was simply giving a reason, why, as a representative of Alberta, he was justified in asking the House to indicate to the Dominion Government that the time had arrived when it and Athabasca should be set apart as a province by itself. While the population was increasing, and they had been getting an increased grant year by year, it was found that Alberta had been contributing much more to the local revenues than other parts of the Territories. Of the total revenue contributed by the Territories (30,040) Alberta contributed 56 per cent., and eastern and western Assiniboia 37 per cent. That made only 93 per cent. The other portions was made up of moneys he could not compute. Alberta contributed a good deal more than all the rest of the Territories. He would give a few items. The liquor license was $24,907. Of that, Alberta contributed $15,178; the balance of the Territories showed $9,729. That showed Alberta contributed the most. (Laughter, and an hon. member: "And it is a sign of progress!") The cost of collecting that $9,729 in the two Assiniboias and Saskatchewan was $4,076, so that the net amount contributed by those portions was $5,652; while to collect $15,178 in Alberta it only cost $1,849, so in that respect Alberta's net contribution was $13,329. Looking at it in that way Alberta contributed 78 per cent. of the net revenues of the Territories. (Hear, hear, and laughter.) He knew those figures were rather startling. (Renewed laughter.)

Mr. Haultain: What is the magnificent total of the revenue?

Mr. Brett; The magnificent total of the revenue is $30,040.

Mr. Haultain; What is this net revenue?

Mr. Brett: For licenses under the Liquor Ordinance, the only item I can give the hon. gentleman, the gross revenue is $24,908. The expenditure attending the collection of that is $5,926, leaving a net revenue of $18,982. That is outside the expenses of the chief license inspector and so on. In it were not included the meetings of commissioners, and so on. Proceeding, the hon. gentleman remarked, some might say the magnificent sum, as the hon. member for Macleod called it, was only $30,040, but even in that small amount if there was a very large disparity between the amount contributed by one partner in the firm with the amount he got out of it, he was justified in looking around for some remedy. Someone might ask, what if Alberta did contribute 78 per cent of the net revenue, what had that to do with it? Nothing, if 78 per cent. was spent in Alberta of the firm's money. But they found that Alberta came out at the wrong end there. Last year Alberta received about 30 per cent. of the full amount paid for schools in the Territories. It might be said, whose fault was that? If Alberta had had a greater number of schools established she would have had a larger proportion of the money. He presumed that as many schools as were required were established there; he did not know anything to the contrary. Then the expense of spending that money was five times greater in Assiniboia and Saskatchewan than in Alberta. Then on roads and bridges Alberta had had a little over one-third the total money, having contributed over three-fourths of the net revenues from local sources.

Mr. Haultain: The net revenue expended upon roads and bridges?

Mr. Brett: No. While Alberta had contributed over three-fourths of the net local revenue, they had received less than one-third in schools and only a trifle over a third of the full amount expended for roads and bridges. That condition of affairs justified him, as one representative of Alberta, to ask that Alberta should be relieved, and placed in a position of collecting its own revenues and doing as it liked. In conclusion the hon. member further argued that Alberta was entitled to provincial status on the ground of excess in increase of population, and also of extent of acreage. He could understand it was not going to be an easy matter to get the sanction of the House. It was not anything the House would voluntarily tender to Alberta. He did not think the Territories were sufficiently tired of Alberta, or sufficiently discontented with the part Alberta played with reference to the contributions to the general fund and so on. He could not readily understand, as was always the case in secession, or one part asking to be relieved from another portion, there always would be some objection taken. But he thought the time would soon come when there would be unanimity of feeling that the course he proposed was the best thing not only for Alberta but also for several portions of the Territories to be constructed into a province. (Hear, hear.)

(Continued on Page 5.)

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This is a big idea, and it has to do with everything under the sun. Here, for instance, is the case of a man who spent a whole summer in bed when he might just as well have been on his feet looking after his business and having odds and ends of pleasure on evenings and holidays.

Along in the spring of 1889 he took a chill; exactly the time of year to take chills if you don't watch out, and often if you do. Well, immediately afterwards a dreadful pain struck into both his hips and legs. The result of this was that he had to go to bed, and he stayed there for sixteen weeks. Just think of that! Fancy it a problem in arithmetic—a child's simple "sum" to be worked out on a slate. Add the pain, the trouble and worry to his family, the direct extra expenses, the loss of time and income, the loss of the summer's enjoyments, the doctor's bills, etc., etc.—and see what it tots up at.

The first doctor who attended him said he had sciatica, and had it very bad. The doctor was either right or wrong. If he was right the result showed that he didn't know how to cure sciatica. If he was wrong it showed that he could't diagnose a disease from its symptoms. Put it how you will, he might have been an industrious, hard-working man but lacked something of being a proper doctor. Well, he gave up the case, and Mr. Dawson (our suffering friend's name) sent for another. This one blistered him and painted him with iodine from his waist to his feet. By this time Mr. Dawson was unable to get out of bed or to dress himself without assistance.

The doctor's medicines and applications failing to help him he went to the hospital at Buxton, where he was advised to try the baths. After being there three weeks he returned home but little better for the treatment.

The conclusion of this exasperating experience is set forth in a few words by Mr. Dawson himself in the letter from which the above-mentioned facts are taken:

"I had," he says, "little or no use of my legs, and it was wholly out of my power to attend to my business. I lost a deal of sleep in consequence of the pain, and owing to a want of appetite and necessary nourishment I grew very weak. Even after leaving my bed if I went out for a breath of fresh air I had to stop and rest every few yards. I was so broken and helpless that my wife and others who saw me thought I never should get about again. In this condition I remained until January 1891, when I read of cases like mine having been cured by Seigel's Syrup. Persuaded by the clearness and evident sincerity of the reasoning, I began taking the syrup, and soon found relief. My legs had more power, and the pain gradually subsided, until it ceased altogether, and I could go about as I did before I was taken ill. If I had only known of this remedy and used it sooner I should have been saved suffering and heavy doctors' bills. You can publish this statement if you think it will be of use to others." Yours truly (signed) Harrison Dawson, Heap Bridge, Bury, April 27th, 1893.

Our friend's inference is perfectly logical as to the advantage he would have derived from an earlier knowledge of Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup; as his ailment—acute rheumatism—arose from the poison generated by a torpid digestion and a clogged liver for which the syrup is a specific. His doctors laboured hard to cure him no doubt, but without an understanding of the case of his condition. Blind men may walk, but are apt to walk in circles. The remedy that succeeds where others fail is a product of industry and intelligence.

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