

THE LEADER.

THE LEADER-TIMES CO. LIMITED.

SUBSCRIPTION \$1.00 per annum, if paid in advance; \$2.00 if in arrears.

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VOL. 19. NO. 10.

Thursday Morning, April 24, 1902

THE SESSION.

The eighteen-days' session of the North-West Legislature just closed proved a very tame affair. The bills introduced, few in number, were chiefly amending bills, and although of some importance were not of a character to provoke discussion in the chamber or to arouse much interest among the public. Even Supply, usually more or less a battle-field, went through in one night without a single vote being challenged and almost without a murmur. This is strong testimony to the satisfactory way in which Territorial affairs are being managed.

The Opposition, with so many leaders and so few followers, has not hitherto allowed even microscopic grievances to escape scot-free, and the public may rest assured that if there had been any peg on which to hang a complaint these soldierly officers would have been equal to the occasion.

If, however, but little legislation was introduced to the notice of our local legislators there was a good deal of opinion discussed and a good deal of advice given. We take it that some notice is bestowed on resolutions specially addressed by the North-West Legislature to the Dominion Government and if so Regina has provided Ottawa with much food for reflection. Regret that the Dominion Government has shelved the provincial autonomy question in such a cavalier fashion was expressed with some emphasis and although we think a stronger protest might have been properly adopted, yet regret declared first in the Speech from the throne and afterwards endorsed by a resolution of the Assembly ought to be sufficient for all practical purposes. There can be no doubt, too, as to the feeling of the Assembly on the one-province question which was accentuated by a large majority of the members and those representing all three of the provisional Territories: while the terms so often urged by Premier Haultain as the just and equitable conditions on which provincial status should be reached received not only the unanimous but the hearty approval of the Assembly.

This was not the only question on which the Legislature was unanimous. The timely motion by Mr. R. S. Lake met with a support that might almost be called enthusiastic. The motion of the hon. member for Grenfell was really a corollary to the refusal of the Dominion Government to at once grant provincial status. The motion referred to the grain blockade and urged that in consequence of the dog-in-the-manger policy of keeping from the Territories the power to effectuate the adequate transportation facilities which the C.P.R. seems unable or unwilling to provide, therefore it is the imperative duty of the Dominion Government to take immediate steps looking to the provision of increased transportation facilities whether by additional trunk lines or otherwise. It seems only reasonable that if the Dominion Government refuses to let us handle such matters ourselves the least it can do is to handle them for us.

Another resolution unanimously endorsed by the Assembly was that of the Minister of Agriculture demanding amendment to the Elevator Act. The advantages taken by the elevator combine last year of the grain blockade are fresh in the public mind and still rankle in the breast of those who suffered therefrom. Mr. Bulyea's motion demands that this shall not be able to be repeated. It is monstrous that prices shall be dishonestly pushed down and grades depressed by trickery. If such robbery of the farmer can be prevented by legislation we ought to have the legislation without delay. Mr. Bulyea's proposal is simplicity itself. He asks that when there is undue difference between the street and the track prices independent buyers shall be allowed to buy without embarrassment, and shall enjoy the privileges and advantages now reserved for the elevator men. In other words he asks that the Act shall be so amended that there shall be a step towards free trade in buying and during the debate the doctrine was boldly declared that a farmer ought to be able to sell his grain to whom he pleases without let or hindrance. This is but common sense and if Mr. Bulyea can succeed in squeezing the necessary concession out of the Government at Ottawa—and we may rest assured he will try his best—then he will add one more item to the debt of gratitude due to him for what he accomplished in other respects during the recent blockade.

Of the other matters discussed in the Assembly we will merely say that there was a strong feeling against any intrusion from Manitoba westward and some of the Saskatchewan members declined to part with their territory to the north of Manitoba, a course to

which many persons in the Territories have little or no objection. The other matter is the Redistribution Bill in regard to which not even the faintest odor of gerrymander could be detected. The prevailing idea in the measure is a basis of population and area combined, and the principle acted upon is very similar to that in the Dominion Acts for a similar purpose. These have the population of Quebec as a starting point and Mr. Haultain takes the population of Saskatchewan. It is thus seen that Mr. Haultain and his supporters will go before the country at the elections with a past of which they may well be proud and can look forward with confidence to a future in which they shall continue their good work. There was a good deal of talk about a mandate during the session just closed. The two-provinces men, north-and-south, and the two-provinces men, east-and-west, are all going to bring back "mandates." The new Opposition will have about as many mandates as members, but we believe as we hope, that the expressed wish of nearly the whole of the people of the Territories will be in favor of one province on the terms that Mr. Haultain has propounded, and that even in the alternative it will be to him to whom power and authority will be entrusted to see the business to a successful issue.

THE NORTH-WEST LIBRARY.

One of the "little reforms" effected at the recent session of the North-West legislature is that its library is to be put on a proper basis.

Public libraries are always a good institution and of these an official library is the best.

Not only are the contents of such establishments priceless to all who love books and know how to read them, a rare gift, but they are valuable as storehouses of reference and depositories of record.

It has been pointed out that already the compilation of statistics on Territorial crops has beneficially affected prices and, speaking broadly, any one of logical or scientific turn of mind (and the two are very much the same thing) knows very well that the best induction leading to the surest deduction is that inferred from the greatest number of particulars.

The gathering together of all the facts concerning this country should be, therefore, the chief aim in a North-West official library. They will form the basis of future laws, the lamp to guide the feet of our legislators. Let the library seek first this and all the other uses of libraries shall follow in due course.

Andrew Carnegie behaved shrilly when he determined to devote his wealth to the founding of libraries all over the world. It was the most permanent investment for the good of humanity he could possibly make.

Hospitals, public baths, recreation grounds and the thousand and one other channels by which millionaires seek to hand their names to posterity are not to be compared to libraries.

These are transitory: these are imperishable. The others fulfill their mission and pass away as perhaps shall the nations wherein they are.

They have their day and cease to be. But a library never dies. It may be destroyed by fire or amid the whirligig of time its material parts may be scattered to the four winds of heaven.

But it lives all the same: it lives in the seeds it sowed in the minds, the hearts

the souls of those that thumbed its treasured tomes. The seeds grow and bear fruit, some a hundred-fold, some a thousand-fold, and they spread over the world and fructify for ever. It is long, long ago since, sad to relate, the library at Alexandria was destroyed, but in every country in both hemispheres we are to-day gathering fruit that has sprung from the seeds scattered from that classic spot. We should still be in Cimmerian darkness but for the grand old libraries of ancient time.

There are some persons who sneer at books and at what they call book learning. This is snobbery of the first-water.

Lord Foppington says in The Relapse,

"To mind the inside of a book is to entertain one's self with the forced product of another man's brain. Now I think a man of quality and breeding may be much amused with the natural sprouts of his own."

There are many who have neither quality nor breeding who are precisely of that opinion, who imagine their brains are just as good as other people's and to whom both Nature and books alike appeal in vain.

They simply do not know what books have done or what Nature does in their behalf.

Perhaps at the coming election a few such persons will attend meetings and talk of the waste

of money in book buying, as was actually the case in Manitoba at the last provincial elections. But there are people who are not Lord Foppingtons, who believe that others besides themselves have and have had brains, better brains even than their own, and who thank their lucky stars that they live under a Government that has been wise enough to establish a storehouse of other men's minds in which they may revel, it may be for pleasure, or for profit, or even for ascertaining means of making the almighty dollar. There may have been difference of opinion as to which department of the Territorial Government is doing most for future generations of our growing country, but now that it has been decided to form the nucleus of a national library there can no longer be any difference of opinion on the subject.

CANADIAN NORTHERN APPLICATION.

In the railway committee on Thurs-

day an application of the C.N.R. was

dealt with, which is the largest char-

ter ever presented to Parliament.

The company asks power to build from a point on the present line west of Port Arthur to Quebec, with branches running south respectively to Port Arthur, to Ottawa

WESTERN RAILWAYS

Canadian Northern and Canadian Pacific Bills Before Parliament.

A STUPENDOUS PROPOSITION.

Mann & Mackenzie Plans Unfolded
Before the Railway Committee.
McCreary Opposed and Oliver and Davis Favor the Charter—M. & N. W. Line to be Extended at Once by the C.P.R.—Question of Land Grant Budget Debate Ended.

OTTAWA, April 11, 1902.—A long-drawn-out budget debate ended at 3 o'clock on Wednesday morning. The Conservative speakers on Monday and Tuesday were Lennox (Sincoe), Northrup (Hastings), Ward (Durham) Keniry (Peterboro), Clancy, Henderson, Pope and Ganong. Each exceeded his predecessor in outspokenness for high tariff, and against the preferential tariff. Pope declared for a Chinese wall, and Henderson stated that the preference would disappear as soon as the House on Friday night McCreary fought it straight. He held that at all events it should be held over until the fact were clearly ascertained whether or not Manitoba's liability under last year's bargain would be increased. He and Oliver had a warm discussion over the matter of the branch running south in Alberta to Red Deer River. McCreary succeeded in talking out the hour devoted on Friday night to private bills. The Bill is in charge of Mr. Davis, who strongly approves it.

THE MANITOBA AND NORTH-WESTERN.

An application to revive the charter of the M. & N.W. road, now owned by the C.P.R., is before Parliament, in care of Dr. Douglas. Davis is not in favor of the renewal, and in committee, finding opposition useless, he fought to have the company bound to build 35 miles each year instead of having the usual provision for proceeding with in two and completing with five years. His amendment was defeated, but the company guarantees to construct 33 miles of the line this year, besides 100 miles upon the line running northwesterly from Moosomin. Scott demanded to know whether the land grant still attached to the M. & N.W. charter, stating that he would oppose the revival if such were the case. Mr. Blair said the land grant had lapsed, and would not follow construction now unless a new Order-in-Council was passed. As the Government had frequently delayed in carrying its policy to port with no lands to complete it, Sir George accepted the amendment. He further demanded to know from the company's representative present what mileage would be built this year on the various branch lines which the company has partly built or has power to build in the West, and contended that when the company came before Parliament asking increased powers, they should be prepared to take Parliament into their confidence with regard to their exercise of the powers already possessed. The public had a right to know what was to be done upon the several undertakings of the company, and he intended to bring the Arcola line, which the people between Arcola and Regina were interested in seeing constructed as soon as possible. Mr. Clegg, the C.P.R. solicitor, said he had not come prepared with information other than concerned the particular application before the committee, and in further answer to Mr. Scott, said the next time he appeared, he would be prepared to give all the information desired.

RAILWAY COMMISSION.

On Wednesday the Minister of Railways brought down a measure to abolish the Railway Committee of the Privy Council and establish in its place a Railway Commission to be composed of three men, one a lawyer, one a business man, and the third a railway expert. It is understood that the Bill will not be pressed this session, but simply discussed and given wide publicity. The proposal is to give more extensive powers to the commissioners than are exercised by the existing tribunal. It shall be able to fix and control rates and from its decisions there shall be no appeal except in certain cases to the Governor-General in Council. Much of the usefulness of the commission in the United States has been minimized by the ability of the railway companies to carry appeals to the courts, where sometimes cases have dragged on for five years. In presenting the Bill Mr. Blair made a very lucid and able statement of the reasons which had led to its preparation and of its provisions. He pointed out some phase of general complaint which no legislation, no regulation, could remove, and which could only be removed by general development, growth and altered general conditions. He feared those who believed that a commission would remove all rights were likely to be deceived, yet he thought that in many respects much improvement could be worked if the right men were obtained—and after all practically everything depended on the men composing the tribunal—and powers given them as free as possible from restrictions. The Bill was read the first time.

POLICE OFFICERS' PENSION BILL.

On Thursday the measure entitled The Mounted Police Officers' Pension Bill was considered in Committee of the Whole. The Bill is wrongly named. It is not a pension Bill, but a re-arrangement of the Retiring Allowance system at present in force. Hitherto Mounted Police Officers have been under the same system as Civil Servants, which up to 1898 was the system provided under the Superannuation Act, which was at that time repealed and replaced by a self-sustaining Retiring Allowance system. The provisions of this system apply to the officers of the N.W.M.P. and to the officers of the C.P.R. re-arranged; and one important reform made by the Bill is that officers promoted from the ranks will not lose as they do now, the advantage of their service in the ranks in the calculation of allowances. The need of a pension system, within which would come the families of officers killed or injured or which could only be removed by general development, growth and altered general conditions. He feared those who believed that a commission would remove all rights were likely to be deceived, yet he thought that in many respects much improvement could be worked if the right men were obtained—and after all practically everything depended on the men composing the tribunal—and powers given them as free as possible from restrictions.

COTTONWOOD.

The present state of the roads has necessitated many changes from the original route, and has been the occasion of not a few mishaps, one being nearly a fatality. Mr. Neville attempted to cross the Cottonwood at Poyser's crossing, his wagon became detached, and he was obliged to jump into the icy river and swim for his life to the shore. This occurred on Saturday evening. On Monday he with some others went to secure the wreckage. They got the wagon all but the spring seat, which had gone somewhere on its own responsibility, but the cargo consisting of oats and beef was nowhere to be found. There will probably be a good crop of hay grown along the banks of the Cottonwood this summer. Who will be the gainer thereby is a problem. It is easy to see just now who is the loser. Fortunately Mr. Neville is none the worse for his icy bath, and his team also escaped without hurt.—Mr. and Mrs. Kinross have returned from their eastern trip in good health.—H. D. Buchanan sails from England on the 10th inst. on the steamer Ionia, bound for Montreal.—Farmers here are ready for seeding and some are on the land for the first time.

A Doctor's Bad Plight.

"Two years ago, as a result of a severe cold, I lost my voice," writes Dr. M. L. Scarborough, of Hebron, Ohio, "then began an obstinate cough. Every remedy known to me as a practicing physician for 33 years failed and I daily grew worse. Being urged to try Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption, Coughs and Colds, I found quick relief, and last ten days have felt better than for two years. Positively guaranteed for Throat and Lung troubles by the Canada Drug and Book Co., 50c and \$1.00. Trial bottles free."

QU'APPELLE.

The fourth department of the public school was opened last week under the charge of Miss Feale of Winnipeg. Miss Tait, late of the Gilana Concert Company, has become a resident of our town, having secured a large number of music pupils. Miss Tait will also act as organist at St Peter's pro-cathedral. Ven. Archdeacon Sargent visited Winnipeg last week to participate in the election of a Bishop for the Diocese of Keystone. Dr. C. S. Purcock, the manager of the branch of the Union Bank about to be opened here, has arrived to superintend the furnishing of the bank's quarters in the McKeehan block.—Miss Lloyd, a graduate in Mr. A. D. Dickson's office—Dr. Henderson left on Tuesday to visit Mr. W. Broyle of Weyburn, an old townsmen here, who is reported in a dangerous condition. Great business is being done in the supply of implements and horses and it is evident that the increase of crop acreage in the district will be even greater than last year. The site of the building now used as a court house and town hall being required for the new elevators to be erected this summer, the question of the erection of a new town hall will become a vital one. We trust the municipal council will decide on putting up a building that will fully meet the needs of the district.—By law calling for the building of municipal elevators at Qu'Appelle and McLean having been so unanimously approved by the ratepayers, it is expected that they will be proceeded with without delay. Under proper management they should prove a great boon to the farmers.

A Nearly Fatal Runaway

Started a horrible ulcer on the leg of J. B. Orner, Franklin Grove, Ill., which defied doctors and all remedies for four years. Then Bucklen's Arnica Salve cured him. Just as good for Boils, Burns, Bruises, Cuts, Corns, Scalds, Skin Eruptions and Piles. 25c at the Canada Drug and Book Co.

and to Montreal. In addition to existing charters they want power to build from a point on their present line near Swan River westerly to a point where their main line will be tapped west of Battleford. There was also power asked to build another line from east to west in Saskatchewan and Alberta, which would give the company practically three parallel lines across those provinces but the committee agreed to drop the third line. They agreed to ask a second road from Edmonton to the Pacific ocean by way of Pine River Pass; also a road from near Lethbridge to the Pas Mission northeasterly to connect with the line they already have power to build to Hudson's Bay. And lastly a branch from the main line east of Edmonton south to the Red Deer River. It is a large order. Certain of the provisions were freely criticised in the committee by McCreary, who opposes the whole application, and by Oliver, who generally approves the Bill, who asked for certain amendments. The Bill was reported with some comparatively unimportant changes.

But when the Bill came again before the House on Friday night McCreary fought it straight. He held that at all events it should be held over until the fact were clearly ascertained whether or not Manitoba's liability under last year's bargain would be increased.

He and Oliver had a warm discussion over the matter of the branch running south in Alberta to Red Deer River. McCreary succeeded in talking out the hour devoted on Friday night to private bills. The Bill is in charge of Mr. Davis, who strongly approves it.

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