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W. K. C. PARLEE,

L. C. MACNUTT,

Manager.

Editor

DAILY HERALD.

MONDAY, JUNE 6, 1904.

NON-POLITICAL TESTIMONY.

The evidence of Re. D. G. McQueen, Presbyterian missionary at Edmonton, N. W. T., is strong in support of the construction of the new transcontinental railway. Mr. McQueen, who is attending the Presbyterian General Assembly at St. John, while declaring that he is not a politician has resided at Edmonton for seventeen years, and knows a great deal of the conditions in the west. Here is his declaration.

"There has been growth in Saskatchewan ever since 1896. Some say the coming in of the Liberal government was the cause of it. Greater growth is before us. The C. P. R. is in now. The Canadian Northern and Grand Trunk Pacific are coming. We want them. Every man in that country wants all three competing roads that we may have a living rate in transportation. I care not for what they say at Ottawa, there is room and need of the Grand Trunk Pacific. Thirty years hence half the population of Canada and the controlling political influence will be the west of Lake Superior."

Much more importance will be attached to Mr. McQueen's words than to those of any Tory politician who may declare that the Grand Trunk Pacific railway is not needed.

THE YUKON COUNTRY.

We are learning much of the Canadian west from the addresses of the Presbyterian missionaries, who are attending the General Assembly meeting at St. John. For instance eastern conception of the Yukon has been, that outside of the rich mineral deposits in that region, the country is a barren waste, and that when the mines are exhausted of their wealth if that ever occurs, the land will lapse back into its unknown and uncared for condition.

This idea however is speedily dissipation on reading the testimony of Rev. Dr. Pringle, the noted Presbyterian missionary, who has been laboring in the Yukon and has traversed that country from end to end. Speaking in St. Andrew's Church, at St. John last night, Dr. Pringle said that except for two months in the year he had found the Yukon climate the best for him in all Canada. There are two months with only six hours daylight, and then, 355 miles from the railway, the time does hang a little heavy, especially upon those who have not been doing very well. He wore no overcoat the first three winters he was in the Yukon, and he is wearing in St. John the same weight of clothing he wears up there. It is a land of almost perpetual sunshine, and except at Lake Bennett, on the divide, it is a windless country. He started once on Nov. 26 from Dawson for White Horse, and until Christmas there was not enough sleighing for the dog sleighs. In Ontario, he had seen trains cancelled by snow storms.

The Yukon does not grow wheat, but it grows oats and barley, potatoes, cabbages, turnips, lettuce and the finest cauliflowers in the country. Raspberries grow wild over miles of country. So do cranberries, both moss and bush. There is not an Arctic plant in the Yukon valley. Its great product is gold, but if many of our boys who went out for gold had raised vegetables for the mining

camps, they would have made fortunes.

Gold is found everywhere over the surface of the country, in the rivers and streams and on the bars—not always in paying quantities—but where it occurs so widely there must be much that will pay for the working. One little piece of territory, say 28 by 50 miles, had yielded \$125,000,000 since 1896. Very little is known as yet about the gold of the rest of the territory. What is wanted is a railway, from the Grand Trunk Pacific, or another, through the central valley of the Yukon, to bring its wealth out, and not have it go to Seattle or San Francisco.

"You people were slow," said Dr. Pringle. "At the beginning 70 per cent. of the imports into the Yukon were American and only 30 per cent. Canadian."

However, a change has come, and today 70 per cent. of the imports are Canadian. Of the other 30 per cent., 5 per cent. was free, but on 25 per cent. was paid \$402,000. This showed of what value to the manufacturers were the mining camps of the west and north. He believed the development of the Yukon would be permanent, and that the territory, in mining, would be more important in some respects than British Columbia.

JARRING NOTE.

The first unpleasantness in the Presbyterian General Assembly meeting at St. John, occurred Saturday, when Rev. Dr. Scrimger was appointed president of the Montreal Theological College. Rev. Dr. Campbell, who has been connected with the institution thirty years, and has been acting president for a year, thought he should not have been passed over, and he immediately resigned his professorship and left for home, refusing any compromise in the matter. Dr. Campbell thinks that one reason why he was turned down, is that ten years ago he was tried for heresy, and although acquitted, certain members of the Assembly had their axe waiting for him. It is a pity that an incident should arise to disturb the harmony of the Assembly, but evidently the great majority of that body believe that the Montreal College will best flourish under Dr. Scrimger's direction, a man said to possess greater executive ability than Dr. Campbell.

The editor of the Toronto Globe, Rev. J. A. Macdonald, is a great preacher as well as a forcible writer, and he demonstrated the former attribute yesterday in the Germain street Baptist church, St. John. The Sun commenting on his able sermon, says that those who heard Rev. Mr. Macdonald are agreed that while journalism gained by his withdrawal from the active ministry, the church lost a strong preacher. Mr. Macdonald is attending the Presbyterian General Assembly as an elder of one of the Toronto churches.

Sir William Mulock minister of labor, offered his services to settle the matters in dispute between the Dominion Steel Co. and their employees, but both sides have refused his mediation, and the big strike will continue, to the great detriment of Sydney and the surrounding country.

Can anybody tell us what has become of Mr. Tarte?

Hon. J. Norman Ritchie of the Nova Scotia supreme court, who died yesterday at Halifax, was 70 years old and sat on the bench for the past nineteen years. He was three times married and for many years was a leading Halifax lawyer and recorder of the city. There are now two vacancies on the Nova Scotia bench, Chief Justice Macdonald having retired some months ago. One of the seats is pretty sure to go to Dr. Russell, M.P., for Hants.

The government road plant, now the property of the Fredericton civic corporation, was bought dirt cheap, and should be an important aid to good street building in this city.

Death at the Junction.

Our correspondent at Fredericton Junction writes: On Friday morning Lavinia Baley, wife of John Maynard, passed away after a long and painful illness from cancer of the liver. The deceased lady was greatly beloved in the community. She leaves behind her a husband and three children. John Maynard is very well known among the commercial and travelling public and much sympathy is expressed for him in his bereavement. Mrs. Maynard was in her 58th year.

Marysville.

Owing to the change in our business we will be unable to open at Marysville until next week. Mesereau, Photographer.—dtf.

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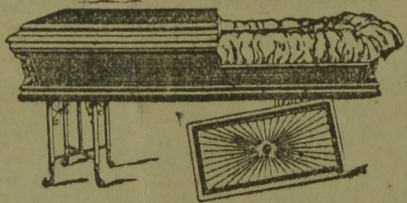
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