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W. K. C. PARLEE, Manager.
L. C. MACNUTT, Editor.

DAILY HERALD

MONDAY, APRIL 10, 1905.

TWO CITY BILLS.

There is a great deal of opposition among the taxpayers of Fredericton to a couple of city bills now before the legislature.

The bill providing for the bonding of the floating indebtedness is regarded by many as entirely unnecessary. It is claimed that if the thousands of dollars represented in the delinquent tax-list were collected, there would be nearly sufficient to wipe out the floating indebtedness, and that after all it is more profitable for the city to borrow money from the banks to tide it over a certain portion of the year before the new assessment is available than to add \$21,000 to the bonded indebtedness of the city upon which interest will have to be paid until the full amount is redeemed 21 years hence. Experts who have figured on the matter declare that by bonding the indebtedness the city will actually be the loser, and that a prompt collection of back taxes and the borrowing of a moderate amount to meet current expenses until the new taxes come in provide a solution of the question much preferable to adding to the bonded indebtedness.

The other bill to which we have reference is that providing for a commission to look into the assessment law of the city and suggest changes.

The Herald freely admits that there are anomalies in our present assessment law that should be corrected, but there is a good reason why the bill should be hung up for the present.

In St. John a commission has been appointed to suggest changes in the assessment law there, and it would be well for Fredericton to wait until the report of that body is available. There may be valuable information in the St. John report applicable to Fredericton, and it would surely be wise on the part of the Fredericton authorities to postpone action for the appointment of a commission until the St. John investigation has been concluded.

The cost of the proposed commission, composed as is provided in the bill, of three commissioners, with the city clerk as secretary, will be considerable, and with all the ambitious schemes the city council has in hand, and the fact that St. John has a commission enquiring along similar lines, it seems a reasonable proposition that the Fredericton bill should be stood over for the present.

Since the above was written the bill bonding the floating indebtedness of the city was reconsidered by the municipalities committee and was bowled out. Particulars of the discussion will be found in our report elsewhere.

It has been suggested that the city council does not intend to appoint the proposed assessment commission until after the St. John report is available, but the house would do well to add a rider to the bill making provision for delay until the St. John commission has been reported.

A CHALLENGE ACCEPTED.

Speaking in parliament last week in reply to Mr. Borden's observations in the Sbarretti incident, Sir Wilfrid Laurier said:

"A few moments ago he said that we would fight this question out elsewhere. I accept that challenge without any qualification. (Cheers.) We will fight out this question in this house. We will fight it out elsewhere, we will fight it out on the charge that the hon. gentlemen of the opposition have brought to the attention of the house. I have no fear of the result. (Cheers.) This is not the first time in the thirty years of my experience that I have seen the Tory party playing this part of endeavouring to arouse the prejudices of the people. (Hear, hear.) We should meet again upon this question and should discuss this question elsewhere. In the meantime I accept the challenge of the leader of the opposition, that we are responsible to the people, and that is a responsibility we should not decline, but will meet it in due time." (Loud cheers.)

Sir Wilfrid was not long in giving practical effect to his acceptance of Mr. Borden's challenge, and it is contained in the appointment of Mr. Oliver to the Cabinet, necessitating his re-election in Alberta, one of the

provinces affected by the autonomy bill.

Nomination takes place April 25, and polling May 2.

Now we shall see what the west thinks of the school question, and if the opposition have that part of the country at their back on the present autonomy measure they should have no hesitation in opposing Mr. Oliver's election.

The St. John Sun is already preparing its party for defeat by declaring that there are a large number of Roman Catholics in Mr. Oliver's constituency, but it would be hard to find one in all Canada where that church is not pretty fairly well represented.

THE NEW MINISTER.

Hon. Frank Oliver who succeeds Hon. Clifford Sifton as minister of the interior, is the editor and proprietor of The Edmonton Bulletin has been a member of parliament since 1896, and is one of the most forceful of the western members.

He is a native of Peel County, Ontario, and is 52 years old. He went west when a young man, and entered public life in 1883 as a member of the Northwest Council, and sat in the Northwest Assembly from 1888 to 1896, when he was elected to the House of Commons. His majority in the last election was over 2,000.

In the house last week Mr. Borden challenged Sir Wilfrid Laurier to test the feeling of the country on the Northwest autonomy bill, and he has his answer in the appointment of Sir Oliver to the cabinet, vacating his seat, compelling him to seek re-election in the Northwest, and affording the opposition a chance to test the feeling of that portion of Canada most interested in the measure now before parliament.

DUTIES OF CANADIANS.

High National Ideals Should Be Placed Before the Narrow Aims of Self-Interest—Personal Exploitation.

The address of Mr. Byron E. Walker of Toronto, to the Canada Club of Ottawa the other day upon the duties of Canadians to Canada was an inspiration to the two hundred members, chiefly stalwart young men, sons of the soil, to place high national ideals before the narrow and selfish aims of self-interest. Mr. Walker rejoiced at the rapid growth in recent years of the feeling of solidarity among the Canadian people. One of the greatest evils Canada has had to contend with was lack of confidence. Mr. Walker drew a gratifying picture of the natural resources which Canadians have inherited, and which are calculated to make Canada the proudest nation in the world.

The fathers of confederation had only been able to accomplish their design of linking the scattered units of Canada together because of their patriotism and intense belief in the future. Every young Canadian owned it as a duty to his country to study her history and the record of the struggles through which she has arrived at her present position. The industrial problem was the first which presented itself for consideration, and under this heading Mr. Walker, while extolling industry in the development of the national resources of the soil, the forest, the mine and the seas, lakes and rivers, uttered a note of warning against the industrialism, the love of money, which threatened to outweigh the higher and nobler sentiment of patriotism. The political conditions of the present day and of the future under a democracy would be just what the average intelligence and the average morality of the country were, and it would be time enough to expect a higher standard of public morality when the average of the individual citizen has been elevated. No sincere, sober, thoughtful citizen of the United States is really satisfied with what the democracy has done for his nation. Experience has proved that per se there is no virtue in democracy itself. We do not want Government in Canada to drift into a condition like that in the United States. If we wish to prevent that, what we have to do is to increase so far as we can those elements in Canadian life that are different to the elements which are to be found in the United States. Mr. Walker pointed out the danger that the Government of the country might become a huge oligarchy, as the Government of the United States sometimes threatens to become.

The anxiety of some people to get in the personal and social column of the press he regarded as a shocking and horrid attempt to exploit themselves, which was in as bad taste as it could possibly be. It was debasing and vulgarizing. Our educational system, of which we are so proud, also had the defects which appeared to be inherent in and inseparable from democracy. The individual expected the State not only to educate his children, but was very pleased to have the State do as much as possible for him for nothing, and although the State does not yet do so, it was apparently expected that before very long the State would be required to assume the responsibility of the dentistry of children's teeth and the examination of their eyes.

In Toronto he did not know yet that plumbing and carpentering were taught, but he had no doubt in the end the demand would be that every child be taught to earn his own living. To his mind that was as false an idea of education as a country could well have. He had no intention of quarrelling with technical schools, believing in their desirability as a superstructure, and in night schools, where those who could not

pay for technical instruction could obtain it free. He did not believe in a system of education which does not teach the children how to speak the English language with reasonable accuracy, and to walk about and deport themselves as gentlemen, and to think and exercise powers of reflection. After all, character and the power to think are the great objects of education. "We cannot make men fit to govern a nation, we cannot make patriotic, thoughtful citizens and a moral people simply by technical education," said Mr. Walker.

"We are to succeed industrially, but are we to be a cultured people?" asked Mr. Walker in reaching the final and finest portion of his address. "We are to be rich, are we to be wise? We shall perhaps be eventually among the first in commerce—shall we be among the first in arts and letters? Unless we attain that distinction, he added, we shall not succeed. We are to be a powerful nation—shall we be a just nation? Are we to develop to be what Great Britain now is, the only nation in the world that can be trusted to govern subject peoples justly? We are to be a democracy—will that be a guarantee of freedom, or a mere oligarchy? He was not a pessimist, Mr. Walker declared, but an optimist; a business man to succeed must be an optimist. But optimism must be ballasted with common-sense. The wise optimist expects trouble, looks upon all trouble as mere detail, but plans to meet trouble. "I am so proud of my country and so confident of my countrymen, I look for the best results. But my ideal of what we should eventually become is so high that all conditions which deter instead of aiding our true progress are irritating. We are just beginning to be on trial before the other nations of the world," Mr. Walker said, in conclusion. "It may be easy to do better than most of them have done—but we should do better than the best. Let us, then, be humble in our time or probation, not vain. We cannot become a great nation without developing national character with decided moral greatness. There is enough wrong in our country already to make us anything but vain of our stewardship thus far."

Wisdom is oftentimes nearer when we stoop than when we soar.—Wordsworth.

MR. HODSON HERE.

Mr. F. W. Hodson, Dominion Live Stock Commissioner, arrived from Ottawa by the noon train today and is a guest at the Queen. The object of his visit is to consult with Hon. Mr. Farris and Deputy Commissioner of Agriculture Peters on institute work and matters pertaining to agricultural work generally. He will probably take over from Mr. Peters the provincial herd book, it being the intention of the Dominion to establish a herd book in the near future for all Canada.



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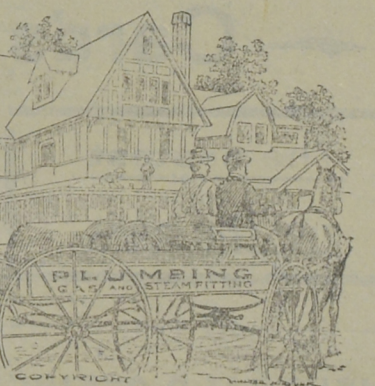
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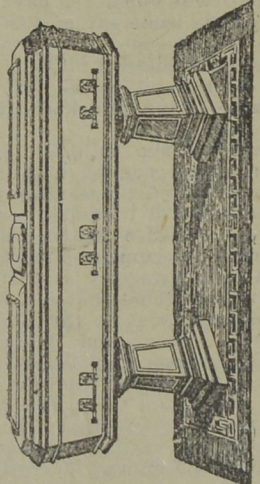
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