

The Prince George Citizen

A SEMI-WEEKLY

Devoted to the upbuilding of Prince George and Northern British Columbia.

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The Grand Trunk Protests.

Mr. E. J. Chamberlain, president of the Grand Trunk railway, has issued a statement in respect of the majority report of the royal commission to inquire into railways and transportation in Canada. He thinks, and he makes a very good case, that the majority commissioners have overlooked some very important considerations, and while he does not make any allegations of unfairness he is strongly of the opinion that some of the conclusions in regard to the physical conditions of the Grand Trunk are not correct.

We have to consider in this connection the fact that during the last three or four years conditions have been very unusual owing to the war, and a railway that in respect of its Eastern business has been quite successful should not be made the victim of circumstances in the west which were practically forced on it by the government. Mr. Chamberlain submits a statement showing that the Grand Trunk railway has made the largest gross earnings per mile of line of any of the principal lines in Canada, or 157.1 per cent of the average rates for all lines. He further shows that a study of the facts shows that the Grand Trunk owns more passenger and freight car equipment and more locomotive equipment per mile than any railway in Canada, except the Michigan Central, and compares more than favorably with the most conservative and successfully managed railways in the United States, having a traffic similar to that of the Grand Trunk.

Political Rumblings.

Vancouver World: That the Conservatives will put up a candidate against Hon. J. W. deB. Farris, who will not have the support at the polls of the local inside ring.

That Hon. William Sloan and possibly the Hon. D. C. King will shortly resign office in the Brewster administration; and

That the Vancouver Sun about that time will cease active support of the government.

These are the coming events which are casting their shadows before, and one of the shadows is the report, very general in political circles, that Mr. Thompson, of Grand Forks, is slated to succeed Mr. Sloan.

Incidentally, it may be added that Mr. Hart, of Victoria, the chief Liberal whip, is understood to regard himself as having the portfolio of finance practically under his arm, notwithstanding the general opinion that it would go to Mr. Speaker Weart.

These are the sun's rumblings. To the practiced political ear, however, they indicate that the fight for control of the Liberal party, which was begun when Mr. M. A. Macdonald was taken into the cabinet against much protest and the better judgment of the leader, whose first choice had been Mr. Farris, is being resumed, and will now be fought to a finish.

All of which is according to report of the practiced politician aforesaid, which is by a Liberal who has seen

every whirl of the political wheel in this city since long before the days when they threw Joe Martin's delegates out of a Liberal convention.

Col. Laverne Is Growing Bolder

Quebec, May 28. — Advising his audience that they should refuse to obey the conscription law if the proposed measure is passed, and that "we have nothing against the Germans," Col. Armand Laverne, ex-M.L.A., came out more openly today in opposition to compulsory recruiting in Canada for military service abroad. About 5000 people cheered him wildly as he denounced the government for the proposed conscription measure.

"I believe I should say that if the government passes the damned law, if you have a heart, if you are still descendants of those who wrested the country from the Iroquois, of those who ascended the scaffold crying 'Vive La Liberte,' 'Vive L'Independence' or those who have written with their French and Catholic blood an epic such as no other race can show, you should take a pledge to disobey it."

Mr. Laverne stated that it was England who wished the war of today to crush Germany.

"She may have a good reason for this from her point of view, but we have nothing against the Germans," said the speaker. "If Sir Edward Grey had consented to say that England would aid France in July, 1914, as Mr. Cambon had requested, the war would have been averted. But he would not do this, but awaited the fifth of August. The war has increased Canada's debt. After the war it will represent \$7000 a head."

"Have they (the government) the right to tell us, when the country is menaced by famine, you shall send your son to the war in Europe? I am not against conscription for the defence of Canada. But I love my own enough to tell them that they should not give one drop to defend England. If we have to spill it, let us begin as our fathers did, by doing it for the defence of liberty."

Minister of Lands Will Visit Here

Victoria, May 28. — The various ministers are planning trips between now and the August session for the purpose of gathering first hand information as to the needs of the province.

The northern trip is to be made by Hon. T. D. Patullo, for it is in the northern portions of the province that the land situation is in the worst state. Hon. Mr. Patullo will take the trip by G.T.P. vessel to Prince Rupert and probably along the line of the G.T.P. to Prince George. In this manner he will cover a large territory and the scene of the big boom in wild lands.

NOTICE

THE City of Prince George, B.C., are prepared to receive tenders for the erection and completion of proposed City Hall. Plans and specifications may be seen and full information obtained on and after May 28th from Henry Wilson's office over the Fort George Drug Store, George street. All tenders are to be accompanied by a certified bank cheque for 5 per cent. of the contract price as a deposit, which will be forfeited should the person awarded the contract fail to enter into an agreement with the council to do the work. Tenders to be delivered on or before 12 noon, June 11th, 1917. Lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

(Signed) H. G. PERRY, Mayor.

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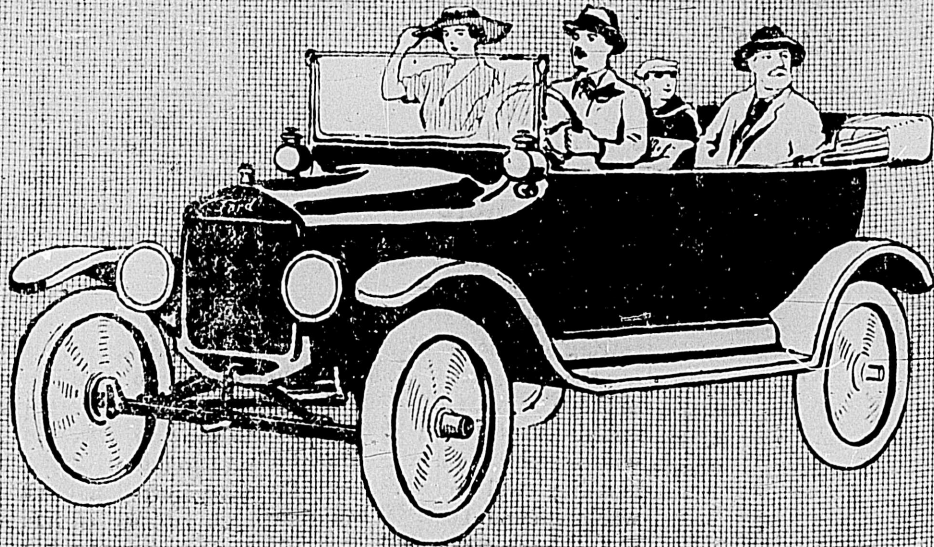
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