

County sheriff Everett Scott is once again "clearing the decks" at the court house completing arrangements and many minute details for the General Sittings of the Peace on Monday next. There are two important criminal cases on the docket, one a case of alleged abduction and the other a breaking and entering charge. Sixty-seven citizens of the county have been summoned to attend, a dozen of them to be selected as jury men or women as the case may be.

There will also be a session for the declaring on New Canadians.

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A popular young man, widely known in the district is no longer in radio work but is with I.A.C. in Peterboro, he will be missed in many circles by many people.

Many Victoria County people have heard about the millionaire or billionaire Senator Pat. Burns of Calgary, and that years ago he was a resident of Kirkfield where his parents farmed. He was an associate of Senator Mullins, also a native of Kirkfield, and business associate with Sir William McKenzie, another fabulous millionaire from Kirkfield.

The following interesting story concerning Senator Pat Burns has been supplied by Leonard D. Nesbitt, a Lindsay boy who has been a resident of the Canadian West for years, where he was engaged in newspaper business at Brooks and at Basano Alta. L. D. Nesbitt retired a few years ago from the Alberta Wheat Pool, where he was secretary, as well as public relations manager. He learned the rudiments of journalism in Lindsay and with the Daily Express of Woodstock. The story:

Pat Burns is a name widely known throughout Canada but mainly in the Western Provinces. He was born in Oshawa, Ontario, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Burns. The father was a farmer and moved to Kirkfield to follow his occupation when Pat was a small boy. Cattle raising was the main activity on the Burn farm and young Pat got an early, and thorough training in that business which stood him in good stead in years to come.

When he was 22 years of age Pat announced to his family that he was going west to take advantage of the free homesteads. Confederation had brought into Canada the prairies of the north-west territory and the distant province of British Columbia. The opening of the prairie lands provided an opportunity for daring youth to make a new start in life in an area of great possibilities.

The dream of vigorous young men was that of a rainbow with a pot of gold at its end. That dream came true for Pat Burns. He became one of the West's greatest 'Cattle Kings' with a fortune of many millions of dollars.

While the parents may have had their doubts of the venture Pat, with his elder brother John, set out for Winnipeg in the spring of 1878. They had to go by way of St. Paul as the C.P.R. transcontinental line was in the early making at the time. Winnipeg was a town of 7,000 people then, now its population exceeds 300,000.

Homesteads were being taken up in the Souris plain and Grand Valley then but the Burns boys thought they could get better land farther west.

To obtain the services of a land locator cost money so the young men set out on foot for a journey that eventually took them 160 miles. It took them five days to get near what is now the city of Brandon and they continued on to Minnedosa where they located their homesteads. They were short of money and walked back to Winnipeg where they got jobs on the new C.P.R. grade at \$25 a month.

Pat Burns had little education. In Calgary where he later made his headquarters and his fortune, the word was that he could write his name and that was all, but that wasn't quite true. He learned to write and read but he had a native intuition which stood him in good stead, and he had the gift and the desperate determination to succeed.

With the money earned on the construction job, Burns went back to his homestead and took along a plow and a team of oxen, the beasts that broke thousands of acres of tough prairie sod. His first venture in other cattle was the purchase of a cow which he sold at a profit. Harry Mullins was also in the cattle business at that time and in the same locality. He, too, had come from Kirkfield and bought sheep at

one time from Michael Burns, Pat's dad. Mullins was interested in a steer Pat was leading and the two started to dicker over the price. Mullins got it for \$29, a dollar less than Burns had demanded at first. The two men later became members of the Canadian Senate. Mullins, years afterwards, sold Burns 5,000 head of cattle with less debate over the price than occurred over the sale of a single steer in olden times.

Burns was daring in his deals, he was the first man to ship a car-load of pigs to Toronto from the west. He bought more oxen and broke land for Clifford Sifton's father just south of Brandon. His livestock business expanded and he got the contract for supplying meat to work crews building the railway from Calgary to Edmonton. The Canadian Northern Railway was then built across the west by McKenzie and Mann. William McKenzie had grown up in Kirkfield contemporaneously with Pat Burns and of course Burns meat supplied the railway construction crews on the C.N.R.

Pat Burns built his meat packing plant in Calgary and made his home in the city in 1890. He bought extensive acreages of ranch lands and pastured huge herds of cattle thereon. His interests extended into many other business ventures and usually was fortunate in his dealings. When he sold out near the top of the cattle market on 3 different occasions he was asked by a newspaper reporter how he managed to do so. "When beef cattle bring ten cents a pound they are a sale", he replied. That was 40 years ago and 10c then was worth 25c in buying power today.

In 1919 when beef cattle prices were at a peak, Burns sold 3,000 head of range cows

to Rod McLeay of the Anchor P. ranch for \$100 per head. Cattle prices skidded down from then on for several years and many ranchers' went broke. The price of hay went to \$80 ton in 1919 and many ranchers would have been better off if they had shot their cattle in the autumn of 1918.

In 1918, the year before the widespread stock market collapse which ushered in the world panic of the early 1930's Pat Burns sold his meat packing business for \$12 million. Three years later the \$100 bonds of the Burns Company which bought the business were down to \$25.

Pat Burns was one of the Big Four ranchers who put up \$100,000 guarantee to make the 1912 Calgary Stampede an outstanding success. The other three were George Lane, A. E. Cross, and Archie McLean. Since then the Calgary Stampede has become the outstanding rodeo on the continent and is known all over the world.

May honours came to Pat Burns and one he prized highly was his appointment to the senate. There he came in close contact with another cow-poke from Alberta, Senator Dan Riley, also Senator Mullen and other westerners.

A professor of economics at the University of Alberta was once asked how Pat Burns with so little formal education could make such a success, and well educated people including many university graduates were unable to do. The answer was that Burns had a native shrewdness and determination to succeed which persisted from his youth onward. He was tough, and it seems that not many boys of 22 would walk 160 miles over boggy trail in the springtime to file on a prairie quarter section of land.