WHY THE MANITOBA ELECTION LISTS MUST BE WELL PURGED

Some Striking Illustrations of the Manipulation of Registration of Voters by the Roblin Government Which Justify the Federal Authorities in Intervening.

Ottawa Free Press—The population of Manitoba is so evenly divided politically that it is necessary that the voters' lists should be as correct as it is possible to make them. In the provincial elections of 1907 the Conservatives polled only 1,600 votes more than the Liberals. Yet so well directed were the efforts of the Conservative organizers that this small total majority gave them 27 seats, while the Liberals obtained only 13. The total Conservative vote was 50.5 per cent. of the total vote cast.

It will be seen from this statement that only a small amount of manipulation, carried out with judgment, might defeat all the Liberal candidate in Manitoba at the next general Dominion elections. The Liberal majority in Provencher is only 10; and if the preparation of the lists for Dominion purposes was allowed to remain in the hands of the provincial government there would be an almost irresistible temptation so to influence their compilation as to upset the chances of the Liberals of retaining that seat.

The Conservative majority in Marquette is only 75; and the provincial government would feel an irresistible temptation to help Dr. Roche to entrench himself behind a few more stout and reliable Tories, whose right to vote, even as Tories, might be questionable, but whose right to vote, if they were Liberals, would not be upheld for one moment.

Personal Registration.

The basis of the Manitoba lists is personal registration. In the eastern provinces the municipal assessment roll is the basis of the lists, and no one has ever suggested that, because a man is either a Liberal or Conservative, he is likely to be either wrongly put on or wrongly omitted from such a roll. But, with personal registration—which does not carry with it any monetary obligation, such as ensures the independence of lists prepared from an assessment roll—political partizanship does invariably creep in; and it can only be rectified by the most ample, thorough and complete revision. No fair-minded man will admit, however, that the revision in Manitoba has either been efficient or complete. Even with sufficient time and with due regard to the convenience of the Roblin administration, been given, the task is a very difficult one; because of the constant changes in population, which the province undergoes from year to year.

Manitoba is, it should be borne in mind, the "first stop" in the West. People from Eastern Canada, Great Britain and Europe, often stay there several years before finally settling further west; and in recent years many old settlers, who pioneered the province, have taken advantage of the appreciation of the value of their farms, through the influx of settlers and the demand for improved land, and sold out to take up cheaper land in Saskatchewan or Alberta. Many of the names of such people, who have moved out, still remain on the lists; and offer opportunities for personation and fraud.

In 1906, S. J. Jackson, Liberal M.P. for Selkirk, made strenuous efforts to have the lists of his own constituency "cleaned up"; and it cost to get 547 names struck off and 465 added no less than $3,000. On the Portage la Prairie lists, there are 600 "deadwood" Liberals, all of whom ought to be expunged; and, as further evidence of the inefficiency of the revision, it is only necessary to repeat the statement of W. L. Schaffner, Conservative member for Souris, that in 1907 only 56 names were struck off the Winnipeg lists.

Winnipeg undergoes more changes in her population in a year than any other city in the Dominion. Former Winnipeggers are found in California, Seattle, Vancouver, Regina, Edmonton, Calgary and wherever there is any enterprise afoot; and yet only 56 were struck off the lists in 1907, when the movement of people was, perhaps, greater than it had been in any previous year. No better proof of the necessity of "thoroughly" purging the lists can be cited; and the Dominion government would be remiss if it did not undertake the task. But, in doing so, it will have to show that it is willing and able to avoid the faults of the provincial administration or there will still be dissatisfaction. There is necessity for the strongest determination to excel; for the task is no light one.

Partizan Registration.

The executive of the provincial government appoints the registration clerks, and a necessary qualification for appointment is fidelity to the Conservative party. The registration clerks make up the lists; and, wherever favor can be shown to the Conservative party, it is shown. This goes so far as putting Conservatives on the lists, without exacting, as in the case of manifest Liberals, their personal attendance.

The provincial government expects its registration clerks to act partizanly. The law, as originally conceived and enacted, provided for an independent preparation of the voters' lists. It placed the whole work under the direction of the board of revision judges, and this board chose and appointed the registration clerks. But soon the provincial government thought that it could not forgo the advantage to be derived from having the lists made up by its own appointees; and, in the following year, the executive of the provincial government had absolute control in the making of the lists.

Inadequate Revision.

The Conservative bias, given to the preliminary lists, might be corrected with full and complete revision each year, but the sittings of the revision courts are limited both as to time and place and they may not sit at any time or place other than appointed, one for each provincial constituency; and this sitting often lasts only five hours and never more than seven, with upwards of 2,000 names to revise. In 1903 an instance occurred which tested the law on the point as to the limitation of time and place. The revising officer was sitting at Beausejour, and was informed that, at Lac du Bonnet, some 40 miles off, there were many farmers who would like to be registered, but who, in consequence of the distance and the lack of means of transport, were not able to come to Beausejour. The revising officer adjourned his court to Lac du Bonnet and enrolled 38 voters. The lists were printed with these names on them; but, when election day arrived, the lists sent for use at the local polling division had these 38 names torn out, and the men were refused the franchise. The Attorney General's defence was that they should never have been on the lists, because they were registered after the time fixed for registration.

Appeals Are Difficult.

The inadequacy of the time for revision is self-evident. The hearing of applications to be put on is as much as a revising officer can do properly; and, consequently, only a fraction of the appeals to strike off are ever heard. Hundreds of such appeals are made, and the only resort is to come to an arrangement with the Conservative agent, which, in Manitoba, means, of course, that the Liberal agent has to give his apponent some advantage and be satisfied with a great deal less than justice.

Without such an amicable arrangement, it is practically impossible to do anything in the way of "cleaning up" the lists; and, if the Conservative agent is not inclined to come to such an agreement, then hundreds of unqualified voters remain on the lists. At the 1907 revision in the provincial constituency of Beautiful Plains, an agreement was made whereby 319 names were struck off and 184 added. But there were 166 more Conservative names that should have been struck off, but the representative of the Conservative party would not agree to their being expunged. If the Liberal agent had relied upon the intervention of the judge, he would not have been able to get ten names struck off. So, it will be seen, that at the registration, the Liberals are at the mercy of a partizan clerk and at the revision they are at the mercy of the Conservative organizer.

Insufficiency of Address.

Time is not the only obstacle to successful appeal. An insufficient address, opposite the name of the voter, whose right to be on the list is in question, often prevents the appellant from succeeding. A person, whose right to vote is being appealed against, has to be notified of such appeal three days before the appeal comes on; and if he makes no answer to the appeal, as will be the case if he is out of the province or has not the right to vote, the revising officer has to be satisfied, before expunging his name, that notice has been served, by registered letter, through the post office, nearest to the place where, according to the old lists, he was supposed to be living. If there is no post office address, which is frequently the case, it is very difficult—in fact in many cases impossible—to serve what can be termed a legal notice; and, in such an event, the revising officer refuses to remove the name from the list—no matter how strong may be the evidence that the person has not the right to vote. The seriousness of this obstacle to successful appeal will be realized when it is stated that out of the 2,194 names on the lists for the provincial constituency of Mountain, no less than 1,450 have no post office address opposite; so that, if every name on the list were appealed against, two out of every three cases could not be heard, because of this insufficiency of address.

CASSELS INQUIRY BOARD.

Calcium Carbide King's Examination Is Continued.

Ottawa, June 15.—Judge Cassels on Monday resumed his inquiry into the department of marine and fisheries, when the examination of T. L. Willison, the "calcium carbide king," was continued. Willson said that there was no profit on calcium carbide for the manufacture of acetylene gas, for which he holds exclusive patents, and that the profit on gas buoys was between thirty and forty per cent.

K. S. Means, secretary-treasurer of the Canadian Fog Signal Company, Toronto, the company which supplies diaphones to the department, said they cost the company to manufacture about $400 to $500 each. They are sold to the department at a much higher figure with equipment. He said, however, that the company was losing money, but declined to divulge its financial affairs lest the information should benefit rival concerns.

Both witnesses asserted that they had never been approached by an official of the department in a dishonest manner. All business transactions had been fair and above board.

NO BARS IN FIVE YEARS.

In Alberta is Prediction of Temperance Field Secretary.

Lethbridge, Alta., June 15.—Rev. W. G. W. Fortune, field secretary of the Alberta Temperance and Moral Reform League, predicted last night there would be no bar-rooms in Alberta in five years. He says the hotel men have told him the same thing. The temperance people will ask legislature for seven o'clock closing.

Detective Egan arrived yesterday from Spokane with Baptiste Fancheneuve, a half breed, who escaped from Stoney Mountain December, 1905. He was sentenced to ten years for horse stealing. He was caught on the Spokane Indian Reserve by Deputy Sheriff Hull, of Spokane.

FIERCE STORM IN IOWA.

Terrific Wind Levels Barns and Kills Live Stock.

Mason City, Iowa, June 15.—One of the worst storms which has visited this vicinity struck seven miles west yesterday, levelling half a dozen big barns, uprooting trees and doing an immense amount of other damage. While the wind did little damage in the city the rainfall was equal to a cloudburst. In twenty minutes 1.15 inches of water fell. The barns and outbuildings of H. J. Pierce, Charles Laws, Charles Kimball and T. A. Goodiles were carried away and much live stock killed. These farmers have suffered a similar disaster three years in succession.

TRAGIC ENDING OF A NEW ORLEANS BANQUET

Italian Wine Merchant Brings Winchester into Play, Killing Three of His Guests, Who, He Claims, Were Black Handers.

New Orleans, June 17—Pietro Gioeana, a wealthy Italian wine merchant, invited four compatriots to a banquet and closed the entertainment by bringing a Winchester into play, killing three and probably fatally wounding a fourth. He claims they are Black Handers and one was threatening the life of Gioeana's son with a revolver while demanding $5,000. Already they had heavily bled the father, who slipped unnoticed from the table and brought his artillery into action. Two were killed outright, the third staggered to the edge of the balcony, falling down the stairs. He died on the pavement. The fourth got away and was picked up several blocks away with a bullet through his left breast.

MONTREAL LIVE STOCK.

Montreal, June 15.—800 head of butchers' cattle, 128 calves, 309 sheep and lambs and 1,187 fat hogs were offered for sale at the Montreal live stock market today. Prime cattle were rather scarce and brought higher prices, selling from 6 to 6¼ cents per pound. Pretty good cattle sold 4½ to 5¾ cents and common stock 3 to 4½ cents per pound. Calves sold $3.00 to $8.00 each or 3½ to 6 cents per pound. Sheep sold 4½ to 5½ per pound; spring lambs, $4.00 to $5.50 each. Good lots of fat hogs sold at 6½ cents per pound.

Farmers column

CHICAGO CENTRE OF THE UNIVERSE

Thousands of Politicians And Spectators in Attendence at Republican National Convention.

Chicago, June 16.—Thousands of delegates from all parts of the world and still other thousands of politicians, spectators and lookers on today bent their steps from all parts of the city to the "Centre of the Universe"—at least for a few days—the Republican National convention hall at the Coliseum. Hours before the doors opened crowds gathered, and a whole army of policemen was on the spot to handle it. Sergeant-at-Arms Stone of the National Committee, was within the building with everything ready to throw the doors open at 10.30, half an hour before the convention meets. The city is dressed in red, white and blue and Wabash avenue is like a triumphant parade. Within the convention hall seats are banked from the centre of the building to the roof, with between eleven and twelve thousand people. The delegations appeared early at their headquarters and marched separately to the Coliseum.

About the busiest man this morning was Frank H. Hitchcock, Secretary of War Taft's representative in Chicago, and he held almost continual long distance messages with his chief in Washington. Organization meetings of the various committees will be held this afternoon, the most important being that of the credentials committee. Interest at present is centred on the work of the credentials committee which has 225 contests to settle. Though these have all been decided by the national committee, they go before the credentials committee for final action, and nominations cannot be taken up till this committee reports. The committee will bunch the contests as much as possible so as not to prolong the convention over a week, but it is not expected to finish before Friday. While the credentials committee is thus busy the resolutions committee will be busy with the platform. From the present outlook it is believed the Taft people will have a large majority on the credentials committee. A minority report however is looked for.

IN THE PRESS GALLERY

"THE OLD MAN" ROUSED.

Ottawa, Monday, June 8—The premier brought the obstructionists up with a sharp turn this morning that had a salutary effect on the discharge of business for the day at least.

When a lengthy series of questions had been answered Mr. Fowler, Conservative member for Kings and Albert, N.B., detained the House getting into supply by objecting to an announcement issued to Intercolonial employes that if their wages were not paid when due the fault lay with parliament in not passing supplies. Upon this Mr. Fowler rested a half hours speech insisting that the opposition had not been obstructing business. He had been doing mathematical turns and declared that government members had used 38 more than the opposition.

Mr. Carvell, of Carleton, N.B., inquired if allowance had been made of the time consumed by opposition members in asking questions already answered. Mr. Fowler avoided answering.

Mr. Fielding invited Mr. Fowler to tell how many columns each side had used but Mr. Fowler failed to provide the figures.

Mr. Fielding reminded the House that the Liberals outnumbered their opponents two to one, but no one had asserted that they had used twice the Hansard space. The minister of railways, through the finance minister, had asked for funds a dozen times and been refused. The statement that the public service was impeded by obstructionist tactics as absolutely true.

Lennox Takes a Turn.

Mr. Houghton Lennox, Conservative for East Simcoe, next came on to demonstrate the innocence of the opposition of the obstruction charge. He took about an hour to do so and travelled back over the session, rereading verbatim the resolutions moved since November last, with some language of his own interspersed. Eventually he gave over and Dr. Daniels took up the them for another quarter of an hour.

There were still 45 minutes left til adjournment and Mr. Foster filled in fifteen of them with jubilations that Mr. Lennox had been allowed to review the session.

Mr. Borden spent five minutes more saying that the Civil Service Act and the Hudson Bay Railway project had not yet been introduced.

Up to this time there had been just fourteen opposition members present. There was no motion before the House. The members present were mostly passing the time writing letters and reading the newspapers, and yawning from the heat.

When the Premier rose a change came o'er the spirit of things. "The old man" was roused. That was clear from his manner and the House knew there would be something doing forthwith. He figuratively took the opposition by the collar, shook them thoroughly, cuffed them a couple of times and then told them to get down to work lest worse befel them. The Liberals cheered and clapped and in the straight-flung language of the chief and the plaudits of his followers the Opposition saw that unreasoning blockade would be no longer tolerated, that business must go on, if not with their consent then despite their protests. The gauntlet was down! They might pick it up or let business proceed, but they must do one or the other. They preferred to do the other. In a moment the House was in supply and made better progress during the day than at any time during the session.

In effect the Premier said that whatever he opposition might have done their present duty was to pass the estimates needed to carry on the public affairs. However important the Civil Service Act and the Hudson Bay Railway might be the country could go on in some way without them. But the creditors of the country must be paid. It was the duty of the Government to see that the wheels of the governmental machinery were not clogged. The paramount duty of the House was to pass supplies.

No Mistaking His Language.

This language was fully understood and and by none better than the Opposition. Indeed after Friday's debate it could not well be misunderstood. At that sitting member after member stood up to demand in the name of the public interest that the interminable talk should cease and business be permitted to proceed. The Premier's words could only mean that the demand would not be ignored, that if the Opposition were not willing to do business means would be found of preventing them tying the hands of Parliament. Behind the brief but pointed speech lay the alternative: You must allow public business to proceed or the House must adopt the closure.

PASSED ESTIMATES IN 12 MINUTES OBSTRUCTED BUSINESS 12 HOURS

Ottawa, June 9—There was a fairly good attendance in the House today, members who had been taking a hand in the provincial contests being again in place. There was an appearance of a more tractable temper on the opposition side, but it was mostly appearance, for after avowing their anxiety to allow the supplies necessary to pay the civil servants' salaries they proceeded to spend the whole day in skirmishing over an item in the railway estimates, the larger portion of which was needed for salaries.

Mr. George Taylor, opposition whip, started the talk by referring to a speech made by Hon. L. P. Brodeur in a provincial constituency, where Mr. Taylor had been assisting Mr. Bourassa. Mr. Brodeur had remarked the novel spectacle of a man so "ferocious" for the Roman Catholic religion as Mr. Bourassa being in alliance with so outspoken an Orangeman as Mr. Taylor. This displeased Mr. Taylor and he took a half hour to heatedly assure the House that the alliance was real.

Dr. Sproule put in a "me too" speech five minutes long, just to assure the world of the fervor of his Orangeism and the strength of his antipathy to all Liberal governments.

Mr. Foster read a telegram from Moncton saying that a circular had been posted in the Intercolonial shops advising the men that if their salaries were not promptly paid it was because parliament had not voted the money. The minister of railways read a letter from the auditor general in which that official reminded him that the supplies were exhausted and requesting him to warn officers in his department to on no account exceed the appropriations made. He had communicated this to the general manager of the road, hence the circular.

Incident Closed But Not Mr. Foster.

This, of course, closed the circular matter, but it closed it unsatisfactorily for Mr. Foster; wherefore it did not close Mr. Foster's oratory on the subject. Instead, he made the circular his starting point for an excursion into things in general. Dealing with the delay of business he laid it down plainly that the whole cause of delay was the elections bill. The only possible inference was that if the government dropped the bill supply would be voted by the barrel. This, Mr. Taylor had told them in plain language a week ago. In other words the opposition were obstructing and would continue to obstruct unless the bill was thrown overboard.

The minister of customs put another spoke in the wheel in a pointed speech of a quarter of an hour. He had been accused of saying at Brantford that 1,800 customs clerks were without pay because the opposition would not vote the money. He had said so and repeated it, and added that the men had not got the money yet. The opposition leader had consented to pass the money through committee but only on condition that a prolonged debate be allowed on concurrence. Whether the delay occurred in committee or in concurrence made no difference, because until the money passed concurrence the men could not be paid. In stipulating that debate must be allowed on concurrence the opposition were obstructing, deliberately and persistently.

Mr. Patterson warned the gentlemen opposite that if they considered the blockade good politics they were badly mistaken. The people would demand some measure to prevent Mr. Foster and his clique holding up the business of the country. Every day that business was held up only increased the severity of the verdict the electors were preparing for the talkers, declared the minister, while the Liberals pounded their desks in jubilant approval.

Mr Foster rose again to offer to pass the customs estimates if the railway estimates were laid over. The latter, he hinted might not get through so readily.

To this Mr. Fielding replied that the railway department needed the money as badly as the customs department. The government did not make fish of one and flesh of another. The trainmen on the Intercolonial needed their money quite as badly as the customs officials.

Dr. Sproule Knew.

Hon. G. P. Graham, minister of railways, interposed that however interesting the debate might be he would like to get his supplies voted and the House went into committee at 12.30 a.m. Dr. Sproule added another hint that the railway estimates would likely make slow progress.

That he knew what he was hinting about was soon abundantly clear. From 11.30 a.m. to about the same hour at night, though the House was continuously in supply, not a dollar was passed. The twelve hours passed in questions, demands for explanations and speeches as often as not having no possible bearing on the particular item before the House. So long as a theme bore kinship to the business of railroading it was considered available as a text and so long as the speech founded on such text ran occasionally into the vicinity of the Intercolonial it was considered relevant, or whether so considered was made and sometimes repeated. If the debate was intended as a general discussion of Intercolonial matters with a view to confirming future attention strictly to the items proposed, it may be considered legitimate; but if it is only a sample of the performance to be put up on each item then it was obstruction pure and simple. To which class it belongs will be apparent when the railway estimates next come up.

Finally, nine and a half millions were let through—after about as many minutes' consideration as the hours spent in irrelevant talk.

The net result of the day was to convict the opposition beyond appeal of holding back the salaries of the public servants; and to establish both by their language and actions that if business is allowed to proceed at all it will be because they consider it unsafe to maintain an absolute blockade.

BOOTS FIT FOOTPRINTS.

Another Arrest Made in the Morrison Murder Case.

Vancouver, B.C., June 15.—J. Adair was arrested this afternoon at White Rock near the International boundary as a suspect in the case of the murder of Mrs. Morrison. He was captured by Tom Bertrand and Frank Smith, who allege that they saw him before the day of murder carrying the knife which later was found on the scene of the crime. Mrs. Morrison's daughter was taken to Blaine this afternoon but she could not identify him as her mother's assailant. Adair's shoes fit the footprints near the scene of the crime.

PAN ANGLICAN CONGRESS IS OPENED IN LONDON

The Divorce Evil is Made Subject of Debate at Meeting in Albert Hall. —Proposal to Refuse to Re-marry Divorced Persons While Husband or Wife is Living.

London, June 16.—The Pan-Anglican Congress was formally opened this morning. Seven meetings were held simultaneously. The principal one was held in Albert Hall. The subject was "Marriage in Christendom." Some outspoken opinions were expressed on the question of re-marriage after divorce. Bishop William C. Doane, of Albany, N.Y., read a paper in which he referred to the almost "Shameful pre-eminence of America in what one might almost call the divorce habit; the statistics of which were alarming and shocking to the last degree. Public conscience, however, he continued, was becoming stirred and a widespread and strong movement was in progress in the United States towards reducing the causes of divorce and arresting the possibility of remarriage. Canon Brown, of Calcutta, thought the congress should reaffirm that whatever the state might do it was not the function of the church to re-marry divorced persons while husband or wife was living. This expression of opinion was greeted with loud applause.

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PRETENDED PROGRESS; PRACTICAL BLOCKADE.

Ottawa, June 10.—Another day's tacking at large ended by a million dollars of militia estimates passing as the clock ticked the hour of adjournment. Actual blockade under the mask of apparent progress is now the settled Opposition policy. A sum is voted at the closing hour each day, but not sufficient to meet the needs of the public purpose. In this way the public are assured that the estimates are being passed, while the main purpose of an absolute blockade is attained. Of late, however, the daily driblets have been larger and indicate the possibility that the obstructive program may be abandoned.

A proclamation is reported from Winnipeg announcing that revising judges will be allowed to sit as long as necessary to revise the voters' lists. If the proclamation provides also that the judges shall be allowed to revise the lists in fact as well as in name, and that they may sit wherever this duty makes necessary it should pave the way for a settlement of the vexed voters' lists question, which is the real issue lying behind the blockade at Ottawa. At present the judges can only remove names objected to before the registration clerk. They can neither strike off other names nor add names omitted, however just the claim covering them.

To-day's morning session was spent on a motion by Mr. Monk anent the promotion of one Mr. Charlies from proofreader to translator on the hansard staff, with a raise in salary from a thousand to fifteen hundred dollars. The debates committee recommended the promotion and the House confirmed the report. Mr. Monk wanted the confirmation rescinded and the report re-considered. Mr. M. S. McCarthy, of Calgary, who, as a member of the committee approved the promotion, and as a member of the House endorsed the report, distinguished himself today by voting for the motion to rescind it.

Mr. Bergeron took the occasion to do a little of his peculiar fashion of reoning. Mr. Bergeron has been the most constant plaintiff that the French version of Hansard is habitually behind time, and it was to meet these plaints the new translator was to be appointed. Yesterday he argued, first, that what was wanted was not more translators, but more efficiency; second, that the present translators were so efficient their salaries should be raised. To any one but Mr. Bergeron it would seem that a staff proficient enough to deserve an increase in salary and large enough to not need assistance should be proficient enough and large enough to get the Hansard out on time.

Mr. McLean (Queen's, P.E.I.) consumed most of the afternoon discussing the fishery business of that part of the Dominion, the net result being to offer the Minister of Marine an opportunity of proving that a certain Mr. Thompson had been dealt with on a basis of absolute fairness, which opportunity he embraced to the apparent satisfaction of the House.

Finally the House got into committee, and after an hour or more debate of the circumlocutary variety passed a million supply for the militia department at the hour of adjournment.

The conspicuous feature of the day was that while the whole forenoon session was spent on a motion to reconsider the promotion of an employee of the House, involving a $500 increase of salary, the million of militia estimates was put through with an hour's general discussion of militia affairs, less than half the time being spent on the purposes of the item. Yet the Opposition get black in the face when any one suggests that they are obstructing rather than expediting business, or that they waste time on trifles, which should be spent on important matters. There was no conceivable reason why the million of militia supply should not have been passed at the morning session and another two or three millions in the afternoon, all with ample consideration.

Will Refuse His Salary.

Toronto, June 17—The city has been trying to get an idea of the revenue derived by Deputy Magistrate Kingsford for bail bonds which, it is alleged, should go into the crown treasury. The magistrate, the sheriff and the police commissioners' department have refused the information. To-day the board of control decided to refuse to pay the magistrate's salary until he divulges.

Railway Traffic Resumed.

Lethbridge, June 17—The Alberta Railway and Irrigation company sent a train through to Coutts last night, having completed the trstle and approaches over the Milk river, which were recently washed out by floods. The first mail from the south for ten days arrived today. The train service is regular now.

SHERIFFS ARE NOW TO BE PAID SALARIES

Order-in-Council to That Effect Has Been Passed—New System Will Greatly Reduce Cost of Litigation to the Litigant—Old System of Fees Permitted Abuses.

Some time ago Attorney-General Cross announced that it was his intention to have all sheriffs paid by salary in offices, and an amendment to the Sheriffs Act was passed at the last session of the Legislature enabling the Lieut.-Governor-in Council to make the change and to remunerate sheriffs in that way. This move is in accord with the avowed policy of law reform of the provincial government, and Alberta is now the only province in the Dominion where sheriffs are put on a stated salary.

The new Inspector of Legal Offices found many irregularities and overcharges by sheriffs in his recent tour of inspection, and it is largely on his report to the Attorney-General that the change has been brought into effect so soon. Sheriffs were in the habit of charging larger fees than they were entitled to, and of demanding poundage whenever a writ of execution was placed in their hands, whereas they were not entitled to poundage except when they actually made the money on the writ of execution. Now that an order-in-council has been passed putting the sheriffs on salary, no sheriff will receive more than $3,000 per annum. The sheriff will be required to make a monthly return to the Attorney-General of fees earned, disbursements paid, and of suitors' monies received and of suitors' monies paid out.

Fee System Permits Abuses.

The fee system is one which has been looked upon with discredit for many years, as it permits abuses and enables dishonest officials to demand and obtain from litigants greater fees than the litigant should pay. The older provinces have been gradually weeding out this system and its abuses but the Province of Alberta is in advance of all other provinces in the steps taken to do away with the fee system.

A memorandum was recently sent out to sheriffs instructing them as to charges to be made for services performed by them. The fees returned by sheriffs will form a part of the general revenue of the Province, but it is not contemplated to make money out of the change, but to reduce the cost of litigation to the litigant.

Sheriffs' bailiffs have been appointed at some fifty points in the province to whom process must be forwarded by the sheriffs for service and execution, this saving the fees formerly paid to the sheriffs for mileage which was the largest item of nearly every bill rendered by sheriffs. Process issuers, too, have been appointed at as many places and persons may obtain and issue process at their own home intead of having to go to the central town of the provincial district as formerly.

These changes in the legal system of the Province should mean the saving of thousands of dollars per annum to the litigants of Alberta.

Children Played With Rifle.

Fort William, June 17.—Word reached the city today of a sad accident at Kakabeka on Monday night. Two children of James Harrison, section foreman, a boy aged nine and a girl aged five, playing round the house, got hold of a rifle. The boy in play pointed the weapon at the girl and it was discharged accidentally, fatally wounding the little one, who died some hours later.

Grand Lodge Masons in Saskatchewan

Regina, June 17.—The Masonic Grand Lodge met yesterday morning at 10.30 in the Masonic Temple with 200 delegates in attendance. Among the distinguished visitors is G.M. Wilson, of Manitoba Grand Lodge. Last year, at the meeting at Prince Albert, there were 35 lodges. This number has now increased by 13 to 48. Altogether there are 1,300 members in the province and five new lodges in course of institution.

MARRIED.

ABBOTT-McINTYRE—On Wednesday, June 17th, at 143 MacCauley street, Mr. Percy W. Abbott, of the firm of Boyle & Parlee, was married to Miss Louisa Pearl McIntyre. Rev. Dr. Riddell officiated. The bride was given away by her father, Mr. James McIntyre. Rev. Dr. Riddell performed the ceremony.

BIRTH.

HEALEY—On the 17th inst., to Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Healey, 538 Isabella street, a son.

SEMI-WE

VOLUME V.

THE KING MUS VISIT THE KA

Else There Will be a Coolne Once Existed Betw Monarchs.

London, June 2?—In con and upper grades of society deal of anxiety is expresse whether King Edward will long-promised visit to Berlin or not. The King has re letter from the Kaiser urgin come to Berlin in accordance year's understanding reache the visit of his Imperial Ma the South of England. It w be a mere private visit but into the German capital w made in state.

So many subsequent enga have been made since, how cluding the visit of the P Wales to the Quebec Tere which necessitates King Edw maining in England at that a few weeks ago the King the Kaiser that he proposed pone his visit to next Spring Kaiser assented.

It appears now, however, t Edward's visit to the Czar has got on his Imperial nerves and he is now anxious his uncle at the earliest poss ment. Hence his urgent asking King Edward to pay this present year.

It is stated in court circles less the King goes to Berl autumn the Kaiser will never come to this country ag that the coolness which exis tween the monarchs for so mar will be renewed.

THE BOARDS OF TRAD

Pass a Number of Resolutio Amend Others.

Bulletin Special.

Medicine Hat, June 20—Hackvale moved the Medicin resolution on the waste of mat All could see the use to which was put in Medicine Hat and realize that it was too valu product to be wasted. The res was seconded by C. P. McQue Calgary, and carried.

Moose Jaw's prairie fire leg was moved by H. McKellar, Regina, the gist of which was largely on the part of new settlers for of the prairie fires. Something be done at the land office to foreigners when they acquire land. The resolution was se by Reid Gresbach, of Gleichen was carried.

Edmonton's reforestration res was moved by A. C. Fraser an onded by Peter McAra and car

Regina's grazing lands res was amended on motion of Hackvale and J. White of Me Hat. The words in the last struck out after "government," a words substituted, "To grant for grazing purposes for a definit of years in those provinces wh present are undoubtedly better ed for grazing than for grain gr purposes."

Prince Albert's navigation of Saskatchewan resolution was by Mayor Cook and seconded b Schlanders, Saskatoon, and wa ried.

Edmonton's Hudson Bay reso was moved by A. C. Fraser an onded by C. P. McQueen, Calgary carried.

Edmonton's insurance resolutio amended by striking out the "life" in the preamble.

The Manchester Hou (Established 1886)

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