

CANADIAN NEWS.

The Latest Happenings In The Dominion.

C. P. R. ADOPTING LATE INVENTION.

Among the latest experiments which are being undertaken by the C. P. R. for the improvement of its service is the composite telephone. This is a new system, by means of which telephone and telegraph messages may be sent over one wire at the same time, without hindering the efficiency of either instrument. One of the new telephone instruments has been installed in the office of G. J. Bury, general superintendent, at Winnipeg, and others will be set up at Brandon and Portage within the next few days. The installation of these instruments is by way of an experiment, and they are the first that have been set up in Canada. Experiments have been carried on with them in the United States by the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, but the C. P. R. is one of the first to adopt them for railway work. The new instruments are based on the principle that the telephone and telegraph are operated by different styles of current. The current from the telephone will not affect the telegraph key, and the chief problem to be solved is the absorption of the telegraphic current so that the sound of the transmitter will not be reproduced in the telephone diaphragm. When this has been accomplished the one wire may be used for the dual purpose without the slightest hindrance in efficiency. If the instruments are found to work satisfactorily they will be installed in the offices of the chiefs of departments, so that telephonic communication may be had with all points on the system. It is argued that this will be a great benefit in many ways, for while there is no question as to the efficiency of the telegraph, better work may be done in a limited time when the parties interested can come into direct communication. It will also make it possible to transact business of a secret or private nature without having it to pass through the hands of different operators. The new instruments may be set up on any wire which has been rendered "composite," that is, which is carrying the two currents. In this way a telephone may be carried in the car and attached to the composite wire at any point along the line, bringing the car in immediate touch with the whole system. This system may also be carried into the operating and other departments of the railway work.

CANADIAN SAILORS FIRED AT BY RUSSIANS.

The Victoria sailing schooner Carmelite, Captain MacLean, which arrived at Victoria Oct. 2 from Kamchatka, reported a very exciting experience with the Russians at Port Angel of the Aleutian group on Aug. 1. A boat's crew from the Carmelite got lost in the fog, and after pulling around for hours saw Corporal Island, which they steered for. When about 200 yards off shore a party of men, believed to have been Russian soldiers, opened rifle fire upon them from behind the rocks near the beach. The bullets flew all around the boat and some knocked splinters out of the boat, while one struck John York, a Missourian, serving as boat puller, in the mouth, carrying away all the teeth on one side of the lower jaw, and seriously wounding him. The boat's crew immediately started pulling frantically seaward, the Russian riflemen continuing a hot fire, which kept the bullets splashing all around the boat. The Carmelite was fortunately only 15 miles in the offing and providentially the fog cleared, revealing her to the distressed boat's crew. York was bleeding badly when taken aboard, but thanks to the attention of Captain MacLean, he made good recovery. The Carmelite was preceded in these waters a short time before by a Japanese vessel, a number of whose crew were massacred on landing on the island by the Russians. Captain MacLean thinks the Russians on the island took the approaching boat for more Japanese and therefore tried to kill the men in her. The Carmelite had no news of the missing Victoria sailing schooner Triumph or her crew of 22 white men, and no other vessels spoken by the Carmelite had seen her. The Carmelite left San Francisco for Siberia on a prospecting cruise last May.

WILL INJURE IMMIGRATION.

At Montreal a few evenings ago when the citizens' meeting decided to hold a winter carnival and ice palace, Mr. Bessworth, fourth vice-president of the C. P. R., cabled Mr. Archer Baker, the London representative of the company, as follows: "It is proposed to hold a carnival here during the winter. How, in your opinion, will this affect Canadian immigration?" The following reply was received: "For the next 50 years consider a carnival undesirable from the point of view of emigration."

DROWNED IN LAKE WINNIPEG.

William Morgan, a young man employed by Captain Robinson, West Selkirk, was drowned off Elk Island, Lake Winnipeg, on Oct. 2. He and his brother Joseph were on a raft of logs being towed by the tug Rocket, and William, in some unaccountable way, fell overboard and was drowned before aid could reach him. He was 24 years of age, and came to Selkirk about a year ago from Lureh's Bite, Newfoundland.

OVER THREE-FOURTHS ENGLISH-SPEAKING.

The immigrant arrivals by nationalities for the year ending June 1, 1904, were as follows: British (English and Welsh), 36,694; Scotch, 10,552; Irish, 2,128; total, 50,374; Continental (Germans, Austrians), 7,729; Germans, 2,985; Hungarians, 1,207; Austrians, 2,201; Scandinavians, 4,204; French and Belgians, 2,392; Russians and Finns, 2,806; miscellaneous, 11,262; total, 34,785; United States, 45,171. Grand total, 130,330.

WANTS SECURITIES RELEASED.

The following notice appeared in a recent issue of the Manitoba Official Gazette: "Notice is hereby given that the Western Canadian Hall Insurance Company has applied to the provincial treasurer for the release of its securities on the second day of January, A. D. 1905, and that all claimants, contingent or actual, opposing the release of the said securities, are hereby notified to file their opposition with the said provincial treasurer of the province of Manitoba on or before the said date."

G. N. W. MANAGER RETIRES.

After fifty-seven years of continuous service, during which time he has won the respect and esteem of all those who have formed relationships with him, Mr. Norman W. Bethune is retiring from the position of Ottawa district manager of the Great Northern Western Telegraph company. Mr. Bethune came here when Ottawa was Bytown, says a despatch from that city. He has seen the city grow and expand industrially, and coincident with that growth there has been constructed under his supervision a network of telegraph lines connecting all points of the Ottawa valley. Mr. Bethune, although enjoying good health, is advancing in age, and after a lifetime of service he naturally seeks a rest, and is giving up work to which he has devoted his efforts assiduously and in which he won the good will of all who have met him.

DIG OPENING FOR SERVANTS.

In the Imperial Colonist for September, the official organ of the British Women's Immigration Society, appears an article by Miss Vernon on her recent visit to Canada, investigating the demand for female immigrants from Great Britain. Miss Vernon says she was favorably impressed with the factories in this country, they being better ventilated and built more with a view to the comfort of the employees than those of England. She comments on the remarkable neatness and beauty of Canadian girls, and advocates that only English girls fully their equals should come to the Dominion. She comments on the scarcity of servant girls and advises that the English women who come should be prepared to take situations in this line of work, as therein lay the greatest openings for their employment. She states that the position of working people in this country is much better than in Great Britain.

SHAUGHNESSY ON C. P. R. PROGRESS.

At Montreal a few days ago, Sir Thomas Shaughnessy, in speaking of the progress of the C. P. R. in the west, especially with reference to the new works that have been undertaken, said: "The works of improvement which have been going on for the past two years, are now practically completed. These include yards, terminals, shops, changes of line, improvements to line, heavier rails, ballasting and the thousand and one details that go to the successful operating of a railway system. On these items we have in the time I have indicated spent nearly \$32,000,000." Asked as to the condition of the western country generally, Sir Thomas remarked: "Everything is in a progressive state. The people have been doing well, and are doing well, and the whole country bears an air of healthy prosperity, there are no indications of a boom, and I should judge that the progress is being made on a good financial basis." "Do you contemplate doubling the track system from Montreal to Vancouver?" Sir Thomas was asked. "Well," he replied, "as I remarked to a reporter in St. Paul, there may come a time when the entire system may have to be doubled. We all look forward to that but we have no present intention of doing anything in that line."

CANADA'S NATAL TRADE.

Trade returns from Natal show that during the six months ended 30th of June, 1904, the imports from Canada amounted to \$419,735, an increase of \$35,240 over the corresponding six months of 1903. Canada's trade with the island of St. Lucia shows a decline of \$10,000 in exports to that country in 1903, as compared with 1902, when the exports amounted to \$50,000. Imports from St. Lucia which for 1902 amounted to \$42,312, fell off to almost nothing last year.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN ANXIOUS TO COME TO CANADA.

Dr. Lapthorne Smith, who has just returned to Montreal from England, says: "Mr. Chamberlain is anxious that Canada will extend an invitation to him to speak in the Dominion, and I learned from most credible sources that he would be pleased to accept an invitation to speak in Montreal and Toronto as soon as possible, when he would be prepared to give two addresses."

SNAG BOAT FOR MANITOBA RIVERS.

The Department of Public Works has awarded a contract for a snag boat with the latest and most modern improvements, having powerful machinery, to be used on the rivers in Manitoba. The contract was let a few days ago.

MAY WORK ON SUNDAYS.

The police magistrate of Kingston, Ont., dismissed the charges against a street car conductor for working on Sunday, holding that the law gave the street railway the right to run every day in the year.

CENTENARIAN DEAD.

Mrs. Amos Wood died at Delta, Ont., Oct. 3, in her hundredth year.

Miscellaneous Items

DOWIE LOSES.

A jury in Judge Tutthill's court at Chicago a few days ago rendered a verdict that John Alexander Dowie is not entitled to \$55,000 left him by the will of Fred Sutton, a wealthy New Zealand sheep herder, who died in Dowie's hospital several weeks ago. The jury found that Sutton was not in his right mind when he made the will. Dowie will appeal.

PRINCE OF WALES TO VISIT INDIA.

In a special cable from London the New York Herald has the following: "The visit of the Prince and Princess of Wales to India next year, according to the Outlook, is decided. It will take place in October, and the satisfaction at the announcement is not only among the English, but also the native subjects of the empire, has already been widely expressed. The tour will be an extensive one, taking in most of the principal provinces and for this purpose an entirely new train for the use of the royal party has been built, and will be furnished in a most elaborate style. Six large carriages will be reserved for the use of the prince and princess and their suite, each compartment measuring something between seventy and eighty feet in length."

LIKELY C. N. R. ABSORPTIONS.

A despatch from St. Paul says: James McNaught, formerly general counsel of the Northern Pacific, was here a few days ago, and in company with a party of other railroad men left for Montana. The purpose of the trip is to consider the construction of a new line in that state. McNaught is largely interested in three small Canadian roads near Montreal and Quebec that he expects will eventually be used by the Canadian Northern to secure a tidewater outlet which would give the new Canadian transatlantic line an outlet on the Atlantic and the Pacific. "Lines in which I am interested and which may be absorbed by the Canadian Northern," said Mr. McNaught, "are the Great Northern of Canada, the Chateauguay and Northern and a line owned by the Montfort and Gagneau Colonization Company."

PREVENTED A PANIC IN CHICAGO THEATRE.

A despatch from Chicago, dated Oct. 1, says: Since the fire broke out last December, when nearly 600 lives were lost, the Chicago theatre has been so thoroughly equipped with safeguards against fire that today when fire broke out in the Great Northern theatre during a matinee performance it was emptied in one minute and 45 seconds. This was accomplished, too, without the least semblance of panic among the 1,500 persons who were in the playhouse at the time. As soon as the manager of the theatre learned that the roof of the building in which the theatre is located was on fire, he ordered the fire curtain lowered on the floor of the stage. He then requested the orchestra leader to play a march, and the audience, thinking the matinee was at an end, left the place. No one was injured and the theatre crowd was in the streets before the fire department arrived.

Lord Brassey, writing in the Nineteenth Century, on our naval strength and naval estimates, and referring to the discussion of a Canadian last service by the Montreal congress, says that it established by an imperial subsidy we will be giving our colonial fellow subjects a helping hand in an undertaking they have at heart, while at the same time adding to the list of vessels available as scouts to the navy. The imperial and colonial mail service will be practically a training for the engineers and officers of the navy reserve.

Referring to Lord Rosebery's writing the preface to "Canada and the Empire," Richard Jebb, in the London Times, says if the book has not served to remove his own wide misapprehension of colonial matters who wrote it must have failed to get in touch with the national life of the Dominion.

FARMER'S BARN BURNED.

Three large barns on the farm of William Scott, East Zora, were burned Thursday, while threshing operations were in progress.

NOVEMBER DESIGNER.

"The Designer" for November pre-admits and little folks. Those who send advance styles for winter have a winter wedding in prospect will appreciate "For the Holiday Bride," offering bridal toilettes, going-away gown, travelling coat, and costumes for the attendants at the ceremony; "Catering for the Home Wedding," giving a dainty and inexpensive menu, and "Etiquette Hints," illustrating the latest in wedding invitations. "Points on Dressmaking" follows in line with suggestions for the arrangement of the veil, wreath and other accessories regarding which the prospective bride is usually uncertain, and "Her Crowning Glory" presents hair dressing sufficiently varied to suit any taste. Women who contemplate making Christmas gifts for their friends will find this number of "The Designer" to be a fund of fancy work information. In entertainment are offered a novel drill, "The Red Man's Thanksgiving," "A Thanksgiving Cornucopia Party" and "An Archaeological Party." Ida Innes contributes a pretty love story, "In the World of To-day," and W. Livingston Larned a droll tale for the tots, "A Transferred Thanksgiving." "China of the White House," by J. L. Harbour, pictures the many quaint porcelain relics which have been discovered in odd hiding places in the historic mansion.

MARKET JOBBING PRICES

from
THE COMMERCIAL

Winnipeg, Thursday, Oct. 6, 1904.

WHEAT: An unsettled and less confident feeling has come across the wheat markets and prices have had a sharp decline in the last two days. On Friday, Saturday and Monday the markets displayed a good deal of strength of a nervous kind, sharp breaks in prices being quickly followed by sharp advances, but closing prices each day showing a slight gain over the previous day. On Tuesday, however, a weaker feeling prevailed and the price lost a little. This has been followed by a distinct loss of strength on Wednesday and to-day, and in the American speculative markets wheat holders have lost courage and let go their wheat, and bears have taken courage and put out short sales, and their action has caused a sharp break in the price amounting to 2½c. to 3c. for the two days. The difference in prices from a week ago, however, does not show a decline of more than 1½c. to 2½c. No special change in the general world's wheat situation has taken place during the week, but it would seem as if the market needed a rest, and it has come in the shape of a dull spell and a natural reaction in prices. It is true that the movement of the spring wheat crop in Western Canada and America has shown considerable increase during the week, and that primary receipts in America are much larger than last year, but on comparing the receipts for this year for those of 1902 it will be found that this year's are smaller, while at the same time prices are 40c. per bushel higher this year than two years ago, the larger price being no doubt, responsible for the comparatively large movement. While the movement is liberal the exports of wheat and flour from America and Canada are only about one-third of what they were last year, and yet there is no appreciable increase in visible stocks. The visible supply on the 1st inst. is only 17,565,000 bus., compared to 19,489,000 bushels last year, 25,624,000 bushels in 1902, 37,474,000 bus. in 1901, and 55,401,000 bus. in 1900. It will therefore be prudent for those engaged in the trade not to allow themselves to be too much influenced by passing and temporary circumstances, but to study the general situation of aggregate world's crops for the year, the amount of recognized stocks available, and the demand for consumption together with the opportunity afforded for extensive speculative operations, having in view the possibility of much higher prices later on. There is nothing new regarding crops this week. Threshing is progressing in the Canadian Northwest as fast as the variable and unsettled weather will permit. The season continues backward and work is behind hand, and it is probable that the acreage of fall plowing will be much less than is desirable. The visible supply increased 2,373,000 bushels last week, compared to an increase of 1,193,000 bushels the previous week and an increase of 2,230,000 bushels last year. The world's shipments were 10,616,000 bus., against 8,810,000 bus. the previous week and 11,234,000 bus. last year. The world's visible supply, according to Bradstreet's, increased 9,997,000 bus. against an increase of 9,658,000 bus. the previous week and an increase of 12,928,000 bus. last year.

Manitoba wheat has declined in price in about the same measure as wheat in the American markets. This season the movement of our crop has been delayed by backward weather; dull, partly showery and without the drying atmosphere so much needed during the period of saving and thrashing the crop. During September the movement of wheat was so small as to have little effect on the market except to prevent any idea of lower prices. Somewhat better weather for last week, and the advancing season has caused shipments to suddenly increase, so that the number of cars inspected in the first six days of October is almost as large as the number of cars inspected during all September. The increasing movement naturally causes a weaker feeling in the trade. At the same time it seems evident that the bulk of the car shipments belong to farmers who are not yet selling their wheat. Therefore, although there is a comparative plenty of wheat moving, there is not much actual business doing, and shippers who get an opportunity of doing a little business find it difficult to buy wheat unless they offer above the recognized market value, and even then the quantity they desire to secure is not easily got. This situation greatly restricts selling for forward delivery, which is usually very extensive at this season of the year, when the bulk of the crop is put in motion towards the lake ports. Our prices for wheat in store, lake port elevators, are running 14c. to 16c. per bushel under the price of the corresponding grades in Minneapolis, but we are still a little above export basis. Therefore our price must decline little yet or European prices advance, or we must hold our wheat. The holding of our wheat depends on our farmers, and generally speaking they are in a position to do so if they see fit. From what we know very few of them care to sell at present prices and all can carry their wheat over until New Year, or have it carried for them. Our prices at close of business to-day compared to a week ago show a decline of 1½c. to 2½c. on the higher grades and practically unchanged on the lower grades, and we quote: 1 Northern, 97½c.; 2 Nor., 94½c.; 3 Nor., 92c.; No. 4 wheat, 83½c.; feed wheat, 60½c.; No. 2 feed, 50½c., spot or first half October delivery. October closed 97½c.; November, 96½c.; December, 94½c.; May, \$1.00. All prices in store Port William and Port Arthur.

Winnipeg, Oct. 8, 1904.

GRAIN AND PRODUCE.

FLOUR:—The market is steady and demand good. We quote: No. 1 grade at \$2 per sack of 98 lbs., delivered to the trade, No. 2, \$2.70; No. 3, \$2.10 to \$2.40, and No. 4, \$1.50. These prices are subject to the usual trade discounts.

MILLFEED:—Demand holds good, although farmers are pretty well out of the market. We quote: Bran, \$18 per ton, in bulk, delivered to the trade; shorts, \$20 per ton.

GROUND FEED:—Barley chop has eased off \$2 per ton. We quote: Oat chop, \$28 per ton, delivered to the trade; barley, chop, \$20; mixed barley and oats, \$25; oil cake, \$27 per ton.

BARLEY:—Feed grade is 1c. per bushel higher. We quote 37c. for No. 3 and 35c. for feed on track Winnipeg. **HAY:**—Supplies are very scarce and farmers are evidently too busy to market supplies. Baled hay is 50c. to \$1 per ton firmer, and loose stock is practically the same, although very little is offering. We quote: Baled hay, new, in carlots on track here, \$8 to \$9 per ton. Loose hay, farmers' loads, \$8 to \$9 nominally.

OATS:—Old stock is out of the market. Quotations for new oats are firm. We quote: No. 2 white, on track, Winnipeg, 37c.; No. 3, white, 35c.

VEGETABLES:—Swede turnips are 5c. easier at 20c. per bus. Pie plant is out of the market. Parsley advanced 5c. during the week. We quote: New potatoes, farmers' loads, 40c. per bushel; Swede turnips, 20c. per bus.; parsley, 25c. per doz.; onions, 5c. per lb.; pickling onions, 5c. per lb.; Spanish onions, \$1.50 per crate; carrots, 45c. per bus.; parsnips, 1½c. per lb.; cauliflower, 75c. to 90c. per doz.; beets, 40c. per bus.; celery, 30c. per doz.; Ontario tomatoes, 65c. per basket; vegetable marrows, 75c. per doz.; pumpkins, 1c. per lb.; green corn, 15c. per doz.; green tomatoes, 1½c. per lb.

DRESSED MEATS:—Veal declined 3c. per lb., while hogs in sympathy with the live market, advanced ½c. Other lines are steady. We quote: Beef, 5½c. to 5½c. for city dressed; 1c. less for country; veal, 7c. for choice weights; mutton, 8c.; spring lambs, 10c. per lb.; hogs, 8½c., delivered to the trade here.

POLTRY:—Declines of 1c. per lb. for spring chickens and 1½c. to 2c. per lb. for fowl are the week's features. We quote: Fowl, live weight, 9c. per lb.; spring chickens, 11c. per lb., live weight.

CHEESE:—The firmness noticed last week has crystallized into an advance of ½c. per lb. We quote 9c. factory.

BUTTER:—Creamery—The market is firmer, prices advancing 1c. per lb. We quote: 18½ to 19½ c. o. b. factory, being about the prevailing figure paid by local jobbers for assorted boxes.

BUTTER:—Dairy—Pound bricks are 1c. higher at 18c. and ground lots firmer at 12½c. Other quotations remain unchanged. We quote prices paid to jobbers, Winnipeg, as follows: No. 1, 14c.; No. 2, 9c. to 10c.; pound bricks, 18c. Prices for round lots, Winnipeg, is 12½c. and from 1c. to 2c. more for special selected shipments.

EGGS:—Offerings moderate, demand fair. Market firm and further advance possible. Jobbers are paying for good stock 19c. f.o.b., Winnipeg, subject to candling.

HIDES:—We quote Abattoir hides, 7c. for No. 1's; 6c. for No. 2's; country cured butchers at 6½c. for No. 1 grade; lambs, 30 to 40c. shearings, 30 to 40c.

TALLOW:—The market is steady. No. 1 tallow is worth 3½c. to 4c. per lb., delivered at Winnipeg; No. 2, 3c.

SENECA ROOT:—The decline predicted last week materialized to the amount of 1 to 3c. per lb. Local buyers are paying 57 to 59c. per lb. for good dry root.

LIVE STOCK.

CATTLE:—Considerable good export stock has been received and the prices are steady. Butcher cattle is 25c. per cwt. easier at \$3.75. Export stock is worth \$3 to \$3.25. Winnipeg, weighed at the point of shipment. We quote \$2.75 off cars here for choice butchers down to \$2 for inferior grades.

SHEEP:—Market steady. We quote: \$3.25 per cwt., Winnipeg.

HOGS:—Supplies are very scarce, and prices have advanced ½c. per lb. In fact Ontario stock is being imported. We quote 6c. per lb., selected weights.

War Summary

The significance of a Mukden despatch noting an unusual activity in that place, is the subject of much speculation at St. Petersburg. The theory that it indicates the purpose of Gen. Kuropatkin to evacuate the town is not generally accepted, military officers there surmising that the commotion noted is in connection with a movement to check the Japanese flanking operations. In Russian official circles more credence is given to the report that Admiral Wiren has left Port Arthur with the ships, the confusion resulting from a severe storm on Tuesday being regarded as having made a dash probable. There are indications that the Russian warships in the Baltic will soon be despatched to the far east.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

The Government has purchased the Canada Eastern.

T. O. Davis and J. H. Ross have been appointed senators.

The memorial statue of Queen Victoria was unveiled at Winnipeg on Oct. 1.

Very encouraging reports are received from western harvest fields.

The deposits of coal at Coleman colliery are estimated at 64,000,000 tons.

A real estate firm in Winnipeg sold 600 lots in one week.

Geers won the 2,16 pace at Chicago and Harry O. was fifth in the free-for-all.

OLD WORLD NEWS

INTERESTING BUDGET FROM BRITAIN

PEACE THAT WOULD MENACE WHOLE WORLD.

The movement in favor of a Franco-German rapprochement is beginning to assume a practical aspect, says a cablegram from Paris. At a recent meeting of Socialist leaders at Carmaux, resolutions were drawn up by M. Jaures and adopted, strongly urging the Government to bring about an early reconciliation between the two countries. As the Socialists, under the leadership of M. Jaures, hold the balance of power in Parliament, their advocacy of a rapprochement is considered to be a significant development of the movement. The resolutions read as follows: "We look forward with enthusiastic hope to the day when France and Germany will be completely reconciled through the strong Socialist influence existing in both countries, and will work throughout Europe for the encouragement of civilization, the elevation of labor, the development of science and art, the extension of international peace, and the simultaneous disarmament of the great powers, thus permitting the vast budgets to be utilized for their internal improvement instead of their devourment by war and armed peace." Commenting on the resolutions, a leading official said: "The action of the Socialists gives an impetus to the rapprochement, but owing to the lingering animosities of the Franco-German war it will take another decade before any Government will be strong enough to carry out a Franco-German entente."

BABES BORN IN WOODS GET SALEM MIXED.

The identity of two babies, who were born in the forest near Cabezon, a small town in Santander province, has to be settled by a council of the families of both. While the mothers were taking a walk in the forest the children were born, both being boys. A number of women from a neighboring village who arrived on the scene took mothers and babies home on stretchers. Unfortunately the excited women handed the infants from one to the other, and in the confusion that followed it became impossible to distinguish one child from the other. By way of temporary arrangements each of the two mothers accepted a baby without troubling herself as to whether it was her baby or not. The families of the two women have decided to hold a joint meeting, at which efforts will be made to identify the babies by some distinguishing family characteristics.

WOULD HAVE BEEN A PEER.

In referring to the death of Sir William Vernon Harcourt, the St. James Gazette says: "It is understood that the late Sir William Vernon Harcourt, who twice refused a peerage, eventually accepted the honor, and would have been gazetted Baron Malwood in the next birthday honor list." "Fate," the paper adds, "has rendered the event impossible, but it is deemed probable that a barony following the procedure on the death of W. H. Smith (who was minister of War in Lord Salisbury's cabinet of 1885 and 1886) will nevertheless be conferred on Lady Harcourt."

BRITISH INCOME TAX SHOWS FALLING OFF.

The return of the total revenue for the United Kingdom for the half year ending Sept. 30 shows a decrease of \$15,233,525, compared with the corresponding period of 1903. The principal decrease is in the property and income tax—\$12,100,000. The principal increase is in the customs receipts—\$4,357,685. The total revenue was \$206,851,640. This is the first time in many years that the income tax has fallen off, and is regarded as an alarming sign.

KING EDWARD MOURNS SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT.

After hearing of the sudden demise of Sir William Vernon Harcourt, King Edward telegraphed the following from Balmoral to the widow of the late statesman: "Allow me to express my deepest sympathy in the sad loss you have sustained. I have lost an old and valued friend in your dear husband." (Signed) EDWARD.

Premier Seddon, speaking at a banquet in London to celebrate his silver jubilee as an M. P., urged the establishment of a British commercial bureau with branches in all the British possessions to be maintained by Great Britain and the self-governing colonies. The president of the board should be affiliated with all colonial chambers of commerce with the special object of watching and reporting on trade requirements for manufactured goods and raw material and the products of the empire. It would assist the extension of British and colonial markets to keeping with other countries.

The president of the Associated Chamber of the Manufacturers of Australia at the banquet held at Sydney, read a cablegram from Hon. Joseph Chamberlain which stated that Chamberlain was unable to accept an invitation to visit Australia now, but hoped before long to bring evidence to Australia of the readiness of the mother country to meet her half way towards closer commercial union.

A letter in the Financial News regarding the coal bill for the past half year incurred by the Grand Trunk says, with an increase of five and a half per cent. in train mileage one could not expect to find an increase of 32 per cent. in the quantity of coal consumed. It looks as if there was lax supervision somewhere.