THE EDMONTON BULLETIN

(SEMI-WEEKLY.)

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A WARNING TO CANADA.

Mr. Carnegie has added his voice to warnings which have been sounded in the ears of the American people in recent years. The conclusion of experts, he says, is that in forty years the United States will have dug up the last ton of iron ore in the country.

Mr. Carnegie is by no means the first to sound the note of alarm in this connection, but he is especially well circumstanced to know whereof he speaks, and there is no reason to suppose that he speaks other than the conviction to which he is forced from the prospect by his advantageous viewpoint. Mr. Carnegie has piled up millions for himself by exhausting the iron resources of the United States It is difficult to discover how his personal fortune could be enhanced by declaring that the exhausting process is going on too rapidly.

Whether this estimate be exactly correct as to time or not it is unquestionably true in substance. It points out the condition to which a nation must come which exports its unreplaceable resources. An iron ore bed once worked out is worked out forever. A coal seam once dug out can never be replaced. For all practical purposes to the nation the iron and the coal are destroyed, absolutely, and there is no known method of making more to take their places. So far as the future is concerned the country might quite as well never have had the ore bed or the coal seam; perhaps better, for the capital and labor devoted temporarily to their destruction would have found other and likely more permanent employment.

For generations the settled trade policy of the United States has been to destroy the iron and coal deposits of the country faster than there was any necessity of doing. Not satisfied with supplying abundantly the needs of its own people, the Republic built a tariff wall designed to enable the iron interests and the coal interests to exhaust the iron and coal deposits more quickly than would have been otherwise possible. If protection has done anything to place the United States steel industry in its dominant position in the world it has done so by enabling it to dig the iron and the coal out of the soil and send it all over creation for the enrichment of those engaged in the business but to the ultimate and permanent impoverishment of the nation. It is significant surely that even the man who of all men has prospered by this pumping out proces now rises to declare that the end thereof is ruin.

Canada should profit by the experience of her neighbor, rather than follow his example. It is urged by one school of our publicists that by adopting a similar trade and tariff policy we might secure similar results. Perhaps so, but are these the results that we wan. Is a country denuded of iron is replacing wood, partly on account of its suitability and partly because of the growing scarcity of timber. Recollecting this it scarcely seems too much to say that the countries with iron ore beds will be the arbiters of the world a couple of generations hence.

This increasing demand must be supplied from somewhere. Britain cannot supply it; continental Europe cannot supply it. The experts declare the United States cannot supply it Whence can it come then but from the countries whose resources of this character have not as yet been seriously attacked? From Canada, China Siberia, South America and the other lands whose iron resources have not yet escaped exploitation? When the world begins clamoring for iron these countries will be very much in evidence, and the opinions of those who should know is that this time is not far distant. When it comes Canada will be in a position to do business with the world on her own side of the fence.

Meanwhile the course of wisdom is surely to push the production of commodities which do not sap the permanent resources of the country. A wheat crop leaves us none the less able to raise another crop; and the longer we delay forcing the exploitation of our destructible resources the more these are worth and the greater future they assure us. Our iron does not waste while we leave it in the ground; but once we have dug it and exported it it has gone forever. Canada has wealth enough buried in her soil to make her a world-power if we do not squander it by a policy of legalized wastefulness.

NOT IN EVIDENCE.

The loss of the Hudson Bay company's vessel Stork in James Bay will doubtless be seized upon by the opponents of the Hudson Bay route to illustrate the perils of navigation in the northern waters and to discredit the project for the opening of the Hudson Bay route to Britain. Such was the use made of a former wreck a few years ago and there is every reason to suppose the present misfortune will be twisted into the same service. There is nothing in the circumstances to warrant such moralizing. The accident occurred not in the Hudson Straits nor the Hudson Bay, nor on or near any part of the route travelled by ships en route from Churchill to the Atlantic. It occurred in James Bay quite as far from Churchill as from Montreal. From the fact of the accident it would be in every respect as proper to argue the impracticability of the St. Lawrence route as the danger of the Hudson Bay route. If crack modern, steel-built liners, manned by the most skilful living navigators and bristling with search-lights, occasionally land on a mud-bank in the St. Lawrence, where we have spent fortunes dredging and placing buoys and lights, what significance is to be attached to the fact that a trading tub gets stranded once in many years on a sand-bar in James Bay. Considering that the whole extent of the shoreline of the northern waters has as yet not a lighthouse nor a buoy, the wonder is that any vessel obliged to skirt those shores and thread its way into the narrow and unmarked channels ever escapes. The loss of the Stork offers no more evidence on the practicability or safety of the Hudson Bay route than on the possibility of sailing the St. Lawrence or the Great Lakes.

GIVE HIM THE JOB.

As in every city, there are those in Edmonton to whom the snowfall brings the welcome chance of employment for a few hours at least. Citizens comfortably circumstanced would do well to not turn away the plainly-dressed man who asks for the job of clearing the walks. The few cents wages are not much to the man with a permanent position and good pay, but to the man with no income they may be a God-send, and will assuredly be a help.

THE RAILWAY QUESTION.

The completion of the surveys of townships west from Edmonton along the line of the G. T. P. to the western boundary of the province recalls the necessity of pushing the new transcontinental to completion at the earliest possible moment. Settlers by the hundred have gone into the country both east and west of Edmonton, lying along the route of the G. T. P. and not now served by any railway. They have come so in anticipation of early construction bringing them communication with the outside world, and in consideration of this have undertaken to endure the inconveniences and hardships of temporary isolation. At the same time development projects have been launched from the coast looking to the opening up of the interior of British Columbia the moment the completion of the line makes this possible. From railhead east of Edmonton to the coast there is practically an unbroken belt of country of diverse and marvellous resources into which men have put money, in which many of them have made their homes on the strength and in the expectation of immediate or early coming of railway communication. Their presence involves an obligation on the country to implement the promise under which they invested their money and drove their stakes. From Edmonton's standpoint too every day's delay in construction means a day's postponement of the business the city will receive from the activity bound to follow completion. From our viewpoint the question of the hour is that the road be pushed to completion as quickly as possible.

The need of railway extension in the province is recognized and illustrated by the extension policy adopted by the Provincial government. This policy is not without a reason and a good and substantial reason. In many parts of the country settlers have gone into districts far removed from railways; have made their homes, invested their all and staked their failure or success in life. They did so in the legitimate expectation that no large area of good country in this part of the world would be left long without the means of transportation. If this expectation was legitimate then it is a matter of duty to fulfil it. Nor can the duty of fulfilling it by the construction of new roads be greater than that of carrying to completion roads already projected and under way. If there was ground, as there was undoubtedly splendid ground, for the undertaking of a provincial policy of extension the same condition is the all-sufficient reason why roads already partly built should be rushed on to completion as soon as possible. The fate of the men who have risked their all in pushing out the frontiers of settlement is at stake. If they win the country wins. If they fail the country loses the benefit their success would have brought, and must suffer the consequences of their disappointment. The rapid completion of the Grand Trunk Pacific will be an assurance for the future that the enterprising and the industrious who seek to take time by the fore-lock may count on the country living up to its undertakings. A postponement of completion, or even a material delay in construction, would to that extent discount public faith in future national undertakings and in consequence rob the country of a measure of the benefit they would otherwise be.

This is by no means only an Edmonton question, nor even a Central Alberta question. It is a matter of concern to the whole province. The new transcontinental is necessary as an outlet for the roads which may be built under the Provincial government's policy. Admittedly such roads must be mainly feeders for the through lines of railway. It is of primary necessity, therefore, to get the through lines constructed with which to connect these when built. At present we have only one direct railway outlet to the sea. A policy of provincial extension could therefore at present do little more than establish branches for the Canadian Pacific railway. This is of course quite as laudable as to establish branches for any other road; but the interests of the country would not be so well promoted in doing so as in having the provincial system contribute to two or more highways. The ideal condition is not that the C. P. R. should have Southern Alberta as its preserve and that the G. T. P. and the C. N. R. should be confined to the central and northern portions of the province. Branches from these northerly roads must be driven into the southern portions of the province, and branches from the C. P. R. brought into the northern districts, if we are to have the benefits of railway accommodation and competition extended generally throughout the province. As a necessary condition to the accomplishment of this it is of concern to all Alberta that the new transcontinental be completed without delay.

THE CALL FOR HELP.

Sixty thousand dollars are needed to complete the building fund for the new public hospital. Admittedly the sum is considerable and the season not the most favorable. But the purpose is good and the need is certain to be keen before the building is completed. Edmonton people have not been found backward in such cause heretofore; the money will be raised. He who gives quickly gives twice.

THE NATURAL RESOURCES CONFERENCE.

President Roosevelt has invited Canada and Mexico to send representatives to a conference in Washington next summer to consider ways and means for conserving the natural resources of the continent. The cause is in every way worthy, and while the recommendations of the conference would be merely advisory, the movement should result in something substantially beneficial to all the countries concerned. That the proposal should emanate from the United States is both natural and fitting, for in neither Canada or Mexico have the natural resources been so vigorously assailed and so rapidly dissipated as in the great Republic, and neither Canada or Mexico faces so closely and so unavoidably the question of what exhaustion of these resources means to a nation. If it accomplishes no more, the conference will afford the representatives of these lesser-developed countries the opportunity to learn intimately the folly of this species of national wastefulness. If this opportunity be turned to proper account both Canada and Mexico will be placed under a debt of gratitude to President Roosevelt for inaugurating the means of impressing on them an invaluable lesson in national economies.

It is to be feared, however, that one door more promising than any other will be closed to the conference. Political considerations may be held to debar the commissioners examining candidly the effect of the United States fiscal policy on the consumption of the country's natural resources. If so, the greatest opportunity for potential investigation will be denied them. For many years the United States have maintained a high tariff against the world. Professedly the purpose of this was not only to enable the manufacturers of the country to supply the home market, but to make them so prosperous that they could "invade" and "capture" the markets of the world. This has been advanced consistently as one of the beneficent purposes to be gained by protection. It is the boast of the protectionists that this purpose has been accomplished in many important lines of manufacture. In no case is the triumph, if such it be, so notable as in the production of iron and steel. The steel trust is the most stalwart child of the United States tariff. But how has it attained the nourishment for its gigantic form? By digging the ore from Michigan and the coal from Pennsylvania, passing them through its furnaces and shipping the resultant product to the four corners of the earth. As a net result of the process the country is "out" the iron and coal and the steel trust is "in" the money received in exchange for them. This process, carried on by thousands of firms, operating in a hundred lines of manufacture has for generations been swiftly and surely despoiling the most resourceful country in the world of treasures which it can neither reproduce nor substitute. That the country is awaking to the results is well shown by the President's conclusion that conservatory measures are necessary. But that the commissioners will be permitted to study this factor in the problem is not altogether likely.

WHITHER?

Russia continues the relentless persecution of the Jews, Finland being now the scene of the outrage. They are forbidden to acquire or hold property, are denied the rights of citizenship, and parties of them are summarily ordered to leave the country at intervals. Clearly the broad purpose behind the movement is to eject this people from the land; nor at this distance is there discernible any reason for it, valid or alleged, save that they are Jews. To patriotic Russian students this apparently settled policy of their government must be anything but comforting; for the fact stares from the pages of history that no nation has persecuted this people and permanently prospered. Whether he assign it to Providence or chance, the fact must be admitted by the candid reader; as must also the complementary fact that the world is ruled today by nations who have not placed disabilities upon the Hebrews. Spain offers a fitting example of the fate that has overtaken Jew-baiting peoples. Russia herself had a lesson in the folly of the thing which any but an autocratic government must have learned. The massacres of Kiev were fresh in the Hebrew memory when the Jap-Russian war broke out. The result was apparent when Russia tried to raise war loans; the Jewish bankers of Berlin and Hamburg and London simply sat tight and kept a grip on their money bags and Russian bonds went begging, though the immense territory and resources of the country offered all the security any money-lender could want. But when Japan wanted money she got it promptly and in ample supply; though her ability to pay when the war should be ended was by no means so good a risk as Russia had to offer. The shells which crumbled the walls of Port Arthur and tore the Baltic fleet to pieces were bought with money loaned by Hebrew bankers in Europe who could find not a farthing to lend St. Petersburg. To any government capable of learning, the moral of this lay on the surface—but autocracy does not want to learn and flounders blindly along a road that has always led to disaster.

THE WHY.

Mr. Andrew Macphail, editor of the University Magazine, analyzes in the December issue the reasons why the Opposition failed to make substantial headway in the late elections. Both Liberals and Conservatives will find portions of the article not to their liking but it is well worth the perusal of both.

The sum of the reasons why the Opposition failed, the writer conceives to be that they did not deserve to succeed. The failure is interpreted as a moral failure. Their leader, he says, held such equivocal language "that "both simple and cynical arrived at "one of two conclusions; that he "meant nothing or did not know him-"self what he meant." "A man may "be a Socialist or a Conservative. "Few men are both at the same "time." Mr. Borden failed because of "not being Conservative and not be-"ing Radical when he seemed to be "so."

Another reason for the failure was Mr. Borden's Halifax manifesto. "In "it he told the people what he propos-"ed to do, but he neglected to tell "them how he was going to do it. He "promised them a cabinet worthy of "their highest ideals, but he neglected "to mention the names of those ideal "ministers whom he proposed should "sit with him. . . . It would have "been just as useful to the Conserva-"tives if Mr. Borden had issued the "Decalogue as a manifesto."

A third cause is found in the tactics of last session and of the campaign:—

"The Conservatives endeavored to "fasten the charge of a flagrant breach "of public morality upon their op-"ponents, but the people did not be-"lieve they were telling the truth. "When a person cries 'stop thief,' and "the person who is addressed stops "and demands that the charge be "proven, the situation is embarras-"sing for him, and no great commo-"tion is likely to ensue. If he does "not prove the charge, he is apt to "be regarded as a traducer or a dis-"turber of the peace. In these days "the people are interested not in what "a man says, but in what he can "prove. At any rate, the Conserva-"tives did not prove up to the limit "of their assertions; certainly not in "the way in which the Liberals proved "it in 1873, and again in 1891. . . . "Canada occupies too important a "place in the world to permit indulg-"ence in the political methods of the "mining camp. There is an obliga-"tion upon us to behave with the re-"serve which is proper for self-re-"specting people, and upon public "men to remember the maxim, that "whilst they are patriots they must "not forget to be gentlemen."

As the essence of party difference Mr. Macphail says the public "have "developed an instinct that privilege "and monopoly are the portion of Con-"servatives — prerogatives of the "throne, doctrines and practices of "feudal times, and the denial of the "franchise to men. On the other "hand, they have learned that Lib-"eralism has always been the voice "of popular discontent and the instru-"ment by which those evils were to "be overcome."

He concludes, "The Conservatives "will continue to fail until they be-"come Conservative again."

CURRENT COMMENT.

There's many a slip 'twixt the face off and the cup.

The nether world may be paved with good resolutions, but that is the poorest possigle excuse for not making more.

Calgary papers should remember that it is better to have a street railway blockaded by a snow storm than to have none to be blockaded.

A St. Louis pastor advised the ladies of his congregation to use paint and powder. Now he will be surprised when the choir-girls resign and the Ladies' Aid go out of business.

American troops are to evacuate Cuba. Which, in other words, means that the Cubans are now to be given a chance to show how well they have improved their educational opportunities.

Montreal proposes to build an ice palace. This serves to illustrate the comparative mildness of Alberta's climate. Nobody here proposes to put any money into so risky a venture.

Announcing his prospective hunting trip to Africa President Roosevelt says no fear need be felt for his personal safety. "As all the members of the "party are excellent rifle shots." Nothing like handing one's self a compliment occasionally.

Mr. Wm. Mackenzie, of the C. N. R., has been telling a reporter what he would do if he were czar of Canada. And any one of several hundred men working on short time would be glad to tell Mr. Mackenzie what he would do if he were Czar of the C. N. R.

Calgary papers are puzzled to know why our daily street railway receipts do not figure out five cents per passenger. For the edification of these journals it may be mentioned that Edmonton people frequently feel wealthy enough to buy a whole quarter's worth of tickets at once.

Britain will be asked to join the United States in celebrating Perry's naval victory of 1813. Asking a man to celebrate the anniversary of his getting licked really looks like cordiality in excess. The sting is drawn, however, by the remembrance that Perry's performance is about the only event of the war our American friends will want to commemorate.

LOW GRADE COAL OIL.

Prosecution Instituted of Manitoba Merchant Who Sold Death-Dealing Oil.

Alexander, Man., Dec. 30.—R. W. Earl, inspector of inland revenue at Brandon, arrived in town today to lay information against D. A. McIlquhan, the hardware merchant, who is said to have sold the coal oil to J. W. Raymond, which caused the death of Miss Raymond about three weeks ago. Mr. Earl is acting under instructions from Inspector Gosnell, amined, which McIlquhan had in his possession on the day of her death. The examination of this barrel of oil disclosed the fact that the oil had a flash point of 65, which is 20 points below standard and a similarly low specific gravity. The trial takes place before Magistrate Jos. Haig on January 6.

To Protest Walsh's Election.

Montreal, Dec. 30.—The Election of M. J. Walsh, the Liberal candidate, who was returned on Monday in the St. Ann's bye-election, will be protested, and the disqualification of Mr. Walsh demanded. Alderman Thomas O'Connell, the defeated Conservative candidate, stated this evening that he had evidence to prove the existence of a conspiracy for telegraphing votes.

EFFECTIVE PHILANTHROPY.

John D. Rockefeller Presents His Views on Subject of Giving.

New York, Dec. 30—"If a combination to do business is effective in saving waste and in getting better results why is not combination far more important in philanthropic work?"

In this question is set forth the text of an article by John D. Rockefeller, head of the Standard Oil interests, published in the current issue of the World's Work. The general subject of Mr. Rockefeller's article "Is the Value of the Co-Operative Principle in Giving." Mr. Rockefeller expresses the belief that the general idea of co-operation in giving for education "scored a real step in advance" when Mr. Andrew Carnegie consented to become a member of the general education board, for in accepting a position in this directory, he has, it seems to me, stamped with his approval this vital principle of co-operation in aiding the educational institutions of our country."

Where Help is Wanted.

Some interesting general remarks on the subject of benevolence illuminate Mr. Rockefeller's point of view. For instance he says:—

"To help an inefficient, ill located, unnecessary school, is a waste. I am told by those who have given most careful study to this problem that it is highly probable that enough money has been squandered on unwise educational projects to have built up a national system of higher education adequate to our need, if the money had been properly directed to that end."

On Roman Catholic methods, Mr. Rockefeller said that "he has seen the organization of the Roman Catholic church secure better results with a given sum of money than other church organizations are accustomed to secure from the same expenditure. It is unnecesary to dwell on the centuries of experience which the Church of Rome has gone through to perfect a great power of organization."

Wants the Money.

Commenting upon the great mass of appealing letters received Mr. Rockefeller says that four-fifths of them are requests for money for personal use, "with no other title to consideration than that the writer would be gratified to have it."

Mr. Rockefeller pays a warm tribute to the memory of the late Dr. William R. Harper, president of the University of Chicago, and makes without qualification the statement which will be surprising to many persons, "That during the entire period of his presidency of the University of Chicago he never once either wrote me a letter or asked me personally for a dollar of money for the university."

He goes on to explain that notes, as in all other cases, the gifts to the university were the result of presentation of its need, "made in writing by the officers of the university, whose special duty it is to prepare its budget and superintend its finances. It is not personal interviews and impassioned appeals, but sound and justifying worth, that should attract and secure the funds of philanthropy. The people in great numbers who are constantly importuning me for personal interviews in behalf of favorite causes err in supposing that the interview were it possible, is the best way or even a good way, of securing what they want."

In the course of his article, Mr. Rockefeller says of himself: "Criticism that is deliberate, sober and fair is always valuable and it should be welcomed by all who desire progress. I have had at least my full share of adverse criticism, but I can truly say that it has not embittered me nor left me with any harsh feeling against a living soul."

JEALOUS OF WHITE WIFE.

Negro Attempts Both Murder and Suicide in Toronto.—Both Fail.

Toronto, Dec. 28—With a bullet in her head, Mrs. William Seay of 125 Moore street, ran screaming into the house of Harry Schust, 144 Moore street, exclaiming that she had ben shot by her husband. A doctor was summoned, and found a bullet in her cheek. The wound is not a serious one, and she will recover. Immediately after the shooting Mrs. Seay's husband ran down Moore street and threw himself into the bay. Geo. Chapman saw the man jump into the water and he and two other men manned a punt and went to his rescue. They dragged the man out and placed him under arrest. The man is colored and the woman is white. He is out of work and jealous of his wife.

CATTLE DISEASE SMOTHERED.

No New Cases Develop in Buffalo in Nineteen Days—Quarantine Regulations Modified.

Buffalo, N.Y., Dec. 28—No case of foot-and-mouth disease has been found in New York state in the last nineteen days, and both state and federal authorities are so confident that they have the outbreak smothered that orders have been issued modifying the quarantine regulations. The state quarantine against Wyoming country was released last night, in an order issued by Commissioner Pearson.

Shipments of feeders, both cattle and sheep, will be permitted from unquarantined states, to any point in New York, provided they are consigned directly to their final destination.

Toronto's Temperance Fight.

Toronto, Dec. 30.—Rev. Dr. Chown, secretary of the Methodist Temperance League, says a tremendous vote will be polled on license reduction. He says the temperance forces are united and the reduction by-law will carry. The temperance side has hired detectives to prevent impersonations.

To Take Russian Oensus.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 28.—The cabinet has decided to ask the Douma to appropriate $2,500,000 for a second general census of Russia to be taken in 1901. The first Russian census was in 1910. The first Russian census was

U. S. Fleet Enters Red Sea.

Suez, Dec. 30—The American battleship fleet, under Admiral Sperry, passed Perim at the entrance to the Red sea, at noon today. All on board the fleet are well. The vessels are due here the morning of January 3.

THE OPENING UP OF PEACE RIVER COUNTRY

Surveyor Holcroft Returns From North Where He Laid Out Four Townships and Corrected Error in Previous Survey.—His Opinion of the Country.

The Dominion Land Surveyors who have been spending the past summer season in extending the survey work in the great stretch of country north and west of Edmonton are now returning to winter quarters to await the coming again of spring when the frost King will relax his hold on the streams and rivers and when a continuation of the work will be possible.

H. S. Holcroft has returned to Edmonton from Peace River Crossing where he has been engaged in survey work since early in the month of March. He and his thirteen men have come the distance from the Crossing with heavy pack horses in twelve and a half days.

Extended Survey Work.

Speaking to a Bulletin representative regarding his season's work, Mr. Holcroft said that he corrected an old error in the location of the 21st base line and this revision has been the basis of all new outlines and subdivisions. In all he subdivided four townships between the Peace River Crossing and Dunvegan. An important portion of the work was the completion of the survey of the Shaftsbury settlement which is the home of Allie Brick, M.P.P. This settlement is on the west bank of the Peace River, nearly opposite the settlement known as Peace River Crossing. A stretch of eight or nine miles along the west side of the river and between the two settlements was subdivided into river lots and backed with a river bed. These lots are on the river bottom and are very well adapted to agriculture.

An Unprejudiced View.

"How does the country generally strike you as an agricultural proposition?"

"As far as the climate is concerned it is first class" replied Mr. Holcroft. "The settlers have had no summer frost this year that did any damage. On the other hand the climate has been rather dry and on this account the crop this year has not proved very good. The east bank of the river adjacent to Peace River Crossing is thickly wooded and the west side is about three quarters open. On both sides of the river there is a long slope from the top of a ridge to the river bottom. This is about two to three miles wide on both sides. Here stock will flourish but mixed farming will practically be out of the question. Close to the river are benches and flats of first class soil varying from four to ten inches of black loam on a good clay subsoil. This fertile river bottom forms the present cultivated portion of the country. The climatic conditions and the nature of the country as a whole make it essentially adapted to cattle raising.

Looking for Railroads.

"What expression of opinion do you hear as to railway extension to the Peace River?"

"There have been several survey parties in the country this season," was the reply. "It was reported that the C.P.R. had a staff of sixty men making observations from the Crossing west to Dunvegan and north to Fort Vermilion. Grand Prairie was also given considerable attention. A party supposed to be working in the interests of J. J. Hill also spent considerable time in the country. If a railway does pierce the north it is thought that the McLeod River, where it is crossed by the G.T.P. would likely be the place for a line to radiate. It is only about 150 miles distant from the Crossing.

"Mr. Holcroft is impressed with the magnificent water route in the north. If a railway line were run to either Dunvegan or the Crossing there would be continuous water communication between either point and Fort Vermilion, a distance of several hundred miles. It is the long overland haul from Edmonton to the Crossing which make communication with the Peace River Country so difficult. Beyond the Crossing there are now three steamers, which ply back and forth along the Peace River.

Needs of the Country.

"What the country needs as badly as a railroad and what it must have before there will be a great influx of settlers," said Mr. Holcroft, "is a good Edmonton trail. The present is only a winter trail and could be shortened by a hundred miles. Another thing that is badly needed in the country is a portable saw mill. At present $10 per thousand feet is charged for cutting timber alone and this is a hardship to the settler. There is plenty of good spruce in the country for practical purposes but no great timber limits.

Mr. Holcroft will leave shortly for Ottawa to make his returns personally to the Department of the Interior.

He will return to the West and in the future will take an active part in cattle ranching in the Peace River district. This week Mr. Holcroft is sending an outfit into the country with machinery and stock. He will be located close to the Peace River Crossing.

Court House Floor Collapses.

Baltimore, Dec. 29.—While the trial of Wm. Hapgood, a negro, charged with murderous assault, was in progress this afternoon, the second floor of a two-storey building at Elliot City, the floor fell through. Fifteen persons were injured, a number having broken arms and legs. Among those hurt are Justice B. H. Wallenhorst, who was presiding, the prisoner, ex-Judge J. T. Rogers, States Attorney Martin Burke and Colonel Wm. C. Powell. The floor fell through without warning.

A Rest Day in Chili.

Valparaiso, Dec. 30—There has come into force a new law making it compulsory for owners of all establishments to give one day of rest each week to all employees. A committee of workmen, representing the Chilian engine shops and foundries, have protested to the government against giving a preference to the St. Louis Car company for repairing all the government railroad rolling stock and for giving facilities for doing so to the government workshops. The Chilean demand that the work be given out by open bids.

Municipal Contest in Guelph.

Guelph, Ont., Dec. 30.—Nominations for mayor were: John Newstead, Ald. Thorp, Penford, Simpson and Nelson, and George Hastings.

SECOND SHOCK REND[illegible] THE CITY OF MESS[illegible]

Second Shock Renders Ruin Wrought by First Shock Is Completed—Not a Building Left Standing—Many Rescuers Were Killed as Well as Many of Survivors of First Quake.

Rome, Dec. 31.—Another violent earthquake shock occurred at Messina late yesterday. This second shock completed the work of ruin. The buildings which were left standing by the quake of Monday collapsed and it is feared many more persons have been killed.

The news of the second disaster received here late and has not been published in Rome. It is believed that the ruin of Messina is complete and absolutely irrevocable. Practically all the survivors who are awaiting conveyance by water from the scene of the disaster are feared, are killed. Many persons who were engaged in the work of rescue were also victims.

4,325 Added to Casualties.

Naples, Dec. 31.—A report received here from Santa Bufenia, a town of 6,000 people, 16 miles northeast of Reggio, declares that the dead will number 1,000. Reports from that state that the death list in the villages surrounding Pizzo reaches a total of 3,325. Survivors from Reggio say that the scene after the first shock was appalling. Their experience in many respects, was similar to that of the inhabitants of Messina. People rushed into the streets in night clothes only to be crushed down under falling buildings. Many flocked into the cathedral according to the usual Italian custom during an earthquake. They were soon afterwards killed as they knelt in prayer, by the collapse of the cathedral dome. The cathedral was completely destroyed and more than 200 worshippers are believed to have been buried in the ruins.

The handsome museum, adjoining the collection of Roman antiquities, was also destroyed. The town hall is a pile of ruin, the walls still standing. All of the cathedral, with its priceless contents, buildings adjoining the harbor including the custom house, the barracks and many large warehouses were washed away by the sea. A second shock destroyed the railroad station and buried all within it. All railroad lines were torn up for miles, the rails being twisted and grotesquely fantastically. There were several terrific explosions in Reggio for which the survivors cannot account. They declare that a tremendous report preceded the firing of heavy artillery preceded the tidal wave.

Town Pillaged For Food.

The town was pillaged for food and no attempt was made to establish order until Monday night, as the majority of the soldiers in the barracks were killed. Several steamers have arrived in Reggio taking off many of the wounded, but, owing to the lack of facilities, many will die before it is possible to remove them. Refugees state that they often heard voices feebly calling for help, but they were not able to reach the victims. In some towns the police and soldiers are killed and detachments must be sent from Naples. It is difficult to reach many ruined towns because the railroad employees who are sufficiently from panic, or searching for their dead,, refuse to return to work, consequently delaying the rebuilding of the railway line.

A tragic phase of the general distress was the fight for life made by the prisoners in Messina jail when the town. There were nearly a thousand prisoners, including 300 women locked in the cells at the time of the first shock. The jail collapsed and many of the prisoners were crushed like rats in a trap. Several rows of cells, however, remained intact and the inmates could be heard pounding on the walls, begging to be released. Some succeeded in digging their way out of the ruins. Then came the second shock which killed most of the convicts who remained.

Refuse Passage to Palermo.

The steamship captains at Naples are refusing $250 for passage to Palermo and other Sicilian ports. Bodies of thirty persons have been recovered from the ruins of the Hotel Trinnoria in Messina, in which it is feared 150 tourists perished.

A remarkable story of the destruction of this hotel is told in a telegram received today from Signora Garofalo, a Hungarian opera singer, the leading soprano of a troupe which was giving opera performances at the Vittorio Emmanuele theatre in Messina. After setting at rest the fears for the safety and that of several other members of the company who are well known in Rome, she describes her experiences as follows:

"The earthquake shock apparently broke the hotel building in two, one half falling at once, while the other portion, in which I was, remained standing unsteadily. My clothes and that of others in my part of the hotel, was cut off entirely. When I found that I could not get out by the stairs, which had fallen, I went to my room and, taking the heavy mattress from the bed, I threw it out of the window. Then I jumped out upon it. Although my room was on the second floor, the mattress broke my fall and I alighted without injury. Some other guests afterwards escaped in the same manner."

Signora Garofalo found shelter in a refugees' camp in the outskirts of the city. The names of other foreigners who may have escaped safely before the hotel have not been learned.

Refugees Arrive at Naples.

Naples, Dec. 31—The first of the refugees from Sicily and Calabria arrived here this morning. Between 50,000 and 60,000 are en route and the municipal authorities have made an appeal to the citizens to unite in giving accommodation to the unfortunates. The minister of marine has received word that the steamships Taormina and Campania, with 45,000 beds and a large supply of provisions, will have left Genoa bound for Messina. Other steamers bountifully stocked on their way to the stricken city from various ports. The subscription list has been opened with $40,000