THE WEEK'S MINING

By H. M. L.

At the present rate of mineral production in the province it seems reasonably certain that the 1903 returns will show a very appreciable advance both in respect to tonnage and values over last year. It is, in fact, a long time since the outlook appeared as encouraging, or prospects as indicative of coming rapid industrial development and expansion as is now afforded. Another month or six weeks should permit of both Rossland and Boundary equalling respectively the tonnage produced by these districts in 1902, so leaving perhaps two months of the present year in which last year's achievements may be exceeded. Thus last week the output from Boundary reached the remarkable total of nearly 16,800 tons. From Nelson and Ymir reports of progress are equally satisfactory; new mines are being opened, others upon which operations have long been suspended are being re-worked. On Morning Mountain alone, there will soon be no less than six-stamp mills in steady operation, when last year there was but one. The number of mines again actively working in the Slocan is rapidly increasing, while the Lardeau is fast becoming a most important productive centre. Recent production from the Crow's Nest Coal Fields shows an advance of over a hundred per cent., as compared with returns covering corresponding periods of last year, the average daily output then being 1,371 tons, and lately 3,251 tons. As for the coast, the metalliferous yield of 1902 has already been well surpassed. The only present obstacle in the way of progress is the scarcity of mine labor—this new circumstance being a healthy sign—nevertheless it is to some extent restricting operations in the Boundary, Slocan and Lardeau districts. It is not to be expected, however, that this difficulty will be more than a temporary one. Naturally the depression that has overshadowed the industry for so long, and from which it has emerged with such astonishing suddenness, is responsible for driving from the country a large number of miners, while many have also participated in the rush to stake claims in the Poplar Creek and other districts in which the recent new gold discoveries have been made. But once it becomes apparent that conditions in British Columbia are settled, and that there is some certitude of a general resumption of mining operations, with the consequent assurance of steady employment there will be no difficulty in obtaining from the States all the mine labor required. Although, meanwhile, this revival in mining is taking place, some time must necessarily elapse before the changed conditions exercise any considerable influence beyond the confines of the mining territory itself. The only capital being invested in British Columbia mines at the present time is American, and this is in relatively small amounts. It is impossible to raise money in England, however meritorious the property offered, and the suspicion with which Eastern Canada regards mining in the province may be judged by the entire absence of speculatioin and the utter flatness of the mining stock market, once so active in Montreal and Toronto. While the active demand for mining stocks in 1898-99 had little if any significance as indicating the actual position of mining in the province in those years, the inactivity since in this regard has been significant, and a revival of speculation would be more so. That can now only come about by the entering of a fair proportion of our mines on a dividend paying career. Three or four mines only this year have distributed profits, and these, outside of the Crow's Nest Coal Co., in very inconsiderable sums, and all the talk in the world of better times will not outweigh an argument of that kind in the minds of the sceptically inclined outside public. When as there is every reason to hope they will do in the near future, the two Le Rois, the Granby, the Payne, the Tyee and half a dozen other companies that could be mentioned, make a beginning in the direction of substantial dividend paying then we may count upon another big and more permanent mining investment boom in British Columbia.

The arrangement that has been made for the treatment of the output of the Le Roi No. 2 at the Greenwood smelter is a matter of some note, as signifying metallurgical progress in the Boundary district. Meanwhile the ore of the Le Roi No. 2 has constituents which are desirable when mixed with the product from the Mother Lode, and consequently a treatment rate has been afforded the former on terms much more favorable than the Le Roi No. 2 has previously been able to obtain. A very large percentage of the ores from the neighboring district of Republic in Washington, is also being treated by the Boundary district smelters.

There now appears to be a reasonable chance that another Boundary district mine will this year commence the payment of dividends to shareholders. Thus Mr. Graves, the general manager of the Granby Copper mines, has intimated that in all probability the directors of this undertaking will recommend at the annual meeting next month a first distribution of profits, which this year, thanks to the higher price of copper, and the increased efficiency and economy in the operation of the mines and smelter, have been very satisfactory. So far, however, the greater portion of the earnings have been re-invested in equipment and plant, and it is now stated that the company contemplate the establishment of other large smelting works next year.

Tenders have been invited for the work of clearing the right of way from Phoenix to Greenwood for the extension of the Cascade Water, Power and Light Company's pole line, to the latter point, arrangements having been completed, it is understood, for the utilization of electrical power in the operation of the B. C. Copper Company's smelting works. By substituting at the smelter this power for steam a considerable economy will be effected.

Very encouraging reports have been received of recent developments at the Hunter V., a mine in the Ymir district. In addition to a payable vein, there is exposed on this property a large deposit of limestone carrying small gold values. The lime itself is in demand by local smelters for finxing purposes, and, as operations can be carried on by quarrying methods, the owners are most sanguine concerning the future. A tramway is now being installed at the property. From the Wilcox, in the same district, the returns from the last shipment of crude ore gave values of over $70 a ton, and affording a nett profit of $1,100. The July returns of the Ymir mine, just received, are less satisfactory, a loss of $1,430 on the month's working being reported.

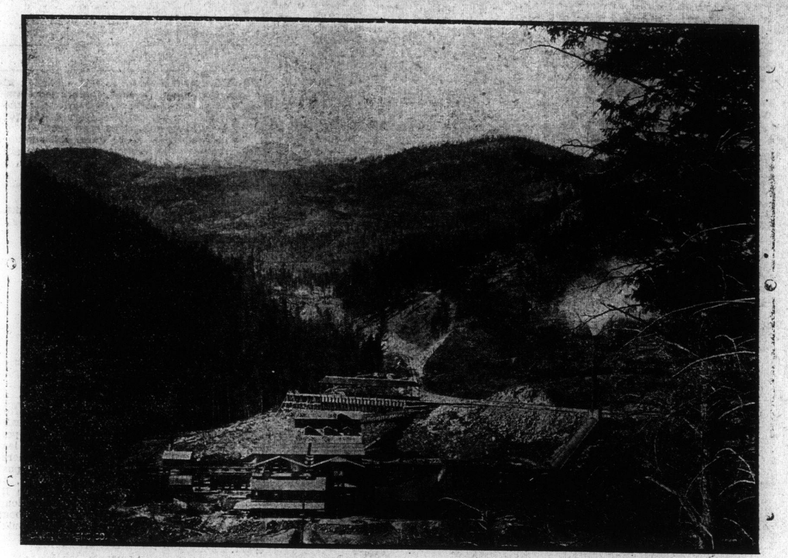
A new American undertaking, known as the Morning Star Mining and Milling Company, has been organized to work the Morning Star mine, on Eagle Creek, in the Nelson district, and operations are to be commenced at once. A stamp mill and other plant has meanwhile been ordered.

Mr. W. B. Pool and associates, who some weeks ago purchased the Lucky Jack claim, and subsequently the Swede group, at Poplar Creek, contemplate forming a company or syndicate to acquire these and some twenty other properties, including the Ophir-Lade group, at Camborne.

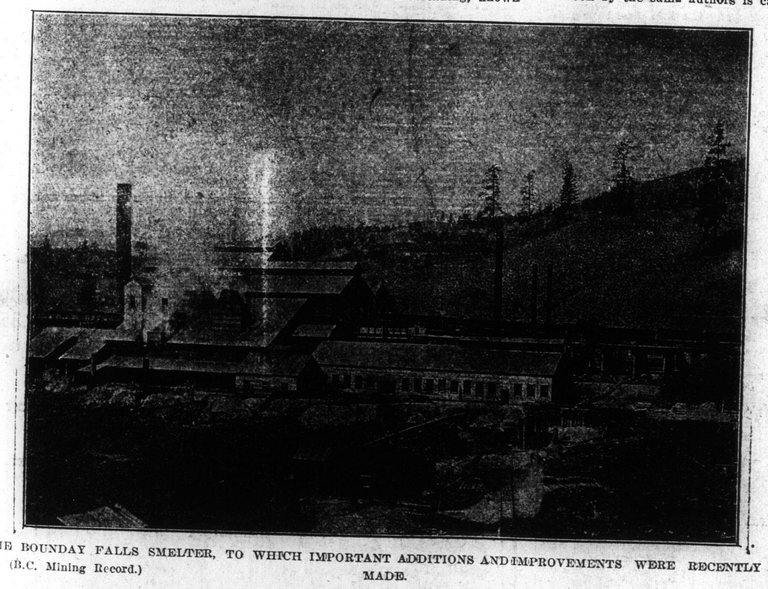
At Rossland the outlook is very satisfactory, the production last week being nine thousand tons. The Le Roi No. 2 concentrator is now ready for the commencement of operations, and a preliminary test run has already been successfully made. The last monthly report of this company shows a gain in the net proceeds of nearly $3 a ton. Ore from the I. X. L. mine, under lease, is being treated in the O. K. stamp mill, which has been thoroughly overhauled. As the result of English shareholders to recover investments in a sum aggregating £20,000 in the British American Corporation's shares, on the ground of alleged misrepresentation as contained in the prospectus, a commission has been granted in the English courts for the purpose of obtaining testimony in Rossland. This commission will probably be convened next week, when a number of witnesses will be called, including Mr. C. H. Mackintosh, who acted as the venders' agent in the sale of the Rossland mines to the company.

Work is still progressing in the construction of coke ovens at Morrisey, in East Kootenay, fifty ovens being now completed. The Crow's Nest Coal Company has expended this year approximately half a million dollars in coke-oven construction work, in order to keep pace with the increase local smelter demands for fuel.

On the coast, preliminary operations for the erection of buildings and ore bins have been commenced at the Britannia, while conditions on Texada Island have greatly improved. The Van Anda mines recently completed a new railway to the Cornell mine and equipped it with iron ore cars of a capacity of 4½ to 5 tons each, for the conveyance of their ores from the mines to the bunkers at their terminus on Malaspina Straits, from whence the mine product is conveyed by steamer to the Vancouver Island smelters. The railway is about 1½ miles long. There is some likelihood of the other numerous outcrops of copper in the vicinity being opened up in the near future. Such promising outlooks as the Jack North, Boulder Nest, Gem, Northern Spy, British Lion, Copper King, Marvel, Lorindale and others which have been neglected owing to the lack of capital by the owners, are likely ere long to create attention and result in the opening up of valuable properties. There are reported to be four new hoisting plants shortly to be erected. At the different properties now working there is estimated to be about 10,000 tons of shipping ore on the dumps.



THE B. C. COPPER CO.'S SMELTER AT GREENWOOD, WHICH IS NOW TREATING ORES FROM THE LE ROI NO. 2 AT ROSSLAND.



THE BOUNDAY FALLS SMELTER, TO WHICH IMPORTANT ADDITIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS WERE RECENTLY MADE.

(B.C. Mining Record.)

LITERARY NOTES.

Charles Josselyn, whose "The True Napoleon" received favorable criticism last year, has in press for early publication by Paul Elder & Co., a collection of interesting and instructive selections from famous authors, entitled "My Favorite Book Shelf." Unlike the usual quotation book, this volume includes passages of readable length so chosen and arranged in many cases as to epitomize the messages of the voluminous originals. The work will make a handsome octavo, interestingly printed and rubricated. The binding is from a design by Gordon Ross.

* * *

"The Cynic's Calendar of Revised Wisdom," which received a warm reception last year, was re-issued for 1904 a month ago. This issue of 10,000 copies has already been entirely sold and orders make necessary an edition of 30,000 copies, which will soon be off the press. The total of 40,000 copies at this date shows what a very successful little volume the Western publishers, Paul Elder & Co., have been fortunate enough to secure. The new book by the same authors is called "The Limerick Up-to-date Book" and will be ready soon. It has many original and attractive features that promise much for its interest.

* * *

The October Century will have some "Anecdotes of Leschetizky," told by his sister-in-law, the Comtesse Angele Potocka. The stories deal with the three-year-old lad's playing a locked piano, incidents of his public debut at nine, his dancing with Fanny Ellster at twelve, his early impressions of Liszt, and many Leipsic and St. Petersburg experiences. The book, "Theodore Leschetizky," will be published in October. As far as possible the Comtesse Potocka has used the great music teacher's own words in writing these memories.

John Carleton, a leading member of the Dominion parliament, is an American by birth. Three other members of that body were born in the United States.

Ten Thousand Miles in Canada

BY NEIL MUNRO.

Part II.--Harvest Time on the Prairies.

The artistic sense in the Western Canadian is as blunt as the table knife of the territories, which is a murrain and a curse in a land that God has been otherwise good to. It happens therefore that when the zealous immigration agent anywhere west of Rat Portage desires to do something that will induce the jostled European to come and settle on the prairie he goes forth with a panorama camera, snapshots a thousand-acre block of waving grain, or a steam plough gashing the virgin turf, or in an ecstasy of inspiration secures upon the film a marshalled row of six grain elevators that are as pleasing to the eyes as are the smoke stacks of St. Rollox and Mile-End. I confess I approached the prairies with gloomy forebodings, induced by the study of prairie scenery, as depicted in half some photographic reproductions in the pamphlets of the immigration agent. The ideal corn field to me is something under three acres, with a hazel shaded burn at the bottom of it, where at noon when the rip of the scythe has ceased a while, the harvesters eat their frugal meal and sing, perhaps, as sang the reapers and bandsters before the days of Flodden. A vast immeasurable area of wheat, golden to the rim of the horizon, representing thirty bushels to the acre of incomparable Red Fife wheat at three shillings a bushel touches me less than might a barren patches of blackened huts in the wilds of Connemara. In such an expanse is surely something mechanical and inhuman; no reaping song, no dafting of lad and lass, and all that to the foolish ancient world of Ruth in the alien fields of Boaz was tender and poetic. Yet such dreary seas of grain, it seemed to me from all I had heard and seen pictorially of the West, were to be considered typical.

THE PRAIRIES.

proved incalculably more pleasant to the eye and to the fancy than I had hoped for. It is true there are great grain fields in Manitoba; we saw sections of wheat and oats that ranged side by side covered two thousand acres practically unbroken by fence or trail; but the general impression of the landscape is infinitely less monotonous. Small holdings save the situation, and a cheerful multiplicity of dwellings. A section of land—that is to say, 640 acres, or one square mile—may have the variety almost of an English estate, and while the present tendency of the West is to grow wheat to the exclusion of a single syboe or a solitary flower, the era of mixed farming swiftly approaches. Wheat gives so rapid and easily earned a return for capital and labor that the settler having dumped his first crop to the elevator and handled the gold (they are really dirty dollar bills; copper and gold are virtually unknown), makes a feverish clutch at what vacant land adjoins him, computing roughly that five times one makes five in dollar profits as in acres, which may not be the case, as anyone who has tried poultry farming on the same arithmetical computation will readily admit. Today five miles from Brandon I visited a farm as saves the scenic beauty of Manitoba, and shows the best results, in every way, of mixed agriculture. Tullichewan, the name of it; is it necessary to say that its owner is a Scot? Donald M'Ewen's square mile estate would make him a bonnet laird of no little importance in his native Glenorchy. The road to it led through waving willow trees; spruce and maple sheltered it benignly; the garden was radiant with just such flowers as flourish at home, the berry bushes hung with fruit. His cereal crops, worked entirely by himself and his son, were shoulder high. Seven thousand bushels of grain were taken from Tullichewan a year ago; the monetary equivalent of that crop was to me a secondary consideration—what impressed me first and last was that here was a most wholesome and independent household having its roots set firm in a generous soil. Here where the buffalo roamed through wilderness in my own lifetime was a beautiful and artistic home with music, pictures, books, flowers, and all the little things that make for what is called culture. In its neighborhood were the best gifts of civilization—Winnipeg University had sent one son as superintending physician to Vancouver General Hospital, another worked the farm with his father, none the lese a sturdy yeoman because he was a graduate of Arts from the same college. Later in the day I saw the latter ride in a steeplechase at Brandon Fair, for

LIFE IN MANITOBA

is not all within the plough stilts though work is incumbent on all, and the worker only will thrive there. Somewhere or other in Tullichewan I saw a crest engraved—a blasted oak from which new buds were springing. It symbolized more than the Herald's College dreamt; of; to me as I heard M'Ewen sing Donacha Ban's "Ben Dorain," well content somewhat vain, indeed, of his home, his fields, his flowers, his barns and stables, and the log house still surviving near at hand, a memorial of his first days as a settler, the oak renewing spoke of a race revived and made perpetual; the glens depopulated, left to sheep and deer and yet the human germ of them indissoluble, budding forth again in a greater growth than ever five thousand miles away in a soil more fertile than the richest soil that lies within the links of Forth. It is the contention of many people that the prairie on which such farms as Tullichewan are founded will never be exhausted—that grain may be grown on it for generations without the use of fertilizers; and they point to the rich, black earth incredibly deep on a clay sub-soil as capable of producing perpetually a yield exceeding the oozy silts of the Sunderbunds of the Ganges, or the delta of the Nile. Also, we heard much of wheat crops giving fifty bushels to the acre and of oats that gave nearly a hundred. The true prospects and the actual figures are in themselves satisfactory and surprising enough, and though it is impossible that even the rich vegetable humus, the fat loam that make up the most part of the soil of Manitoba can go on interminably providing the nitrogen, phosphoric acid, potash and other ingredients that go to make the perfect crops, judicious summer fallowing at short intervals, careful rotation of crops and mixed farming above all will always ensure a comfortable living off the land, while seventy bushels to the acre which is really the average yield is considerably more than Ontario, Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, or Nebraska can yield. I saw many parts of Manitoba on the line of railway and far from it; and everywhere found evidence of a rural comfort, less rude than I have seen in the dairy farming lands of Renfrewshire The wooden houses might to one accustomed to the white harled, solid stone structures of the Scottish farmers seem externally unstable, but inside they were if anything more comfortable and more neatly furnished than the average farmer's house at home. The cattle seemed as good, the horses more numerous, the implements infinitely superior.

AGRICULTURAL TOOLS.

indeed play a conspicuous part in Manitoba scenery. At every railway station brightly painted reapers and binders not in single files but in battalions meet the eye. And everywhere people go from place to place in vehicles—the high-toned "Duke" or the humble "Democrat" waggon—with a team of two horses over trails that may be hub deep in the mires of Spring, but in Fall at least make pleasant enough traveling. It was west of Manitoba—on the immense plains of Assinaboine and Southern Alberta—we saw prairie unbroken by shrub or tree; round Winnipeg and Brandon, Neepawa and Minnedosa rich green woods and thickly timbered bluffs and hilly ranges suggested shade from the relentless sunshine. I got sick of sunshine in the towns, but it was not oppressive elsewhere, and half a dozen miles from the sweltering streets of Winnipeg could find shade and coolness by birch and willow, and poplar bordered farms on the side of the turgid Red River. The summer climate of the West is certainly misunderstood by those who have not experienced it. If somewhat warmer than we know at home, the summer there has its compensation in the evening cool that comes magically to cheer and to exhilarate, odorous with wild flowers and grasses, the skies tranquil and magnificent with stars, or flashing with the glory of the Aurora Borealis. Of the winters I cannot speak; forty degrees below zero suggests a cruel cold but winter nevertheless by all accounts is Manitoba's play time in the little towns at all events the zest of life increased by a temperature which though low is not humid. A climate that grows such wonderful vegetation must surely grow fine men and women, the character that conquers difficulties. Big, bronzed men, sharp, shrewd and sober; tall, olive complexioned women, lightly dressed, deft drivers of buggies, and humorous exceedingly; berry brown bairns at home on the saddle, but shy as our own—that is the impression I got of the folk of Manitoba. The impression prevalent in Scotland is that Manitoba is filled up, but the fact is far otherwise. In

THE RED RIVER VALLEY

there are in round numbers 2,800,000 acres of the best land, and of this only 800,000 acres are as yet under cultivation. South of the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway to the boundary of North Dakota, west of the Red River valley are 4,000,000, of which only 1,300,000 acres are under cultivation. North of the railway are other 4,600,000 acres, with 900,000 acres cultivated. This land can all be bought at prices varying from twelve to sixty shillings per acre. Free homesteads of 160 acres are to be obtained on the outskirts of present settlements to the east of the Red River, between Lakes Winnipeg and Manitoba, and in the newly opened districts along the line of the Canadian Northern Railway already constructed, and that portion of it that is projected through a territory where blight, drought scorching winds and cyclones are unknown. Naturally the man who begins with some capital—£50 to £100 on landing is I take it almost indispensable—has a great advantage, but I meet everywhere men who started out here with hardly as many dollars. They made their way by working as farm laborers at seeding and harvesting time, while during other months they performed the statutory and necessary work on the free homesteads they had acquired from the Government. I was in Manitoba two weeks ago when the corn was almost green; today I return to see the stooks of grain stand ranked among the golden stubble. In the past twelve hours more than two thousand harvesters from Ontario towns and cities passed through Winnipeg railway station. If one by any miracle had failed to see how utterly the province depends upon the kindly earth for its sustenance he could not in this crowded depot longer remain ignorant. For ten dollars—roughly two guineas—the railway company carry the harvester from the East to Winnipeg. Here the authorities, knowing at what point westward labor is in demand, transfer the requisite number free to stations further on. Eight pounds a month is the average pay of a harvester, with board. If, when the harvest is over, he elects to return to his home in the East, he may do so for a railway fare of eighteen dollars. It is thus that the great West, as yet with a population too limited for its own labor, secures its harvests; it is thus that many young men take the first step to

A PERMANENT RESIDENCE

in the wheat belt. All day Winnipeg Station, off one of the finest streets in the American continent, was noisy with harvesters coming and departing, with such types of lads and men as you may see at feeing fairs in Scotland; for the Eastern cities and towns of Canada have not as yet begun to breed the starved and sapless wastrels so appalling in their prevalence in crowded British communities. You walk out into Main Street—but the other day a war trail of the Indian—and see a thoroughfare with magnificent warehouses and bank buildings, electric lights, electric cars, pavements thronged with hustling business men and fashionably dressed women shopping, and return to see what all these things depend on—a "husky" fellow from Ontario, or maybe from the old country, with a maple-leaf badge or a picture button on his coat collar, on his head a cheap imitation of a Stetson hat, his worldly possessions in a red handkerchief.

ESCAPED LION STAMPEDES CROWD

Coney Island Attraction Breaks Loose And Causes Great Commotion.

New York, Sept. 26.—Thousands of visitors to Coney Island were thrown into a panic today by the escape from an amusement park of a lion, which ran through the crowded streets pursued by police and animal trainers until he was driven into a corner and secured. The lion during a ring performance with an elephant, suddenly became enraged and leaping on the elephant's back buried his teeth and claws in the big brute's shoulder. The elephant finally succeeded in gripping the lion with his trunk and tore him from his hold. The lion leaped through a window into a barroom and thence to the street. When recaptured the lion appeared to be more frightened than any of his pursuers.

FOR STOMACH TROUBLES.

"I have taken a great many different medicines for stomach trouble and constipation," says Mrs. S. Geiger, of Dunkerton, Iowa, "but never had as good results from any as from Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets." For sale by all druggists and dealers.

BUILDING COLLAPSED.

Chicago, Sept. 26.—A workman was killed and seventeen others injured by the collapse of a portion of an unfinished building today at the plant of the Western Electric Company. Steel trusses gave way, letting the roof in on two score workmen.

ROSSLAND SHIPMENTS.

Rossland, Sept. 26.—Shipments for the week ending tonight from the Rossland Camp are again well over the nine thousand ton mark, the details being: Le Roi 5760, Centre Star 1440, War Eagle 1170, Le Roi No. 2 760, Jumbo 200, Spitzee 20, I. X. L. (milled)) 200. Total 9360. Year to date, 286,956 tons. Chas. Elmore, inventor and patentee of the Elmore oil process of concentration, will arrive here about October 10th to inspect the Elmore plant at Le Roi No. 2 mines.

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25 lbs. best Br. Col. Granulated Sugar; 5 lbs. Monsoon Tea; 14 lbs. Victor Rolled Oats; 10 lbs. Japan Rice; 1 lb. Black Pepper; 12 lbs. Windsor Table Salt; 12 bars Crown Laundry Soap; Two 12-oz. cans White Star Baking Powder; 2 lbs. Durham Corn Starch; 5 lbs. Small White Beans; one 4-oz. bottle Imperial Lemon Extract; one 4-oz bottle Imperial Vanila Extract; 3 lbs. "Electric Light" Candies; 2 lbs. Parisian Washing Blue; 20 lbs. Wire Nails, any size.

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Reclining Go-Cart, No. E 9, price $14.00 Complete with cushions, parasol top, rubber tire wheels, foot brake and enameled gears, either oak, green or maroon.

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The subscription price of the Semi-Weekly 'Colonist' has been reduced to $1 per year to all countries in the Postal Union.

TOURING BRITISHERS.

Trades Congress Delegates and Lord Lyveden's Party at Winnipeg.

Winnipeg, Sept. 26.—The British parliamentary party will be dined at the Manitoba Club by the mayor and council of the city of Winnipeg at 1 o'clock today. The party arrived from the West at 10.15 o'clock and were met by His Worship Mayor Arbuthnot and Alderman Russell. They will be entertained until noon, when the dinner will be given. The party have traversed the width of Canada and have seen the Dominion, Winnipeg only escaping their inspection. On leaving Winnipeg they passed over the wheat belt, the irrigated lands and the cattle ranges, stopping at Calgary to see some of the finest stock in the world. The mountains and the Pacific Coast cities, two of Canada's features for the tourist, have been seen. Today also the city will greet Lord Lyveden and his party by throwing open the doors of one of its two most palatial clubs and extending to them the hand of friendship, which in the strong, unbreakable chain of Empire, form a very important link.

PIANO FACTORY DESTROYED.

Springfield, Ohio, Sept. 26.—The Wickham-Chapman Company, the largest piano plant manufacturers in the world, was burned to the ground today. The loss is estimated at $200,000.

WIRINGS FROM WINNIPEG.

Death on C. P. R.—Parliamentarians Entertained—Senator Maclaren Ill.

Winnipeg, Sept. 26 (Special).—John Jenner, aged 60 of Wallaceburg, Ont., died on the Canadian Pacific through express west of Portage la Prarie station today. Jenner, who has been in ill-health for some time was returning home from a visit to a daughter at Moosejaw. The body was taken East tonight.

Lord Lyveden and the British parliamentary party reached Winnipeg today en route East and were entertained at luncheon by the Mayor. The left for Toronto tonight by the imperial limited.

Senator Maclaren of Perth, Ont., is confined to bed at Frank Alta, where he was inspecting his sawmills and timber limits.