

Canadian News

Saskatchewan

REGINA.—Definite prosecution proceedings will shortly be started against a number of Mennonites in the Amphion and Flora school districts, for refusing to send their children to the new schools erected, at the instance of the Saskatchewan Department of Education. With the new schools opened several weeks ago, Flora district has, so far, contributed no pupils, while the teacher at Amphion, is called upon to instruct but three pupils. The Mennonites have adopted a most refractory attitude toward the Provincial School Attendance Act and prosecution has been made difficult by reason of the parents refusing to give the officials the names of their children of school age. This information is necessary to start legal proceedings and as there is no provision in the act making refusal to tender it an offence, the Mennonites emphatically refuse all requests to this end.

—At a meeting of the directors of the Saskatchewan Municipal Hail Insurance association it was estimated that the hail losses this year in the province will necessitate the paying of an indemnity of \$1,950,000. In order that this claim may be met it will be necessary to levy an excess seeded acreage rate of 22 cents per acre. The total number of claims received up to Aug. 30th was 7,780, while it is expected that there may be a few more to come in. The flat rate of 4 cents per acre levied on all lands within the municipalities adopting municipal hail insurance, is estimated to produce this year a revenue of about \$800,000. It is estimated that about 6,000,000 acres of cultivated land are liable for the excess levy of 22c per acre, which will add \$1,320,000 to the revenue, bringing the total up to about \$2,120,000.

This is the first year since the passing of the legislation providing for an excess seeded acreage rate, that it has been taken advantage of.

—The organized farmers of Saskatchewan will set aside a day early in October to be known as "Independence Day," and on that day a province-wide canvass will be made with the view of promoting interest in the organization's political action. This scheme was enthusiastically adopted at the Grain Growers' Political convention. The canvass is already planned and is declared as the farmers' big liberty drive.

PRINCE ALBERT.—The Duke of Devonshire, governor-general of Canada, accompanied by the Duchess of Devonshire, Lady Dorothy Cavendish and suite visited Prince Albert on Sept. 16th.

—The Great War Veterans of Prince Albert called a special meeting and passed a strongly worded resolution protesting against clemency shown by the minister of justice to the Sheep Creek bandits Dr. Gervais, Victor Carmel and Jean St. Germain, who were reprieved for one month by a message from the minister. The veterans then marched in a body to the city hall where the city council was in session, and the council endorsed the resolution, both messages being telegraphed to Ottawa.

SASKATOON.—Without pomp or fanfare, His Excellency the Duke of Devonshire, Governor-General of Canada, and party, arrived in Saskatoon on Sept. 17, and were met at the C.N.R. station by Mayor F. R. MacMillan and a committee of aldermen and distinguished citizens. Owing to the well-known fondness of His Excellency for travelling without ostentation, only a few hundred people were at the station to welcome the viceregal party.

—Making their airplane flight from Saskatoon in a little more than five hours actually flying time, Lts. H. Lobb and A. H. Rowe arrived in Winnipeg on Sept. 15th. Stops were made at Humboldt, Kamsack and Dauphin for gasoline. Lt. Lobb announced that a non-stop flight from Winnipeg to Saskatoon will next be attempted.

JANSEN.—John B. Ellert, a Catholic, of Jansen, a young man of 19 years died last week from the results of the hazards of his vocation. He recently started a business of his very own having purchased a complete well drilling outfit. When he was engaged on his first contract he was exposed to escaping gases which quickly developed into pneumonia, and he died within three days. One brother at Bigger, and one sister residing at Saskatoon mourn his death.

Ontario

OTTAWA.—Monday, Oct. 13th, has been fixed by the government as Thanksgiving Day for the Dominion.

—The proposal put forward by returned soldiers that a gratuity of \$2,000 shall be paid to every man who served at the front, and that \$1,500 and \$1,000 shall be given to those who served in England and Canada respectively will not be considered by the government. Hon. C. J. Doherty, minister of justice, speaking in the house stated that the parliamentary committee which will be appointed to deal with the soldiers' civil re-establishment bill will not take up this matter. He stated that the proposition that every returned man, regardless of his financial situation, shall be paid the gratuity, is not in the interests of the country nor the men themselves. Mr. Doherty's statement came after a large number of members had expressed their views on the matter in debate precipitated by Colonel John A. Currie, North Simcoe, on a motion to ad-

ourn the house in order to discuss the question of gratuities.

—Negotiations with the Grand Trunk are reported to be in the final stage. There is little question but that the road will pass to the government, but whether it will be on the basis of arbitration or an agreement as to price is still uncertain. It is reported in Grand Trunk circles that the company will accept an annual rental of four and a half millions. Its original demand was \$5,800,000, and the government's offer \$3,600,000.

Quebec

QUEBEC.—Five masked men bound and gagged the mail clerks on the Ocean Limited, C.N.R., near Hartaka and robbed the mail car of \$100,000 in silver, which had been shipped from Montreal to Halifax. The Ocean Limited does not stop after she leaves Levis until Hartaka is reached. At Hartaka the train had barely pulled out, according to the mail clerk foreman when the back door of the mail car was crashed in and the five masked men, pointing automatics into the faces of the mail crew, shouting the dramatic and business-like "hands up." The bandits quickly bound and gagged the clerks, then made a dash to the bags containing the money. At St. Thomas the bandits escaped as the train slowed down. It is believed that they had an automobile hidden in the bushes. It is thought that they made for the United States border and were expected to attempt to enter Maine. No one noticed anything wrong on the train at St. Thomas and it was only at Cap St. Ignace, the next stop, that the conductor of the train, passing along the platform of the station, grew suspicious about the quiet in the mail van. Making an investigation he found the back door of the car split open and the five clerks securely tied together. One of the clerks, E. Rene, was bound to be

suffering from nervous shock from his experience. Posses have been organized and are scouring the country in the neighborhood of St. Thomas and Cap St. Ignace. The distance between Levis and Hartaka is about 25 miles, most of it uphill so that it takes about three-quarters of an hour to make the trip.

The bandits boarded the Ocean Limited at Montreal. The train reached Levis about midnight and the bandits were able to effect the robbery and escape entirely in the dark.

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ANNOUNCEMENT.

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