

proceeds realized no more than £8, 15s, and there was a balance of only £4 in the bank. Even after this policies were issued and premiums received, although, it was alleged, never a farthing was paid out to the poor people who had been deluded into paying these premiums against sickness or accident.

METRO.

From Western Fields

DISSATISFACTION RE MANITOBA BOUNDARIES.

Important Labour Case—Season's Wheat Receipts and Shipments at Port Arthur and Fort William—Completing Northern-Crown Bank Amalgamation—American Capital in the West—Western Fire Losses.

The recent conference between Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Hon. Robert Rogers and Hon. Colin Campbell on the Manitoba boundaries resulted in the Western representatives leaving for home dissatisfied. They had agreed to accept the proposed boundaries, but repeated their request for equality of terms with either Saskatchewan or Alberta to the West, or Ontario and Quebec to the East. They also agreed to give up their claims to the swamp lands, some five million acres of which are still due, if they were given the same subsidy as Saskatchewan and Alberta. The Premier refused, however, to consider terms of equality nor would he definitely name a subsidy that the Government would allow.

Injunction against Picketing.

Justice Mathers has handed down a judgment of great importance relating to labour matters in this province. It was his decision in the case of the Vulcan Iron Works Company against Winnipeg Lodge No. 122 and Fort Garry Lodge No. 189, International Association of Machinists, and others. The judgment coincides with the award of the Court of Appeal in the case of the Plumbers' Union, given a few days earlier, granting a perpetual injunction against picketing the premises of the company and allowing damages for loss sustained through the strike. There is also a judgment against certain individual defendants named in the statement of claim for \$500 damages. It is understood the case will be appealed and will likely be carried to the Privy Council.

Grain Shipment Records.

A statement issued from the office of the Warehouse Commissioner at Port Arthur shows receipts at and shipments from the six terminal elevator systems at Fort William and Port Arthur. These cover wheat, oats, barley and flax during the six completed months of the present crop year. These figures do not include any of the wheat milled west of the lakes at such plants as Ogilvie's, the Lake of the Woods, Western Canada Flour Mills, Maple Leaf Mills, and shipped east as flour or held in the country. The figures represent wheat that will be either milled in the East or exported.

Receipts—			
Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Flax.
46,933,598	9,842,547	1,459,312	479,976
Shipments—			
42,734,446	7,941,530	1,879,170	809,339
Receipts for year ago—			
29,896,710	6,202,982	1,573,929	1,143,104
Shipments a year ago—			
28,469,491	4,836,281	1,109,084	495,752

Adjusting Bank Stock Values.

The directors of the Northern-Crown Bank will soon to announce their proposal for adjusting the relative stock value of the two amalgamating institutions. The joint agreement provides that in the event of the assets of either party to the agreement being found to bear a greater percentage of value in proportion to the amount of its paid-up capital stock than do the assets of the other party to the agreement, then said party shall be at liberty to declare a dividend to its shareholders to represent such excess percentage. Such dividend shall be applicable and be applied only in payment up of such shares of new stock of the amalgamated bank to be issued to raise its share capital to \$3,000,000 as the shareholder entitled to the dividend may be entitled to under the terms upon which the said issue of new shares shall hereafter be made." Under this arrangement holders of Northern stock look for a fairly substantial allowance per share.

Use of American Capital.

The recent lending of \$400,000 to the Thunder Bay Elevator Company by the Minnesota Loan & Trust Company of Minneapolis, calls attention to the fact that American capitalists as well as British are more and more beginning to realize the possibilities of the Canadian West as an investment field. A recent number of The Wall Street Summary in commenting upon C.P.R. enterprise on both sides of the border referred to Canada as a profitable and promising field for the investment of surplus funds, and one that is becoming of greater importance each year. The rapid influx of settlers into the Dominion, the discoveries of rich mineral deposits, the great areas of rich farming lands, the almost inexhaustible supplies of lumber, a wealth of natural resources, and the fact that railroad and other corporations are not hampered by legislative restrictions, but are assisted by the Government, appeal to the Wall Street Summary as making the Canadian field worthy of investigation by American capitalists and investors.

Fire losses in Manitoba during 1908, are reported by Provincial Fire Commissioner Lindback at \$537,000—a very considerable reduction from the 1907 showing. It is generally considered that the province made an exceedingly wise move in creating the office of Fire Commissioner. Other sections of the Dominion might well follow the Western lead in this matter.

Vancouver's fire record in 1908 was the heaviest on record, being well over \$1,500,000—nearly \$100,000 greater than in 1907.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF BOILER EXPLOSIONS in the United States and the adjacent parts of Canada and Mexico in 1908 was 470, according to the Hartford Steam Boiler Inspection & Insurance Company, which is almost identical with the 1907 record. There were 471 explosions in 1907, 431 in 1906, 450 in 1905 and 391 in 1904. The number of persons killed by the explosions in 1908 was 281, as compared with 300 in 1907, 235 in 1906, 383 in 1905, and 220 in 1904. The number of persons injured but not killed in the explosions of 1908 was 531, as against 420 for 1907, 467 for 1906, 585 for 1905, and 384 for 1904. The average number of persons killed per explosion was 0.598, and the average number of injured but not killed was 1.13.