

WESTERN NOTES

The church offering at the Thanksgiving service at Austin amounted to nearly \$400.

John Patterson, a section foreman, was run into by a freight train on the 21st at Grenfell, while on a hand car in a storm. His arm was broken and his head cut.

The outbreak of disease at Island Lake on the trail to Jasper House, has assumed very serious proportions, says the Edmonton Bulletin. The Jasper House halfbreeds who visited Edmonton to attend the sittings of the scrip commission, had got that far on their journey home when the disease appeared among them. A high fever is developed and a choking in the throat. Up to Monday last nine had died and there were thirty-five sick in and about Pierre Gray's house alone. Altogether about ninety cases have occurred. Unless something is done there will no doubt be many more deaths. The people have no idea what the disease is or what to do for it.

Dr. Braithwaite reports some 95 cases of measles at Lake St. Ann. Eight deaths have occurred from the disease. The cause of the large mortality in proportion to the number infected is that the victims being without medical advice consider the proper thing to do is to go out and cool when they become hot with fever.

Reports from several parts of the country indicate a sickness prevalent among horses. The disease seems of an insidious nature, the most apparent symptom being loss of appetite, while the afflicted animal rapidly weakens and dies.—Edmonton Bulletin.

Says the Macleod Advance: The wild geese have not yet left. A large flock being seen on Willow Creek the latter end of last week. The birds are said to be very wild.

A bad wreck occurred at Busted, fourteen miles west of Rat Portage. A train from the west was pulling slowly into the station when another freight pitched into the rear end. Eight or ten cars of wheat were derailed, the caboose of the first train was reduced to splinters and the engine of the rear train was derailed and badly smashed. Dr. Gunne, C. P. R. physician, was in the caboose of the head train attending a brakeman who had been injured at Cross Lake, but both men miraculously escaped serious injury.

When the Strathcona Horse was being mobilized a veteran rancher and trooper, W. Sawyer, made quite a sensation by walking a distance of 40 miles to enlist at Portage la Prairie. Mr. Sawyer was accepted, and served through the campaign. About four months ago he returned, and he has now once again gone to help fight the empire's battles.

John Gray, of La Riviere, Man., had a narrow escape from death by poisoning. He partook of poisoned canned goods.

Sheriff Neilson, of Prince Albert, while leading a colt to the town weigh scales to have it weighed, received a nasty kick from the animal. The blow struck him on the mouth, and the sheriff is minus three front teeth.

A party of engineers in charge of Mr. McLeod, chief engineer for the Canadian Northern Railway company are at Prince Albert. It is the intention of the party to survey the road from Prince Albert west toward Edmonton. It is expected that the road will be completed and in running order to a point near Battleford next fall. The engineers also intend definitely locating the road from Willow Creek to Prince Albert.

The British Columbia board of horticulture has commenced the erection of a fumigation building in the C. P. R. yards at Vancouver, for the fumigating of imported fruit trees and bushes.

W. H. Hutchinson, of Prince Albert has secured a contract to supply the Canadian Pacific Railway company with 50,000 ties this winter. He has sent 35 men into the woods on the north side of the river, and will send twenty more men and teams across about the commencement of the new year.

The farmers of the Northwestern States have received this fall an average price of about \$1.35 a bushel for their flaxseed. The farmers of North Dakota are said to have received not less than \$20,000,000 from this source alone.

A Nelson, B. C., paper says: Complaints are being made against the Crow's Nest Coal company for refusing to fill orders for coal, to be delivered at points in Kootenay. It is claimed there is no scarcity of cars on the sidings at Fernie, so the coal

company cannot have the excuse that the Canadian Pacific is responsible for the coal shortage.

Mr. E. Mitchell, section foreman, and John Mollock had a very narrow escape from serious injury on Monday morning. They were going over the track east of Sinituluta on their car and were prevented from seeing any distance owing to the dense fog prevailing. Suddenly a west bound freight appeared in view at a dangerously close distance. Both men jumped from their car just in time to escape the collision. The car was smashed.

Two fine silver foxes were brought into Fort Alexander by Indians and sold for \$135 each.

It is rumored around Minnedosa, that a young Swedish settler has been lost in the bush north of the colony for some time. He went out hunting deer and lost his bearings.

Word was received at Snowflake last week that Mr. Hendrick, father of Mr. David Hendrick, had died in Perth on his arrival from the Northwest to visit his friends. He was 89 years of age.

R. E. McGregor, homestead inspector, claims the honor of drawing the first bounty for wolf pelt from the new municipality of Gilbert Plains. While out driving with a Rapid City gentleman, Mr. McGregor and his friend, with the assistance of two dogs, despatched three animals. One of the wolves was a very large one, weighing 51 pounds.

A new settlement has sprung up this last summer about 18 miles south of Kinistino, Sask., some 20 settlers being located there. The new district is called Ethernite, and as it will be a populous centre in a short time a new postoffice is being talked of, with the hope of soon having postal facilities established.

Archibald Purvis, of Portage la Prairie, is dangerously ill with enteric fever at Bloemfontein, Orange River Colony.

As Fred. Spenceley and Wilbur Silverthorn, two C. P. R. switchmen, were walking along the track at Winnipeg on the 20th inst., they found the dead body of a man lying across the rails. One of the men immediately recognized the features as those of Ernest Kent, a young Englishman, employed during the summer on the C. P. R. steel gang. The man had evidently been dead some time, as his hands and parts of the body were frozen. His neck was broken, and there were evidences of a copious flow of blood on the snow. Cars were standing on the track beside the place where the body was found and marks in the snow indicated that the body had been dragged about 30 yards by the cars. It is thought deceased had been sitting on the track when the train came along.

Ed. O'Grady, butcher, of Tyndall, has been committed for trial at next assizes by Magistrate Scott of Selkirk, on a charge of cattle stealing.

William Watson, of Rat Portage, convicted of manslaughter for having killed one McKee, at Dinorwic, has been sentenced to ten years in the penitentiary by Judge Britton.

At a late hour on the night of the 20th inst., the Victoria hotel at Indian Head was burglarized by some unknown party. An entrance to the bar was effected by removing a storm sash. The proprietor, luckily, before retiring removed the paper money from the till only leaving about \$13 in silver, which the thief decamped with.

Wolves are becoming very bold and it is almost impossible to keep fowl, particularly turkeys, about the farmyard, says the Minnedosa Tribune. Several people have remarked upon them going in bands of 7 or 8 together, and they do not seem in any hurry to get out of the way. A dog went after a pack of five a short time ago near Franklin, when the wolves turned upon him and killed and ate him. An interesting chase was seen on Monday morning when two dogs were after a wolf which had a chicken in its mouth, when last seen the dogs were losing ground.

The Little Bow country has always been a favorite grazing ground for the larger wild game still left to the country; the wide expanse of prairie, cut up as it is by wide ravines and courses, and being almost totally uninhabited, affording them a safe retreat when danger threatened them. Since the fire which swept over that district some weeks ago, these animals have been compelled by reason of lack of feed, to seek pastures new, and are now in the Medicine Hat country in large numbers. Wandering Indians have been waging a wholesale slaughter amongst them ever since, and it would seem that the agile antelope and the heavier white-tailed deer will be totally exterminated before next spring unless measures are taken to compel the Indians to abandon the pursuit.

WRECK NEAR NELSON

TRAINMEN LOSE CONTROL OF A FREIGHT TRAIN OWING TO DEFECTIVE BRAKES.

A Grand Crash into Rocks While Going at the Speed of One Hundred Miles An Hour.

Nelson, B.C., Dec. 20.—On Wednesday evening one of the most peculiar and destructive train wrecks that has occurred in the province took place at Five Mile Point, in which, although there was considerable damage done, no loss of life occurred. As freight No. 6 was coming in from Spokane about two miles from Nelson the engineer started to put on the air brakes, as there were 13 heavily loaded cars behind and a grade of two and one-half per cent. for the next eight miles. He found that the air would not work. In an incredibly short time the train neared the foot of the grade at Five Mile Point, where the men knew the switches would be closed and the train must inevitably leave the track. The engineer ordered the fireman to jump and soon after fell off himself. It's a miracle the men did not strike the rocks. Brakesman Griffin, who was next to the engine, said he started to pray but did not get out more than two words. While he was saying those two words he got six pair of brakes set.

The train struck the heavy semaphore twenty feet high. It snapped this off like a match, throwing it over thirty feet. At the switch the train left the track, plunging its way for a couple of hundred yards; then it struck a big pile of boulders and stopped, or as much of it as had come that far, within twelve feet of the section house, in which were five men, four of whom were asleep. The cars then piled on top of it no less than three feet high. It was calculated that at the time it reached the switch that it was travelling in the neighborhood of 100 miles an hour. The escape of the operator was marvellous. He says he was writing at the desk when he heard a slight rumble. He said: "That is the freight," but before the thought had found expressing there came a terrific crash, and everything in the cab had changed position. A heavy letter press, which was standing where it received the full shock flew across the room and was jammed in the woodwork. At the section house one of the men was preparing lunch. He heard an unusual noise, and, looking out, saw the engine swinging around the curve above the operator's cabin, with a streak of flame flying far behind from every wheel. He shouted and jumped for the door. In the few seconds that it took him to get it open and get outside, the engine had plowed across the intervening space, and he saw the terrible panorama of iron and wood being crumpled up like paper within a few feet of him while the air was full of flying fragments. Several experienced trainmen who viewed the wreck say that it was the most complete smashup that they ever witnessed, and commented on the escape of all on board as almost incredible.

ACCIDENT AT RAPID CITY.

The Three-Year-Old Daughter of Mr. McKinnon Dies From Burns.

Rapid City, Man., Dec. 20.—As a result of a burning accident on Wednesday night the three-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. McKinnon died yesterday morning. The little one was playing around the fire when a spark ignited her clothing, and before it could be got out the child was burned so badly that she died as stated.

FROZEN TO DEATH.

Severn Bridge, Ont., Dec. 19.—Wm. Miller, of Lindsay, was found dead in a lumber yard here yesterday. Miller had been employed at Ragged Rapids, on the Orilla Electric light plant, and was returning from Lindsay, where he had spent a few days at home. He apparently got off the midnight train, and losing his way among the lumber piles on his way to the hotel, was frozen to death.

Kingston, Dec. 19.—The frozen body of Charles Lyon, aged 80, was found near his home in Stirlington township. Lyon wandered away in the darkness Saturday night.

FIVE AT A BIRTH.

Texarkana, Texas, Dec. 20.—Joy in profusion came on Tuesday to the household of William Walker when his wife presented him with five bouncing babies. Walker is a cotton raiser, who lives a few miles from this city and is not encumbered with too much worldly goods. His once small family lives in comfort, however, and now is giving its whole attention to caring for four new girls and a boy. After recovering from the first shock of bewilderment its members announced that the mother and babies are doing well.



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Tickets will be on sale at annual excursion rate of \$40.00 commencing Dec. 2nd. When purchasing ask for ticket via—

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For those desiring to stop over in Minneapolis or St. Paul the evening trains are available, as follows:—
The Fast Mail, arriving Chicago, 7 a. m.

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Free reclining Chair Cars.

For any further information as to rates, connections, etc., apply to your home agent or address Chas. J. Gray, P. O. Box 1215, Winnipeg, Man., or A. M. Fenton, Dacotah Hotel, Grand Forks, N. D., Travelling Agents, until Dec. 24th.

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CANADIAN HOLIDAY EXCURSIONS

The rate this year for the trip to the old home in Eastern Canada and return will be

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Geo. P. Lyman, A. G. P. A., St. Paul, Minn.

Bulls In Parliament.

If it were not for the Irish members of parliament, half of the fun of parliamentary proceedings would be lost. "Sir," said an Irish M. P., "if I have any partiality for the honorable member it is against him!" "Sir," said another, "I answer boldly in the affirmative, No!" The silence of the Irish members of the house," said another, "shall be heard no longer!" Sir John Parnell declared that "every man ought to be ready to give his last penny to save the remainder of his fortune!" while another spoke of "redeeming a character irretrievably lost!" Another member declared he was not going to reiterate what he was going to say, but that "the time has come, indeed is rapidly arriving, when the population of Ireland will be decimated by two-thirds!"—London Tit-Bits.

Why Not, Indeed!

Mrs. Towser—You don't mean to say you believe everything your husband tells you?
Mrs. Lambkin—Why shouldn't I if it makes me happy?—Boston Transcript.

CANADIAN NORTHERN EXCURSIONS

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Surprising News.

Minnick—Well, there was one thing I remarked about your wife the first time I saw her—she was undoubtedly outspoken.

Henpeck—You don't say! By whom?—Cincinnati Enquirer.

Beginning at Home.

Jasper—I understand that you had turned over a new leaf and were even going to love your enemies, but it seems to me that you love no one but yourself.

"Well, I am my own worst enemy."—Life.

Only One Theory.

"Now, look here," said the lawyer, shaking his fist at the witness, "I want you to understand that you can't bamboozle me in this court simply because you're a woman!"

"Why?" she asked in her sweetest tones. "Is your wife present?"—Chicago Record-Herald.