

**OTTAWA NOTES.**

The Currency Branch of the Department of Finance is now moving into the new addition to the Eastern Block, erected for its accommodation, and fitted with vaults said to be unexcelled in the world for security.

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The Department of Public Works has undertaken the long, expensive and troublesome task of rewiring the four principal Government buildings for electric light. When the buildings were erected electric lighting was not contemplated, gas being provided for, and when electric lighting was adopted all the wiring put in was of the exposed type. All this is now to be done away with, and concealed wires substituted.

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Several departments are concerned in preparations for the trip of the Dominions Royal Commission, which will visit Canada during August and September. F. C. T. O'Hara, Deputy Minister of Trade and Commerce, is special officer of the Commission for Canada, and much of the responsibility for the arrangements rests upon him. This is, perhaps, the most important Imperial Commission which ever visited Canada, and the event is looked forward to with deep interest in official, financial, commercial and transportation circles.

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The consolidation of the Transcontinental Railway Commission establishment with the Department of Railways and Canals has been carried out. The new board, of which the Minister of Railways and Canals is the head, has held its initial meetings.

The United States Census Bureau, since its organization on a permanent basis, has become the greatest statistical office in the world.

**PLUCKY POSTMISTRESS.**

The care and handling of His Majesty's mails is not only a work requiring close attention and constant labour, but also an occupation of more or less risk at all times,—as was demonstrated at the Ottawa East sub-station on July 4th.

This little post office was the scene of as daring a hold-up and daylight robbery as has been reported in Canada for many a day. Between eleven o'clock and noon on the day mentioned, two men entered the shop in which the office is located, when no other customers were present. They asked for stamps, and when the postmistress, Mrs. Bridget Slattery, had opened the money drawer, one of them grabbed her by the throat, while the other began to rifle the till and the registered mail package.

Mrs. Slattery is a woman well past middle age and ill able to cope with two such ruffians, but she snatched up a tack-hammer, the only weapon within reach, and employed it to such good effect that the robbers took hasty flight, without completing the ransacking of the office. The marks inflicted by the tack-hammer on one of the men were of material aid to the police when the pair were arrested.

Mrs. Slattery was completely prostrated by her terrible experience, but has received many hearty congratulations on her plucky resistance to the hold-up men.

**A CRIME ANYWAY.**

In the United States census office acts against the law are recorded under a few main heads, such as murder, burglary, etc. A girl who was working there recently ran across the crime, "Running a blind tiger." After a puzzled moment she placed it under the list, "Cruelty to Animals."