

The Manitoba and Northwestern Railway Suit.

Judgment was delivered Wednesday morning at Winnipeg by Justice Bain on the second petition filed by the English bondholders to vary the decree of the court made in July last appointing the receiver, in so far as such decree made the bondholders party defendants to the suit; and further to have it declared that the receiver had no right to appropriate the earnings of the first division in operating the remaining portions of the railway.

After deciding that the decree was correct in so far as it authorizes the bondholders to be made parties to this suit, and that they were therefore bound by it. His lordship proceeded to dispose of the other question, which will be readily seen is of immense importance to the bondholders and those interested in the remaining portion of the line. The facts are that the first 180 miles of the road covered by the bonds constitute the most remunerative part of the railway, and are operated at a considerable profit. The branch lines, and second division of the road, not having the same earning capacity have not been run, as a rule, at a profit. The receiver has diverted the net earnings of the first division to make up the deficit on the second division and branch lines, and the bondholders contend that in so doing he is appropriating their funds to operate a portion of the road in which they have no interest.

The result of the holding of the court being in the bondholders' favor would probably mean that, temporarily at least, the branch lines and second division of the road must be closed. When the case came on for argument the point was taken by counsel for the railway that at the time the bonds were issued the railway had no authority to make a charge on any division of its road, except subject to the operating expenses of the whole line; that the mortgage securing these bonds, although somewhat ambiguous, showed the intention of the railway and the bondholders to have been to have kept this power, and that the recent legislation affecting the railway did not make the mortgage a greater charge than it purports to be on its face.

In giving his decision, the learned judge held that the contention of the railway company was correct on both points, which means that the earnings of the first division are subject to the operation of the whole line. The road will, therefore, not be cut up in any way, but operated as a whole. The petition is dismissed with costs.

India's Census Exhibit.

A writer in the Asiatic Quarterly for January furnishes some data concerning the census of India, from which the following items are obtained.

The actual figures for the total population report for 1891 are 287,223,431, or including French and Portuguese possessions and some wild and frontier tracts estimated rather than actually counted, 289,187,316, or about one fifth of the total population of the globe as at present computed. Of this total, 77 per cent, or 221,172,952, is the population of the territory under direct British rule, and 23 per cent, or 68,030,479, that of the feudatory and dependent states. Descending to provincial details we find the following figures:

	Population.	Per cent.
1. Bengal	71,316,937	24.34
2. N. W. Provinces and Oudh.....	46,905,035	16.33
3. Madras	35,630,440	12.40
4. Panjab	20,468,847	7.09
5. Bombay and Sindh.....	18,877,044	6.56
6. Central Provinces.....	10,784,294	3.75
7. Burmah	7,615,549	2.66
8. Other Provinces	9,176,695	3.20

It may be interesting to note that Bengal, the largest of the provinces, is equal in area to

the whole United Kingdom with a second Scotland thrown in, and in population to the United States of America, including Mexico. In examining the distribution of the population the principal characteristic is its generally rural type. In England 53 per cent of the population is found to reside in 192 towns of 20,000 inhabitants and upward. In India there are 227 towns of that size, but only 4.84 per cent of the people reside in them. In all this vast area there are only 23 towns with a population of more than 100,000. Including its numerous suburbs, Calcutta has 981,677; Bombay, the second city in the empire, has 821,764. No other town has more than half this population.

There does not seem to be any tendency on the part of the rural population to migrate into towns. The cultivator is intensely attached to his native village and even when compelled to leave it for a time in search of a livelihood, he invariably returns there as soon as possible. The ordinary habits and customs of daily life are to a Hindoo matters of religion, and it is only in a village that he can find the open air and space which his habits require. Even his towns are more like large villages than towns. It is not probable that for a long time to come there will be any great migration of the people. Only a few districts are as yet at all congested, and even in them all efforts to induce the people to migrate have utterly failed.

Persons occupied in owning, farming and cultivating land amount to 62 per cent, or nearly two thirds of the total population. Another significant fact is that persons who have property which makes it unnecessary for them to work for their bread amount only to 193,291, or less than one-twentieth per cent. However, the figures under this head are admittedly imperfect. The list of languages comprises eighty in all, but this includes European languages, as English, French and German. Under the head of religion the principal fact is that more than 7 per cent of the population call themselves Hindoos. What Hindooism is difficult to say. After the 207,000,000 of Hindoos, come next in number 57,000,000 Mussulmans, 9,000,000 wild tribes professing religions grouped under the not very intelligible or suitable title of Animism, 7,000,000 Buddhists and upward of 2,000,000 Christians, more than half of whom are Roman Catholics. Of the 5,000,000 who are returned as "literate" and "learning," approximately three quarters of a million only are females. The entire number of natives returned as knowing English is only 336,090, and this includes school boys. The number of males who reach the age of sixty in India is only 4.8 per cent, against 7.3 in England and 11.85 in France; for females the figure is only 5.83, against 7.8 for England and 12.5 for France.

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(signed) J. CHIENIER & CO.

S. LAURENDEAU.

Witness: P. Laurendeau, Canmore, Jan. 16th, 1894.

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