PREFERENCE BY CANADA NOT BENEFITED ENGLAND.

Earl of Portsmouth Says Since It Was Granted British Trade with Us Has Diminished.

Marquis of Lansdowne Says Colonies Should be Protected Against Ill-treatment by Other Nations.

LONDON, June 30.—In the house of lords yesterday afternoon, the Earl of Portsmouth, a liberal peer, asked when the government intended to lay before parliament the proposals to induce Germany to modify her tariff regulations with Canada. The Earl said the impression was largely entertained abroad that the effect of preferential tariffs was very considerable, in regard to the British trade with Canada. So far from that being the case, he said, since they came into force England's trade with Canada had diminished. He did not complain of Canada, but he wanted it to be known that this country had not been aided by the preferential tariffs. Canada had wisely taken the precaution in her own interests that nothing should prevent her importing from the United States whatever she required from that country.

The Earl of Portsmouth added that he did not wish to offend the colonies, but the colonial problem and the British problem were totally different. England had to be fed, they had to build up a population. That central fact must never be lost sight of.

LORD LANSDOWNE'S REPLY.

The Marquis of Lansdowne, secretary of state for foreign affairs, in reply to the speech of the Earl, said the government considered the time had come when they should endeavor to find some means of ascertaining whether it was possible to obtain closer fiscal union with the colonies, to find some means of protecting them if they were subjected to ill-treatment in consequence of the preferential treatment they granted to the mother country, and to discover means of protecting British interests against inequitable competition.

The debate, in which Lord Rosebery, Viscount Gorchen, formerly chancellor of the exchequer, and the Duke of Devonshire, president of the council, joined, resolved itself into a discussion regarding the nature of the government's enquiry into the tariff question. The Duke of Devonshire declared that the government was endeavoring to arrange its existing information in a manner in which it would be able to consider it for itself. Then the result would doubtless be communicated to parliament and the public.

SIR GILBERT PARKER'S VIEWS.

Sir Gilbert Parker, M. P., speaking at the Conservative Club at Gravesend, referred favorably in the course of his speech to Mr. Chamberlain's tariff proposals. He said he did not believe that a battle of tariffs would follow the adoption of the proposals.

The United States and Germany, he added, had already reached the highest point they could touch in the way of tariffs, a point which could never be reached by Great Britain. He explained the quiet reception of Mr. Chamberlain's proposals in America to the fact that a large body of opinion in the United States hoped that they would lead to a reduction of the high American tariff. Continuing, he said: "So this new departure might in the end result in a rearrangement of the whole fiscal policy of Europe and America."

The speaker declared that when he discussed with Americans the possibility of their fighting a hostile tariff, their answer always was, "We will not. We shall say, don't shoot; we will come down." The United States was a great financial adventurer of the best sort, and would see that it was necessary that British finances should be staple to give it security.

TARIFF CAMPAIGN.

It is now fairly clear what shape the early developments of the tariff campaign will take in Great Britain. The present session of parliament will proceed in the usual course to the August adjournment. The opposition is not likely to accept Prime Minister Balfour's challenge to raise a vote of confidence, for the policy of a general enquiry, beyond which even Mr. Chamberlain does not desire to commit himself, would undoubtedly command a large majority.

The colonial secretary will not bring forward any definite scheme, within the next few months. He will begin a general propaganda late in October, and from that time on tariff will be the exclusive menu of Englishmen until the great issue is decided at a general election to be held at a date that nobody is now able to prophesy.

The discussion during the first few weeks will be confined probably to the four reasons for a revision of the fiscal policy of the Empire described by Mr. Balfour in his speech in presenting a memorial casket to Mr. Chamberlain. It is assured, of course, that Mr. Chamberlain has some general scheme in preparation, if it is not already completed, but it is hardly probable that it has been elaborated in detail.

Lord Lansdowne's method of presenting the tariff issue as a matter for negotiation after something has been set up which can be bargained off has been adopted both by Mr. Balfour and Mr. Chamberlain, and by the unionist members, who have formed a committee for supporting them. Many unionists who cannot be convinced that wages can be increased by the taxation of food, or that the Empire can be united by preferential tariffs, are willing to concede that the adoption of a moderate revenue tariff may offer a sufficient leverage for the negotiation of reciprocity arrangements with the United States, France and Germany, and for forcing reductions of hostile tariffs. The majority of the government supporters in the house of commons, however, are warning the ministers not to be too precipitate, and urging them to instruct the political organizations to circulate the literature supplied by both protectionists and free traders.

MANY VIEWS EXPRESSED.

Every July Review has a symposium on tariff. Lord Goschen, following up his weighty speech in the house of lords with an incisive article in the Monthly Review, and a score of controversial writers, taking up the cudgels on one side or the other. There has been a great stir among the drydones of the Cobden Club, and that organization is gaining members of both political parties. The free trade unionists, like Lord Hugh Cecil and Winston Churchill, are asking the liberals whether arrangements cannot be made by which their seats will not be contested at the general election. The formation of a new political group of unionist seceders, with a separate organization, but prepared to act with the liberals in defence of free trade, is probable, and Sir Michael Hicks-Beach will be the national leader, and the Spectator the chief organ.

Even the industries and trades are organizing in the house of commons for the presentation of the fiscal question. The members connected with the iron and steel manufactures and machinery have formed committees for directing the attention to foreign cartels and trusts, and obtaining defensive measures in the general tariff movement. The whole country is pulsating with interest in Mr. Chamberlain's new policies.

Sir William Vernon Harcourt, in an address at a liberal demonstration at Malwood, Hampshire, said the spirit of retaliation was the secret of Colonial Secretary Chamberlain's political temperament. "There is a game," the speaker continued, "which is too risky, namely, retaliation upon America, our greatest friend and most valuable ally."

MATTER OF URGENCY.

The fact that the end of the current year terminates the politico-commercial agreement under which Great Britain and Germany accord each the most favored nation treatment gives a certain urgency to Mr. Chamberlain's proposals. The German mercantile community, which is the most progressive and enlightened section of the nation, desires Germany's commercial relations with Canada to be put on a mutually satisfactory footing before the British treaty lapses, lest a worse evil befalls them.

The Financial News says the symptoms of German repentance comes too late. The British consul-general at Hamburg reports that during the past five years Canada's trade with Germany, through Hamburg, has diminished 30 per cent, while Germany's exports to Canada have increased 20 per cent. The Financial News says: "We will remember this important fact when our Teuton friends begin to pourparler for a renewal of the existing commercial treaty."

Arthur Chamberlain, the eldest brother of the colonial secretary, has created a sensation by declaring himself against the Chamberlain tariff. He says we must consider our own affairs especially temperance, before considering the uttermost parts of the Empire.

$20,000 HOSPITAL IMPROVEMENTS.

Extra Stories on Two Wings—Two New Wards—Ventilation Improvements.

At yesterday's meeting of the commissioners of the General Public Hospital Dr. Lunney was reappointed superintendent and home physician and Dr. Pratt assistant.

A lot of attention was devoted to the consideration of plans submitted by Architect Brodie for improvements, changes and additions to the institution. It is proposed to build additional stories to the large wings with copper mansard roofs. This will give room for two large wards and a big space for future enlargement. The rear wing will have an additional story put on and will be fitted up for servants' quarters. The bath and toilet rooms throughout the building will be cleaned and be supplied with tile floors and walls. An improved ventilating system will be introduced and the heating arrangements made better. An addition is to be made to the nurses' home sufficient to accommodate 20 more nurses. A parlor and baths will be put in. The improvements will, it is said, cost $20,000.

TO WELCOME ENGLISH.

Battleship Texas Ordered to Bar Harbor for July 6—Entertainment Plans.

BAR HARBOR, Me., July 1.—Rear Admiral Upshur, retired, received a telegram from the navy department today stating that the battleship Texas had been ordered to Bar Harbor on the occasion of the visit of the British fleet on July 6, to extend a formal welcome to the visitors.

The general committee for the entertainment of the British fleet held a meeting last night, Dr. J. Madison Taylor presiding and Admiral Upshur acting as secretary.

It was voted that the committee notify Gov. Hill that he will be expected through himself or representatives, to officially welcome the British admiral.

The members of the reception committee will accompany the governor or his representatives on board the British flagship upon its arrival. A reception will be tendered the admiral and officers of the fleet at the St. Sauveur hotel at 3 p. m. on the afternoon of July 6.

The unexpected assignment of the Texas will make a change in plans necessary and another meeting will be held tomorrow.

THE GAMEY CASE.

Chronology of the the Affair Throws Much Light on It.

From the Evidence Presented All Independent Readers Can Reach a Definite Conclusion.

(Toronto Empire.)

The chronology of the bribery case throws much light upon that cause celebre. By taking the occurrences according to their dates it is possible to form an independent conclusion upon them. From the evidence as adduced, the story works out thus:

May 29—General election: Mr. Gamey returned for Manitoulin; majority 340. Mr. Gamey a pledged supporter of the conservative party.

June 1.—Position of parties calculated to be: Ministerialists, 47; conservatives, 46. Government majority, 1.

July 14—Mr. Gamey's election protested.

THE SULLIVANS AT WORK.

August 7—"Cap" Sullivan meets Mr. Gamey at Allendale, tells him the government will unseat him and disqualify him.

Evening of same day—Frank Sullivan; government official, meets Mr. Gamey at Walker House, repeats statement that the government will have him disqualified, says evidence to disqualify him can be bought, but trouble could be avoided, and $5,000 could be made by Mr. Gamey by turning over to the government side.

August 12—Mr. Grant, government lawyer in charge of election petition, invited to Walker House by Frank Sullivan to see Mr. Gamey about a deal in which Mr. Gamey could make $5,000.

August 13—Jones, of Beeton, election worker, meets Mr. Gamey, invites him to turn over; also says he would like to get information that would unseat Mr. Smyth, of Algoma, and Mr. Miscampbell, of the Sault.

August 19—Mr. Gamey received letter from Jones. Jones says he has seen the "acting manager," who agrees to carry out the deal he has mentioned, and will treat Mr. Gamey better than he expected. Money can be made. "We can make a good haul at once." "It is a snap worth trying."

August 21—"Cap" Sullivan appears at Mr. Gamey's house at Gore Bay at midnight, arouses the member, wants to speak to him privately. Talks with Mr. Gamey in the stable; says "they were anxious to go on with some arrangement;" wants a document asserting that Mr. Gamey would support the government to show the government.

INTRODUCED TO MR. STRATTON.

August 26—The "Cap" and Frank meet Mr. Gamey at the Windsor House. Frank drew up an agreement that Mr. Gamey should receive $3,000 down and $2,000 after the session for supporting the government.

September 9—Frank takes Mr. Gamey to Mr. Stratton's office, where matters were discussed with the minister. Mr. Gamey is told to see Mr. Aylesworth, the counsel for the government in the election petition proceedings.

Same day—Mr. Stratton sees Mr. Aylesworth, K. C., says Mr. Gamey is all right, and that the election petition is to be withdrawn. Arrangements made that Mr. Gamey shall sign a letter to Mr. Ross, agreeing to support the government. Mr. Stratton prepares letter and carries it to Mr. Aylesworth.

September 10—Frank Sullivan takes Mr. Gamey to Mr. Aylesworth's office; withdrawal of petition discussed; Mr. Aylesworth produces letter for him to sign; Mr. Gamey signs, but says there is a money transaction to be completed, and declines to give up the letter until that is settled.

September 11—The proceedings of the day are disputed. Mr. Gamey says he received money from Mr. Stratton in exchange for the letter which Mr. Stratton prepared for him to sign in Mr. Aylesworth's office, and proves that he deposited $1,500 of the $3,000 received in the Traders' Bank. Mr. Stratton swears that he gave Mr. Gamey nothing, and presents an alibi. The letter to Mr. Ross signed in Mr. Aylesworth's office goes on file in the office of Mr. Ross.

PATRONAGE AND NEW DEAL.

September 16—Frank Sullivan writes Mr. Gamey; "I had a talk with our man this morning, and he wants me to try and put through another deal. He will pay all expenses in connection with same, and will make it worth your while if it goes through." Sullivan asks Mr. Gamey to run over and see "that party," meaning Mr. Smyth, the member for Algoma.

September 19—Jones, of Beeton, also writes Mr. Gamey to see "that party," and get a verbal option and make a haul.

September 29—Mr. Gamey writes Mr. Stratton recommending that Mr. Flesher be appointed a J. P.

October 2—Mr. Stratton writes Mr. Gamey asking who shall be appointed returning officer for the referendum.

October 7—Mr. Gamey replies to Mr. Stratton, and recommends the sheriff, who was appointed.

SULLIVAN AND MR. STRATTON.

October 23—Mr. Gamey in Mr. Stratton's office. Mr. Stratton wants the letter to Mr. Ross duplicated and signed as of a late date in October.

October 25—Election petition withdrawn.

October 27—Letter to Mr. Ross signed and forwarded. The new date makes it appear as if it were sent after the abandonment of the election petition, and not as part of the price of that action.

January 13—Mr. Gamey called at Mr. Stratton's office. Mr. Stratton reproaches him for having spoken in North Perth for the conservative candidate. Mr. Gamey responds that the terms of his contract did not bind him until the legislature had met.

January 27—Frank Sullivan telegraphs Mr. Gamey to come to Toronto at once. "Important."

January 29—Mr. Gamey at Toronto. Frank Sullivan arranges a meeting with the provincial secretary. Mr. Gamey faced with interview for publication saying that he had turned over. The sum of $1,000 stated to have been paid for the interview, but denied.

January 30—Interview published. North York and Centre Bruce elections follow.

February 7—Mr. Latchford writes Mr. Gamey for particulars of the road grants needed for Manitoulin.

February 7—Mr. Gamey writes Mr. Stratton that he had to meet his executive and enquiring what he had better do.

February 11—Frank Sullivan replies in an anonymous letter signed "X. Y. Z.," and encloses a statement for Mr. Gamey to the effect that he had taken his course "after consulting friends in the riding," and that he did not intend to be dictated to by a few straight-laced tories.

February 20—Letter from Frank Sullivan saying that he had called upon Mr. Stratton, and that that minister wanted him to nominate the license inspector and the license commissioners at once.

February 27—Frank Sullivan writes that he sees Mr. Stratton every day, and that he will see him again this p. m. re appointments.

THE EXPLOSION.

March 10—Frank Sullivan confirms Mr Gamey's statement as to the bribery in the piano factory in the presence of three concealed witnesses.

March 11—The explosion in the house. Bribery charged and investigation demanded.

March 12—Mr. Hammond, one of the witnesses, asked to "forget some of the things." Members of the Sullivan family leave for the United States.

At the enquiry—Mr. Stratton says he was the innocent recipient of support which Mr. Gamey thrust upon him.

June 26—Mr. Stratton and the ministers vote themselves blameless.

VALLEY OF DEATH.

One of the Wonderful and Mysterious Things Seen in the Island of Mindanao.

A. C. Carpenter of Chicago, who recently returned from the Philippine Islands, is in Denver, says the Denver Republican. For three years he has been roaming around in unexplored and uncivilized parts of the islands examining into the mineral possibilities of the country. During his visit to the islands he represented a Chicago company, to which he has but recently made a report of his observations in the newly acquired territory. Of all the unparalleled things which he saw Mr. Carpenter says that the much talked of Valley of Death, in the Island of Mindanao, is the most wonderful and mysterious.

"The famous valley," he says, "is far inland in this large island. The interior of the island is covered with mountains and there are many indications of volcanic eruptions. After one range of mountains is crossed there is a deep descent. This is the edge of the valley. It looks like the rim of a great crater, but it is too large for that. It is surrounded by high mountains and covers many square miles.

"When crossing the mountains the traveller sees a heavy mist, similar to a fog, hanging over the land beneath him. The mist is heavier and darker than the most dense fog, and it has never been known to clear away. As my party of five went down the mountain side we felt that we were approaching that mist.

"The air that we breathed was heavy and foul. We knew that there were poisonous gases in the atmosphere from the very effect which the air above had on us. As I was not out upon an expedition to see how much suffering we could endure, I called a halt long before we were in the thick of the mist. We decided at once to return to the mountain tops and survey the valley at a distance. I was anxious to make some report of the valley, for natives had brought nuggets of gold from the neighboring islands, which were larger than any that I had ever before heard of. They said that they had found these at the edge of the Valley of Death.

"No one has ever been known to cross this strange valley, and several parties which have made the attempt have failed, and have been forced to return to the mountains exhausted and sick. Many people have been overcome by the poisonous gases, and have only been rescued by their companions whose lungs were not so quickly affected.

"So far as I can understand, I believe that there must be some volcanic fissure somewhere in the valley, and from this is constantly pouring forth the poisonous vapor which ever hangs over the valley. From descriptions of other volcanic gases I believe that this is the explanation of the mist which hangs over the Valley of Death."

FATAL HEAT.

WASHINGTON, July 3—Intense heat again prevailed in Washington today, the street thermometer recording 102 1-2. The weather bureau showed a maximum of 95 degrees. One fatality of sunstroke occurred.

LEADVILLE, Colo., July 3.—It has been snowing hard here nearly all day and there is an inch of snow on the ground. It has turned considerably colder and the thermometer stands at freezing point.

PHILADELPHIA, July 3.—The hot spell, which began here on July 1, was at least temporarily broken by a heavy thunder storm late this afternoon. Three deaths and about a score of prostrations due to the heat were reported by the police.

CHESTER, Pa., July 3.—A terrific cyclone swept over the city this evening, unroofing some small buildings and doing great damage to the telephone, telegraph and electric light systems. The United Telephone Exchange was set on fire and many wires destroyed, entailing a loss of $5,000. The front of L. E. Schemerber's bottling warehouse was knocked into the street. The loss in the city is estimated at $20,000.

Lightning struck a tank at the pure oil works at Marcus Hook, setting fire to and destroying the tank and eighty thousand gallons of oil. The loss is $20,000, covered by insurance.

WANTED—A case of Headache that KUMFORT Powders will not cure in from ten to twenty minutes.

FURIOUS WATERSPOUT

Deluged Oakford Park, Pa., Yesterday Afternoon,

Over Fifty Lives Lost—Rumor Puts the Death Rate at One Hundred—A Scene of Horror.

GREENSBURG, Pa., July 5.—A waterspout of immense proportions struck in the vicinity of Oakford Park at 4 o'clock this afternoon and created a flood that caused great loss of life and property. It is known that at least 20 persons lost their lives and rumors place the number of dead at more than one hundred, but up to a late hour tonight only three or four bodies have been recovered, having been washed on the bank of Little Creek that runs parallel with the park. Among those drowned are: Miss Gertrude Keefer, aged 19, of Jeanette; Edward O'Brien, of Latrobe, an employe of Brown Ketcam Co., here; Joseph Overly, of Indianapolis, employed by Brown Ketcham Co.; Lucy Crum, of Jeanette; Councilman John Light, wife and two children, of Greensburg.

At 3 o'clock rain began to fall in torrents in the vicinity of the park and spread over territory covering practically ten miles. A half hour later the cloudburst occurred. The waters in the lake, north of Oakford Park, began to rise and Manager James McGrath, believing there was danger of a final break in the great walls of the dam, hurried among the crowds of pleasure seekers, who gathered under the roofs of the eating stands, the dancing pavilion and other buildings in the line of the water, and warned them to run to the hills. On both sides of the pleasure grounds are high hills, the park being located in a ravine about a fourth of a mile wide and a mile long. The people being protected from the rain, were loth to leave the cozy places, and not until Mr. McGrath and his assistant, Charles E. Thomas, entered each building in turn and simply drove the crowds out into the rain did they realize that the managers were in earnest. A half hour after the buildings had been cleared of the people the waters mounted the wall of the dam, holding five acres of water, and within five minutes water seven feet deep was flowing over the entire length of 400 feet of the wall. The park or ravine is studded with buildings. The merry-go-round and other amusement places were twisted about and all but the dancing pavilion and lunch stand were knocked from their foundations. The rain continued to fall in torrents, and about 4 o'clock forty feet of the wall on the east side gave away with an awful crash. The flood beat down the ravine with a roar that was heard for two miles. A half mile down at the junction of the Greensburg and Jeannette and the Park car lines, the car barns are located. The entrance gates to the park were lifted and with the force of a pile driver the mammoth posts were hurled by the water against the barn. Beyond were located the small waiting room and on the track was standing a car laden with people on their way from Greensburg and Jeannette. The electric storm had rendered the power south of here useless and the motorman was unable to move the car. The flood struck the waiting room, containing probably a dozen people. A number of them struggled to a point of safety.

The street car was caught and swept into the creek. Among those who were washed into the flood were C. M. McClain of Greensburg, Edward O'Brien and Joseph Overly and Misses Keffer and Crum. Young McClain is an expert swimmer, and the cries for help from the two unknown women brought the young man to their side as they struggled in the water. He grabbed them about the waists and kept their heads above water as the three were carried in the direction of Jeanette by the raging torrent. McClain held to the women for more than a mile, and then, exhausted and ready to sink to his death, he released his hold and the women sank. It was with the greatest difficulty that he managed to get to shore. It is believed that ten people who were in the car were drowned.

Standing on the platform near the waiting room were an unknown man and his wife. When the flood came the husband escaped but the wife was carried away. It was six o'clock when the first messenger bearing the news of the terrible catastrophe reached Greensburg.

There was but one way to get to the scene for the thousands who had friends spending the afternoon at the park, and that was to walk over a circuitous road, a distance of fully seven miles. Hundreds of people who at nightfall missed members of their families at supper time hastened with lanterns over the hills in search of their loved ones. Late tonight many of those who were first reported missing from Greensburg turned up here, and it is now believed that not more than four or five people of this place went down in the flood.

It is thought that with the various outlets that the water will subside before morning and that at least some of the bodies will be recovered.

PITTSBURG, July 5.—A telephone message from Jeanette received at midnight says from 50 to 75 men, women and children perished by the cloudburst at Oakford Park today. The majority were drowned or their lives beaten out against the rocks in Brush Creek, but quite a number were electrocuted.

At least 800 persons were at the park seeking relief from the heat. When the dam broke a solid mass of water 20 feet high rushed down and completely filled the narrow ravine.

Chronic Constipation surely cured or money back. LAXA-CARA TABLETS never fail. Small, chocolate coated, easy to take. Price, 35 cents. At druggists.

A pure hard Soap

SURPRISE SOAP

MAKES CHILD'S PLAY OF WASH DAY

NOTE CLOSE MESH AT BOTTOM

Page Acme Poultry Netting

A bird cannot fly through as small a hole as it can crawl through, so Page Poultry Netting is made with small meshes at bottom and large at top. No. 12 gauge wire top and bottom—no sag. Get Page fences and gates—they're best.

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BRANCH OFFICE AND WAREHOUSE, 57 Smythe Street, St. John, N. B.

GREAT ACTIVITY IN WESTERN CANADA.

Crop Prospects in Manitoba Are Excellent and a Large Yield is Expected—Effect of Recent Immigration.

(Special Cor. Mail and Empire.)

WINNIPEG, Man., June 24.—The immigration movement into Manitoba and the Canadian Northwest is the most significant sign before the eyes of the dominion of what the future has in store. Much has been written about it, especially in the United States. The "Americanizing" of this country has been first a subject of serious comment and later an alluring form of advertising publicity. Today it is hardly a matter of discussion among thinking people, for it is already evident that the knack of assimilation to new conditions, so inherent in the Anglo-Saxon race, is at least ordinarily strong among the people who have recently poured into Western Canada from the Western States. The discussion on the question, however, has been of inestimable value to this portion of the dominion, for it sowed the seed of interest which has already been so fruitful in drawing American settlers from the farms of Kansas, Iowa and Minnesota to the fertile prairies of Manitoba, Assiniboia and Saskatchewan.

The significance of the present movement is not in the volume of American immigration, though that has so far been its most tangible and most widely advertised manifestation. It is rather in the great and portentious change which a few years of prosperity and increase have effected in the country itself. Where formerly even homesteaders could not be attracted, homesteading is now no longer known.

EVERY ACRE OF LAND

has it immediate and increasing value. Where formerly existed struggling settlements, isolated from the world by an ocean of untilled prairie, are now prosperous communities, with banks, real estate offices, lawyers, insurance brokers, and all those other commercial luxuries which can only live where production is active and wealth increasing. Where formerly land could with difficulty be sold, it can now only with equal difficulty be bought. Where formerly one small elevator did duty for a shipping point, there are now often, five, six, or even more. And the cause of it all is right on the surface, in the far-extending fields of young wheat springing up on every side in soil which but a few seasons ago first knew the plow. It is farmers, strong, raw-boned farmers from Kansas, keen-eyed farmers from Iowa, quiet, but observant farmers from Ontario, earnest, though inexperienced, farmers from the Motherland — it is these men in their thousands whose daily toil, unbounded confidence and aggressive energy are moving the centre of Canada westward and weaving the fabric of a great nation between here and the Rocky Mountains.

WHAT 28 YEARS HAVE DONE.

In 1874 the people of Manitoba imported the flour from which their bread was made; in 1902 they garnered from their own land more than one hundred millions of bushels of grain. In 1903, later developments do not mar the present prospects, they will produce over sixty millions of wheat, forty millions of oats, and a yield of other cereals sufficient to bring their total to about one hundred and twenty millions. And all this, in addition to the produce of the Territories to the west, the growth of which is at present greater in proportion than that of Manitoba.

EXPANSION OF BUSINESS.

This remarkable country has attracted the attention of Eastern Canada chiefly by the rapid increase of its jobbing and retail trade. One is surprised to see the number of large eastern houses which have in this city profitable and growing branches. The expansion of business in the past four years has been phenomenal, and a commercial traveller today takes almost twice as long on his western trip as he used to. On each succeeding trip he finds new towns to visit, and new customers greedy for goods to sell. The prudence of the buyers themselves has constantly resulted in short stocks, so that many now find it difficult to know just how heavily they should purchase in order to cope with the rapidly increasing demand; and this is merely one phase of a situation which is based on the solid foundation of growing productive wealth.

In another respect, however, the people of Eastern Canada have left this portion of the dominion almost entirely to the exploitation of Americans. The advantages of investment appear by them to have been overlooked, while their cousins from the south have reaped a rich harvest of increasing values. For well nigh three years Winnipeg has been the Mecca of American investors, who have bought both city real estate and farm lands. When they first came it was as to a harvest, for both classes of property were obtainable at much below their real value. Since that time both they and the people of Manitoba have made much money, and property has increased considerably in price. The dreaded word "boom" has not been unheard; but it is well to remember that in this instance the advance in values has been accompanied by a corresponding increase in population, production and trade, so that today the ruling price of property in Winnipeg and throughout the province is as firm as could be desired. It is based on a confidence in the future that would seem to be amply warranted by the record of the more recent past.

EASTERNERS NOT INVESTING

The Winnipeg people claim that Eastern Canadians have not been sufficiently alive to the opportunities for safe and profitable investment offered by this field. They give numerous instances of their inability to interest eastern capital in Manitoba property, and contrast it with the ready investments made by Americans. The answer places the responsibility at both ends, for it would seem that while eastern capital has been somewhat slow to seek investment here, the promoting efforts of the west have been diverted almost exclusively to the United States.

Eastern Canada suffered in the Winnipeg boom, now more than 20 years gone by. Is it not possible that the memory of those losses is today preventing investments of undoubted value and under circumstances widely different? Canadians must in the end own their own country. It would perhaps be better to reap the benefits of its progress than to let foreign speculators absorb the profits which the enterprise of the Canadian people has made possible.

LAND VALUES RISING.

The basis of the recent increase in property values has been a tardy appreciation of the value of Manitoba farm lands. The American propaganda has been on about the following lines: John Jones, of Minnesota, owns 100 acres of land from which he can raise a fair average crop of say 16 to 20 bushels of wheat of mixed grades. His land is readily saleable at $40 an acre. It is pointed out to him that with the proceeds of such a sale he can buy in this country 400 acres of better land, equally close to railway, school, and church, and capable of yielding from 20 to 30 busheds of better wheat to the acre. John Jones comes up to see, and seeing, he buys. That, with but minor variations, is the story of thousands who have recently entered this country, and who will bring thousands of others after them. These same lands could have been bought five years ago at from one-quarter to one-third of their present price, and they are today selling at far less than lands in any other locality of anything like equal merit. Even in the more central portions of Manitoba good unbroken land may still be secured at from $12 to $15 an acre, while farther west those prices can be cut in two, and it is claimed that with favorable conditions and careful farming a man may make the cost of his new land out of one season's crop, setting an acre of crop against the acre of land upon which it is grown. Such, at least, has been the experience of many settlers during recent years. A trip through some of the great wheat-growing districts of the province, with their unpretentious farm houses surrounded by vast areas of growing grains, cannot fail to impress one with the tremendous possibilities of future wealth that lie hidden in the prolific prairies of this great domain, now being gradually subdued to the uses of mankind.

CROP PROSPECTS GOOD.

The writer has recently travelled through much of the eastern portion of the wheat belt, and has found that without exception the crops are practically in perfect condition. The season is almost two weeks ahead of last year, and the grain is coming on splendidly. A farmer near Hartney brought into town last week wheat plants twenty-four inches high. Late in May the farmers were looking somewhat anxiously for rain, but just at the right time it came in abundance, and since then the weather has alternated between sunshiny days and occasional warm limpid showers—an ideal combination in the farmer's eyes. Even the most exacting cannot suggest an improvement, and should not misfortune intervene Manitoba may expect another bumper crop this year. In the Territories the conditions are equally satisfactory, and the only open question is the ability of the railways to handle the traffic when it commences to pour in. The managements of both roads are making all possible preparations for the task before them, and it is hoped that the situation will be adequately met. The elevator facilities of the country have also been largely extended within the past two seasons, while the improved financial condition of the farming population enables it if necessary to store its grain for a period before shipping, without inconvenience, and often with ultimately greater profit.

MOUNT HOLLY, N. J., July 3.—Mrs. Annie R. Phares, who had been on trial here this week charged with the murder of her husband, Albert Phares, by poisoning, was acquitted by the jury late this afternoon. She did not seem surprised at the verdict and took it calmly. When Judge Garrison said: "The prisoner is discharged," she clasped the hands of Eckard P. Budd, her counsel and said: "I thank you ever so much." She then left the court room with Mr. Budd.