

CRIMES OF VIOLENCE.—The frequency with which crimes of violence like highway robbery and murder or attempted murder have been committed in and around Montreal of late must have impressed our citizens with the fact that conditions have greatly changed within the last few years. A constant stream of very mixed immigration has been rapidly pouring in, and the police force which was sufficient to protect the city ten years ago, is utterly inadequate to-day.

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LORD HALSBURY speaking at Bristol predicted that unless Mr. Chamberlain's policy is adopted a most serious commercial calamity will befall England in the separation of the colonies from the Motherland. The misfortune about such utterances is that they are apt to be quoted within a few weeks as expressions of colonial sentiment or at least as the opinions of those colonists who support Mr. Chamberlain's policy.

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NEW MINING SECURITIES.—According to the New York "Journal of Commerce" nearly \$1,000,000,000 of new mining securities have been created in the United States and Canada this year. Of this amount the Cobalt district is responsible for \$105,121,000. About 150 companies are now located at Cobalt.

ROYAL COMMISSION ON INSURANCE

In continuation of the enquiry into the affairs of the Independent Order of Foresters. Mr. Griffin, Canadian Pacific Land Commissioner at Winnipeg produced a letter from Mr. Pope, in which he said he and some associates wished to buy from 100,000 to 200,000 acres in the Vermillion district. He said he had seen Sir Thomas Shaughnessy, who had referred him (Pope) to witness with the instructions to say that it was on the president's suggestion that he was consulting him. Mr. Pope added that some clerks had said the price would be \$3.50 per acre, but he thought, in view of the quantity taken a better rate would be quoted. Desirable settlers would be furnished. Mr. Griffin went on to explain the exact location in Saskatchewan of the Vermillion district. He said that the prevailing price has generally been \$3.50 per acre, but there had been no large individual sales though an active demand by settlers.

Mr. Griffin replied to Mr. Pope's letter by stating that the company had advanced the price to \$5 per acre, owing to the demand. He expressed doubt, however, as to whether it could be readily colonized owing to the distance from railways.

"Had you decided to advance the price before October 4?"

"I decided to do this on coming back from an inspection trip of the country. When I got back I found Mr. Pope's letter, but it had nothing to do with raising the price. The demand and general conditions was what caused the increase in price."

Continuing witness said he understood that Mr. Pope desired him to set aside a large track of land, out of which he would select 200,000 acres. It was at the close of the buying season, and he didn't think it in the interests of the company to make such a sale. Nor did he have much faith in the colonization scheme.

"When you said you didn't think the company would reduce its price, did you mean \$5 an acre?"

"I meant its price for the best lands. I didn't think that when an average price was quoted one man should go in and pick out the best of it at that figure."

Not all of the land would command \$5 per acre, the witness said. The price depended somewhat on the quantity or what was taken and what was left. When he wrote as he had to Mr. Pope, he did so in what he regarded the interest of the company, both as respects rapid colonization and money to be realized from the sale. He couldn't say for sure whether had Mr. Pope offered \$5 an acre it would have been accepted. He somewhat doubted if it would have been.

Mr. Shepley then read a letter written on October 26, 1902, by Mr. Pope to Sir Thomas Shaughnessy. He said that G. W. Fowler, M.P., and W. H. Bennett, M.P., his associates on the executive of the syndicate, were with him in Montreal and would like an appointment with the president. Mr. Pope added that when application was first made, the price quoted was \$3.50, and he was surprised that it had advanced to \$5. He reminded Sir Thomas of his promise to "take a hand in" after the Winnipeg end had been seen, and asked for a conference with him.

Witness knew nothing of that letter. After this interview, Mr. Fowler and Mr. Pope came to him. They merely said they had taken up the matter with Sir Thomas, and now asked to negotiate with him (witness). He couldn't exactly recall what took place in detail, but remembered the gentlemen, indicating certain townships they wished to buy in Saskatchewan.

Did you know then the course of the Canadian Northern?

I knew where it must be generally, but not precisely.

Continuing, Mr. Griffin said he made the selection that the company would keep. The purchasers would have to take the rest—the general run. Witness pointed out on a map the specific lands which were sought to be purchased by the syndicate. At this interview, which was in Winnipeg, nothing was concluded, all that was done being to indicate what