

THE PROPOSED SOUTH EASTERN RAILWAY.

(Continued from page 582.)

closed with on the best terms the Government can secure. The Government which fails to grasp the situation at such a vital moment as the present, will certainly be called to account for their apathy, if not for their stupidity and blundering.

Another little point our Provincial Government would do well to remember, namely, that while the Province has incurred a debt of two and a half million dollars almost entirely for railway development, not a dollar of that amount has as yet been spent east of the Red River, and to make their railway policy as just as it is progressive, would require the expenditure of all the projectors of this road want on the eastern side of this stream. The construction of this proposed road would fill that just demand, and make the Government policy complete and unique.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The Manitoba legislature has unanimously endorsed a resolution prepared by Mr. Fisher in favor of the reconstruction or total abolition of the federal senate.

Erastus Wiman has pleaded not guilty to the charge of forgery, referred to in The Commercial last week, and he has been admitted to bail on a deposit of \$25,000 cash, furnished by Charles Deer, the implement manufacturer of Moline, Illinois. General Tracy, Mr. Wiman's counsel, has made the following statement: "I am entirely satisfied, after close examination, that Mr. Wiman has committed no crime, and unless I am greatly misinformed the trial will develop a state of facts which will show that Mr. Wiman is not only not a criminal, but that he has done nothing that can seriously reflect upon his honor or integrity as a man."

A bill has been introduced in the Manitoba legislature to amend the County Courts act. One of the important features of the bill is the proposal to increase the jurisdiction of the court to cover claims amounting to as much as \$400. Heretofore the county court jurisdiction extended to claims amounting only to \$250 or under, and suits dealing with larger amounts had to come up in the higher and more expensive courts. The proposed amendment will be favorably received as tending to reduce the cost of litigation.

The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council has given an important decision respecting insolvency legislation. A dispute arose between the Ontario provincial authorities and the Federal Government regarding jurisdiction, the claim being that the Federal Parliament had exclusive control over legislation affecting insolvency and bankruptcy. The Privy Council has declared the Ontario act respecting assignments and preferences by insolvents to be good law, thus giving authority to the provinces to pass legislation relating to insolvency.

In the Manitoba Legislature last week Mr. Campbell moved, That in the opinion of this

House, the time has arrived when it is desirable to make agriculture a subject of study in the public schools. There were several speeches in favor of the motion, which was passed. More practical and less ornamental education is the crying need of the present day. Though farming cannot be learned from books, there are certain rudiments of agriculture which might be taught to advantage in the schools. At any rate it might cultivate a greater love and respect for agricultural pursuits, and have a tendency to keep young people upon the farms, instead of drawing them from the farms to the cities, which is a regrettable feature of our present system of education.

In the last issue of the Canadian Mining Gazette there appears an article giving a description of a new process which is being especially introduced into this country by Dr. Eames for the treatment of refractory ores. S. V. Halstead, who is interested in a promising property in the Rat Portage district, has shipped to Toronto a car load of ore, which is to come under this treatment. It is the intention of the proprietors of the process to test the efficacy of their treatment upon the product of these mines, and if the experiment is successful, a mill of this class will be established at Rat Portage. It has been claimed heretofore that the difficulty of mining development in the district was owing to the refractory ores, which cannot be handled by the ordinary stamp mill process. If a successful method for treating this class of ores has been discovered, it should go a long way toward assisting in the development of the Lake of the Woods district.

According to law, municipalities in Manitoba are allowed to give bonuses for flour mills, while they are prohibited from giving bonuses for other purposes. During a debate to amend the Municipal Act in the Legislature recently, a strong disposition was shown to abolish the exception allowed in the case of flour mills, several members condemning bonusing of any nature whatever. It would perhaps be just about as well if no exception were made in favor of flour mills. In some cases mills have amply repaid the district in which they are located, for the amount of the bonus given them, but in a number of other instances, where mills have been erected through the influence of a bonus, nothing but dissatisfaction has been the result. Probably results have been unsatisfactory in a majority of cases. It is generally recognized that the principle of bonusing is wrong, and when this principle is recognized and legislated upon, it is in itself a strong argument against making exceptions in the case of particular industries. As a general principle it would be the proper course to say, either abolish the right to bonusing, without exceptions, or allow bonusing generally.

A suit of special interest to retail merchants came up in Winnipeg on Monday, which involved the question of responsibility of a husband for the payment of goods sold to his wife, after she had left him. The wife of Edward Taylor, near Winnipeg, ordered \$137 worth of goods from Jerry Robinson & Co., of Winnipeg. The woman was at this time living with her

mother, having left her husband. Taylor was sued for the amount of the purchase, and at the first trial Judge Walker gave judgment for plaintiff. The case was appealed and came before Judge Bain, who reversed the decision in the first suit. His lordship held that the evidence showed that Mrs. Taylor left her husband without his consent and the separation did not take place by mutual consent. It also failed to justify the contention that it was on account of defendant's neglect to provide for his wife that she was compelled to leave him. She had no implied authority to pledge his credit for even necessities, and even if she had authority to purchase necessities for herself it had not been shown that the goods were necessities. The circumstances under which Mrs. Taylor bought so large a bill of goods should have made the plaintiff cautious.

It is commonly believed that while the improvement of the Red river navigation, so as to make the river navigable in all seasons between the lake and Winnipeg, would be a benefit to the latter city, it would injure the town of Selkirk, which is now the head of navigation in low water. Capt. Robinson, who is about the best posted man in regard to the resources of the lake region, and a large property owner at Selkirk, however differs from this belief, and expresses the opinion that Selkirk would gain rather than receive injury from the proposed improvement of the river navigation. Capt. Robinson, who is largely interested in lumbering on Lake Winnipeg, further says that they could lay down the lumber at Winnipeg from the lake at \$3 per thousand less money than at present, if the boats could come right to the city, instead of being obliged to transfer the lumber from boats to the railway at Selkirk. Cordwood from the lake could be laid down at Winnipeg for \$1.75 per cord less than the cost by the present mode of double handling. Mr. Robinson says that business on the lake is four times greater now than it was before the mouth of the river was deepened. No doubt the further improvement of the river as far as Winnipeg would bring about a much more rapid increase of shipping and general trade upon the lake.

In the Manitoba Legislature last week Mr. Martin moved: That in the opinion of this House, the schools of this province should be secular, pure and simple. If it would satisfy the opponents of the national school system of this province, by all means let us have purely secular schools. There is abundant opportunity for our young people to receive religious instruction in this country outside of the public schools; and indeed it is questionable if the religious exercises conducted in the schools is at all edifying or restraining to the pupils. The writer's own experiences of the religious exercises in the schools in his school days is quite the contrary. In such a mixed community as we have in Manitoba, there seems to be good reason to believe that religious teaching might be left entirely to home and Church influences, with advantage to the state. True religion, we do not believe, would suffer in the least from this course, while anything that would help to restore harmony among the people, without sacrifice to any interest, should