

## ALBERTA'S RICH HINTERLAND

Great Agricultural, Mineral and Forest Wealth in the Illimitable Northland.

In 1893 grain from the Peace River district captured a first prize at the world's fair in Chicago. This was a revelation to thinking people, but even more so to the people of the west, who were not yet ready to believe that millions of acres of their best land were still lying unimproved and unbroken in the far north, of which Winnipeg, Regina and Calgary and finally Edmonton were but so many outposts.

Now in the fulness of time Canada is awake to the neglected wealth of the region, and in all America there is not today an agricultural territory attracting more general interest than the Peace River, the Athabasca and other districts that constitute northern Alberta. Its riches will shortly be opened up, for already three railroads are planning to enter it in the next few years. Warmed with the mild temperate winds of the Pacific, rich in soil with the richest deposits here, though quiet ago to await man's coming, this vast virgin corner of the earth is now known to be as desirable in its climate and natural resources as the fairest settled portions of the Dominion.

This statement was years ago made by the reports of government surveyors, missionaries and traders acquainted with the country. More recent it has been borne out by the enthusiastic reports of actual settlers, and the evidence given under oath last year at Ottawa, by a committee of the Senate by such men as J. K. Cornwall, W. Brodin, M.P.P., J. B. Tyrell, M.E., and H. A. Conroy, of the Indian department.

### Mineral Wealth Too.

These are men who know this country from end to end, and the evidence taken at the committee's sessions made a profound impression upon all who read it. For there are fine bluffs of spruce and poplar in this country, there are extensive deposits of oil, gas and coal, and the richness of the beds of tar sands on the Athabasca, while at Pelican Rapids on the same river is a fine example of a deposit that has been burning continuously for the past ten or twelve years, and which is considered to be the largest gas well in the world.

North of Lake Athabasca Mr. Tyrell has located iron and small quantities of gold and silver in the Canadian and Kewatin rocks, and although as yet no iron has been found there in large quantities Mr. Tyrell stated the region is "one of the most likely to contain mineral wealth he had ever been in."

At Fort McMurray there are enormous quantities of coal, and the region is impregnated with thick petroleum tar, while every probability is that back of this hard outcrop of tar oiled on practically all the land is a deposit of oil in a liquid oil. This sand stone permeated with tar can be used as material for pavements in the west.

### The Desired Land.

There are certain and more enduring mineral wealth anywhere are the "treasures" of the earth, and the only strata of this region. There is, nevertheless, agricultural wealth here. In the Peace River district alone—a beautiful park-like country of natural allurement—witnesses testified that there is much good agricultural land fit for settlement and yet unsettled, as there has yet been cultivated in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta.

Through this magnificent region flows the Peace river, a superb stream of water over which men rarely fail to gaze with enthusiasm. Like a broad, old ribbon dropped into the green valley in places dotted with green islands, this much heralded river is expected to take its place among the great and useful rivers of the world. From its source in the Rockies Fort Vermilion it runs over 500 miles, and from this prosperous trading post and settlement it runs almost as many miles again before it unites with the Slave river and together they empty their waters into the broad inland sea of Lake Athabasca. Moreover, it is a navigable for the greater part of its course. One writer has said of it: "From where this river breaks through the continental divide (the Rockies) in the canyon which is destined to be a world-famous, and the bottom of which no living man has ever seen, to Fort Vermilion, a distance of 550 miles—it is a trough-like depression of ever-increasing depth below the level of the surrounding country ranging from 1,200 feet at the canyon's mouth to about 50 feet at Fort Vermilion. The average width of this trough is about three miles from rim to rim."

This remarkable river with its steep clear cut banks, sometimes 1,200 feet high, and great breadth of about three miles is said to exercise a strong fascination over all who have seen it. This, together with its high altitude and delightful climate—"It has a sum-mer like the climate of Greece," said one American traveler last year—and with its great agricultural wealth makes it a veritable Land of the Heart's Desire, and a possession of which the Province of Alberta is very justly proud.

A Fertile Stretch. Very interesting evidence given at this investigation in Ottawa and which corroborates the reports of traders, missionaries and breeders, was that of W. Fletcher Breidin, M.P.P., who stated that right from the foot of the Rockies about 500 miles along the Peace River, the fertile and most excellent agricultural region extends. This valley, which he has traversed himself extends for at least 7 miles on either side of the Peace River and is alternating prairie and light woodland on the south bank while the north is mostly open prairie. The soil of the whole land is equally good as the open stretches. Mr. Breidin had never visited the country east of Fort Vermilion. It is not generally supposed to be the same agricultural value as the western portion. Farther west than Vermilion, in the vicinity of Dunsmuir, H. A. Conroy, who has travelled up

and down the country for the past nine years, stated that the land was well fitted for agriculture, "and for any distance back." Bunch grass grows luxuriantly here clear back from the Peace to the Hayes river. Mr. Conroy, as well as Mr. Breidin, entirely disagreed with the statements made by Mr. Macoun, of Ottawa, three years ago, in disparagement of the Peace river country. His information, said Mr. Conroy, had been obtained from one of the older settlers who are met with here and there and who want to keep the country to themselves. Mr. Conroy knew one man in this section who raised from 2,000 to 3,000 bushels of wheat yearly which the Hudson Bay company bought for \$1 and \$1.75 bushel. That man did not want the country opened up and others in to compete with him.

Rich Black Loam. Fred Lawrence, an "old time" settler and one of public spirited attitude, made another report of the Peace River. He has a fine farm, and he has in 24 years' residence there he has not known a crop failure. From one of his fields, 100 acres, he raised in 1906, 2,500 bushels of wheat which was pronounced No. 1 hard by several travellers who saw it. The Catholic mission here has a splendid farm and operates flour and saw mills, as well as a steam saw mill built of lumber from the Peace River.

This post which is more to the west and south than Fort Vermilion, is benefited by the Chinooks which climb the Rockies and the Peace River and keep down the snow in winter that keeps feed out on the range all winter. Fort St. John and Dunsmuir are landmarks in this still unsettled country, but there is as yet little settlement in the Peace River valley. Clear, open prairie with little woodland stretches between the Landing and Fort St. John and with the exception of patches of willow, little or no farming has been tried here, but the gardens are very fine.

A Blue Grass Country. There is a capital blue grass country up in northern Alberta which would be raising stock to rival old Kentucky. H. A. Conroy, of the Indian department, said the region southeast of Lesser Slave lake and the valley of the Swan Hills is a beautiful country, in some places heavily timbered. "The finest grass in the world grows there," he said. It is the blue top and it grows 6 or 7 feet high. The main all around the river is a cultural land. The blue grass grows on the high land, not in sloughs. It is a very good grass yielding about four tons to the acre, and does not form sod.

Up in that Peace river region there are several small settlements, and to which settlement is already being its stream. These sections—the Grand Prairie, Spirit River Prairie and the Peace River Prairie—have a soil of rich black loam, ranging from 6 to 12 feet in depth. Some people surmise that it is less suitable, however, to a northern climate rather than a lighter and more sandy soil. This is as yet untried, but the farming has been attempted upon a sufficient scale, or scientifically enough by the few homesteaders to fully test this.

In the Grand Prairie there are 100 square miles of this rich land awaiting the flow; the Peace Coulee has 1,000 square miles and the Spirit River 600 square miles.

A Wild Paradise. The Peace Coulee is called by some the "paradise" of the west, because here the Chinooks drift in through their mountain passes, and in the winter the snow is so deep that horses and men have absolutely no difficulty in feeding all winter on the native grasses.

It is also a great game country, and like all that portion of Northern Alberta lying along the mountain region it is full of game. The opportunity of making a fair livelihood in trapping fur-bearing animals in winter.

The Athabasca District. While the Peace River region is drawing the great stream of settlers now and is much praised for its agricultural value the Athabasca is not without its own virtues. According to the many traders who navigate the Athabasca river, as well as W. F. Breidin, M.P.P., for Athabasca, the land on either side of the river is thickly wooded with poplar and spruce, and is a great distance inland. The soil is fairly good everywhere, and in some places very good, while oil, coal and asphaltum are found along the banks. But from Fort McMurray north to Lake Athabasca—a distance of 200 miles—the country becomes a great alluvial plain with good soil. Navigation on the river is also clear throughout this distance.

Here again at Lake Athabasca the country changes. North and east of the lake the land is mostly open prairie and is a practical manner to demonstrate the worth of the country and now has a very large tract of farm land here and a fine ranch. His son, Fred Lawrence, gave evidence before this latest northern commission at Ottawa, that his experience of farming at Vermilion for over 20 years, he had never had a failure in wheat, but one very dry season had reduced the yield to 12 bushels an acre. On the other hand he had raised as high as 65 bushels of wheat to the acre, and without using any fertilizer. Not all of the land was suitable for cultivation. There were small patches of swamp and scrub timber, but this was to be met with in any country and when cleared away made good farm land.

Monster Vegetables. The growth of wild flowers, small fruits and vegetables is luxuriant in this region. From early spring to autumn there is a wonderful procession of wild flowers, while small fruits grow in abundance. Garden seeds and fruit seeds obtained from the east and west only two varieties of cabbages out of 24 failings to succeed in the open garden. His cabbage and turnips have often weighed 15 pounds a head. Mr. Breidin also relates seeing asparagus, sweet peas and carnations

blooming in profusion on September 16th in the garden of the Hudson Bay factor at Peace River landing. He also saw vegetables of several small gardens on the same day in the open garden, and all unhurt by any frost.

The grain mostly grown about Fort Vermilion, is of the Ladoga type, obtained by the Lawrence from Ottawa experimental farm. They had experimented with Red Fife and other varieties, but they found the Ladoga most suitable. Because of the long hours of sunlight the wheat ripens quickly. Mr. Lawrence having cut one season spring wheat which had matured in 86 days. He extolled the agricultural value of the "table land" or bench land on either side of the Peace river, and believes the climate to be quite similar to that experienced by him in other parts of Alberta, while the hours of sunshine are even longer in summer.

Peace River Landing. At Peace River landing Allie Brick, M.P.P. for the Peace River district, has a fine farm, and he states that in 24 years' residence there he has not known a crop failure. From one of his fields, 100 acres, he raised in 1906, 2,500 bushels of wheat which was pronounced No. 1 hard by several travellers who saw it. The Catholic mission here has a splendid farm and operates flour and saw mills, as well as a steam saw mill built of lumber from the Peace River.

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moisture held by the moss then disappeared. It was on this farm the wheat was grown which carried off the medal at the Centennial Exposition.

Climate. It is so recently that the public mind was disabused of the notion that Edmonton district was such a waste that it is not marvellous that there has been a similar difficulty to overcome in respect to this portion of Alberta lying even farther north.

Without a serious study of meteorological reports and isothermal conditions or the actual experience of residence, it is possibly difficult to realize that a country lying 500 miles north of Edmonton should enjoy an almost similar climate, with cold but pleasant, dry and equable winters with an even greater amount of sunshine in summer. Men who have been farming in these parts of northern Alberta for more than twenty years say they have never had their crops seriously injured by early frosts, which have been everywhere the land of the north.

Stupat, director of the Dominion Meteorological service, has made a careful study of the north and his conclusion is that in summer the temperature is little below that of Manitoba and Saskatchewan. A marked difference is at the more northerly points where the sun shines from one to three hours longer than at the southern points. The average range from the north to the south is 55 and 60 degrees. Throughout this whole region the percentage of possible sunshine is from 17 hours in the latitude of Edmonton to 19 hours 30 minutes at Fort Simpson it may be surmised that the growth of plants and cereals may be even more rapid in the northern than in the southern districts.

The average daily mean highest temperature in July is: At Winnipeg . . . . . 77.8 deg. At Calgary . . . . . 74.7 " At Peace River (St. John) 73.5 " At Fort Simpson . . . . . 71.5 "

Possible the low temperature in the north may be offset by a longer period of bright sunshine. "There are over twenty hours of sunshine at Fort Simpson," said Fred Lawrence, "and the sun is shining for more than that place, and after sunset there is no darkness, the light gradually fading to twilight, then growing strong and stronger till the sun again appears. It is this which matures the crops so quickly."

In his evidence before the Commission, Mr. Lawrence stated that the climate of Fort Vermilion was in all respects like that of Edmonton except that there was less snow in winter. "The winters, though long, are not severe. There is rarely more than two feet of snow, and very seldom a disagreeable wind. The air is crisp and dry, so that one does not feel the cold so much at thirty degrees below as he would in the Great Lakes country."

Though the northern portion of the Peace River country does not know the chinook of Calgary does, its position to the mountains and to the ocean is much the same," says one traveller, "and the chinook wind which finds its way through the various mountain passes, making the warm welcome for itself clear on up to Peace River Landing remains enough to some extent all through the Peace River country clear down to and beyond Vermilion."

The onset of summer frosts in the Peace River country has not yet been fully investigated. The only regular record has been kept at Dunsmuir, which is situated in a valley. As a general rule, it is said, that in October in northern Alberta frosts are of daily occurrence and somewhat severe.

### Transportation.

To this immense inland country with its possibilities of vast agricultural production, the question of transportation is one of very great importance. In the past it has been met by the construction of trails and a utilization of the great network of the water system. The near future will see not only good roads built by the Provincial Government, but several railroads which already are planning an invasion of this desired land. In addition to this it is expected that a large use may be made of the rivers and lakes of this region.

Interesting evidence concerning this point was given by J. K. Cornwall, the Commission in Ottawa. He is at present engaged on northern waters, and he considers the waterways of the Mackenzie watershed as among the finest in America. The most southern point reached by navigation on the Mackenzie is at Fort McMurray at the junction of the Clearwater and Athabasca rivers, a point about 270 miles north of Edmonton. The distance from Fort McMurray to the Arctic Ocean is about 1,600 miles. In all this distance the connected waterways are navigable for the steamers now lying on them for twenty years.

From McMurray up the Athabasca, proceeding to Edmonton, the physical features of the river for 100 miles are such as to prevent navigation, but from this point, Grande Repide to Athabasca Landing, 165 miles distant, the river is navigable. The Northern Transportation Company operate a steamer which also runs up Lesser Slave River to the rapids, 75 miles distant. Here the freight is transferred by a portage to the head of the rapids, where another steamer carries it clear to the head of Lesser Slave Lake from whence it may be freighted into the Peace River country.

Peace River Navigable. Just as the Peace River valley is expected to play an important part in the agricultural history of the west, the Peace River itself will be a notable factor in transportation. For 1,000 miles from its mouth this splendid river is navigable, with but one break in the rapids near Vermilion, and here a tramway a mile and a half long will be necessary. Navigation

on all those rivers which run east and west is, as stated by Mr. Cornwall, open on an average early in May. Where these rivers enter lakes navigation opens later—possibly the middle of June—waiting for the ice in the lakes to move out.

On the Mackenzie, which is from two to four miles in width, there are practically five months' navigation. In mapping out a broad plan of transportation on northern waterways before the Commission Mr. Cornwall did not suggest the construction of canals to avoid rapids on the Athabasca and Peace, but tramways. The volume of business would not warrant the expenditure on canals, but by the construction of 17 miles of tram and a railway from Edmonton to Fort McMurray he said 3,000 miles of the finest river and lake navigation in North America could be tapped.

### Prospects For Future.

These two election constituencies of Peace River and Athabasca, which constitute Northern Alberta have a wonderful future before them undoubtedly. At present their great stretches of fertile wilderness, the Peace River constituency actually exceeding 400 miles in length and 350 miles in width, and the Athabasca constituency about 214.72 square miles of coal land, besides deposits of salts and asphalt. Petroleum and gas are rich in the Athabasca constituency. The Athabasca, while throughout all Northern Alberta the rivers and lakes are teeming with fish—mainly trout and salmon, the percentage of the trout runs up to thirty pounds in weight. Near the mountains salmon trout and a rainbow trout are also found.

The agricultural wealth of these districts and the good supply of timber have already been considered. Taking all the magnificent natural resources of the district into consideration it is not to be wondered at that the men from the north have such unbounded confidence in their future and predict for it a future of great brilliance. Settlement has already begun, enterprising settlers going in by prairie schooner from Edmonton to the fertile prairies of the Peace River. Already Fort Vermilion is announcing that it will be a midway station between the Canadian Pacific Railway from Churchill to the Coast, but when the race between the Grand Trunk Pacific, the Canadian Pacific and the Northern Railway has been brought northern branches of these three transcontinental roads into Northern Alberta—an era of development will begin which is beyond forecast.

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### THE PRINCE DEPARTS.

At Daybreak To-day The Fleet Sailed From Quebec.

Quebec, July 28.—The Prince of Wales today planted a tree in Victoria Park in commemoration of his visit. It is in an exclusively French quarter. The route was lined with people. There was practically no ceremony and the only feature was a chorus of young women singing French-Canadian patriotic airs. The Prince spent a busy, although informal day.

Clad in grey the Prince was farrowed by the police. He was escorted to the landing stage was lined with soldiers and every effort was made to give the Prince a fitting send-off.

His Royal Highness was obliged to stand at salute the entire distance to the King's wharf, where was a guard of honor from the R.C.R. After inspecting the guard the Prince sailed to the officers in charge boarded the pinnace of the Indomitable and went aboard the big cruise, amid the thunders of a Royal salute.

The bands of the French cruiser and the American and British warships, who, recognizing the field marshal, took him to his destination.

An incident of the afternoon was the holding up of Lord Roberts' carriage. He being in multi was not recognized nor was his remembrance. He was finally alighted and started to walk up the hill to the Citadel, but he was overtaken by detectives in an automobile, who, recognizing the field marshal, took him to his destination.

Gravel Train Ditched. Saskatoon, July 26.—A ballast train and steam shovel going west to open a gravel pit on the C.P.R., was derailed 65 miles west of here on Saturday night. Several boarding cars were turned over, and it is believed at least one Galician was killed.

London, Ont., July 31.—Geo. Crowe, a Grand Trunk laborer, held on one thousand dollars bail, charged with assaulting his wife, jumped it and in midnight the woman died. An inquest has been ordered.

Chicago, July 29.—Thomas L. Higen, of Massachusetts, was nominated by the Independence Party as candidate for President early this morning on the third ballot. John Temple Sheppard, of Kansas, who attempted to put Bryan's name in nomination had to be the prohibition of the party, which is situated in a valley. As a general rule, it is said, that in October in northern Alberta frosts are of daily occurrence and somewhat severe.

Sheppard was escorted from the hall by a crowd of delegates at arms, while the crowd of delegates surged behind, denouncing him as a traitor. Sheppard was the only Bryan man in the convention. He stood alone in the delegation from his state, which refused to sit with him when they began to be aware of his purpose to name Bryan.

Higen, the nominee of the party, although a citizen of Massachusetts, was born in Peterburg, Ind. He has fifty years old. When he was 16 his family moved to New York State, near Albany, where he and his brother worked in a clothing store. A few years later they started a "business," named "Higen Brothers," and he and his brother were the most successful rivals of the Standard Oil Company in New England.

A SHORTAGE OF \$10,000. Is Discovers By Auditors In Books of Toronto Fair Treasurer. Toronto, Ont., July 28.—Excitement was caused in civic circles to-day by the report of the auditors, recently engaged to report on the methods of book-keeping, that a shortage of nearly \$10,000 existed in the books of Col. J. K. Leslie, treasurer of the exhibition association. It seems that the balance of 1907 was not carried over to 1908. All the officials assert most emphatically that it was only an error in bookkeeping, and that the money is in the bank. Meanwhile, however, arrangements are made by which Col. Leslie has signed over sufficient property to cover the amount named. He has been treasurer for two years, receives twelve hundred a year, and is bonded for \$10,000. He recently toured the West in the interests of the next fair.

Thrown From Horse. Calgary, July 28.—John McHugh, the wife of John McHugh, who was seriously injured yesterday by being thrown from a horse on his father's ranch, was brought to the city today in a very dangerous condition.

Padded Montreal's Pay List. Montreal, July 28.—A warrant has been issued for ex-assistant foreman Charriet in a case of padding the electric pay lists. The amount involved is said to be \$1,486.

## TO PROSECUTE LUMBER COMBINE IN MISSOURI

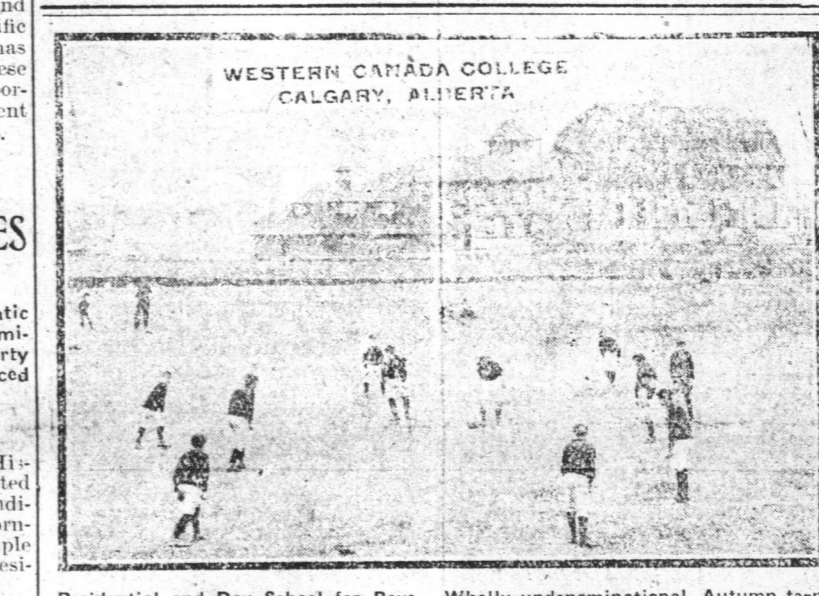
Information Laid by Attorney-General Against Forty-three Firms Charging Combination to Control Yellow Pine Output—Petition Asks Confiscation of Property.

St. Louis, July 30.—Two actions against more than one hundred of the biggest lumber companies of the United States doing business in Missouri, with a capitalization of \$300,000,000, have been brought by State Courts Attorney-General Robert S. Harley, under provisions of the Sherman anti-trust act. At Jefferson city an information, in quo warranto, has been filed in the Supreme court against forty-three lumber firms, which are attorney general charges them with entering into a combination to control the output of the yellow pine business in Missouri, and to restrain them from the exercise of lawful trade. In the petition he asks the Supreme court to name that each respondent corporation may be excluded from all corporate rights, privileges and franchises it enjoys under the laws of Missouri and that its property be confiscated.

A GALLANT RESCUE. Taft's Press Agent Is Working Up Some Human Interest Material. Cincinnati, July 26.—William H. Taft, Republican nominee for president, saved a life upon his arrival in Cincinnati yesterday when the tracks of his own life in doing so. But for his quick eye and ready response a two-year-old flax-haired child would have been ground to death beneath the wheels of an engine.

Taft had just climbed down from the Big Four at the Grand Central depot, and was walking down the long train shed arm in arm with his editor brother. A woman and her baby were climbing aboard the Pullman car of another train as Taft got abreast of the vestibule. The baby lost her balance and rolled to the cement floor of the train shed and out the tracks.

Taft leaped upon the track and picked up the child and handed her over to the astonished mother.



WESTERN CANADA COLLEGE CALGARY, ALBERTA

Residential and Day School for Boys. Wholly non-denominational. Autumn term begins Thursday, Sept. 10. Courses for University and Business. Modern equipment. 20 acres of grounds in the best residential part of the city. School building accommodates 150 boys. Residence 75 boys. Five master with additional special instructors. Apply to Dr. A. O. MacRae, Principal.

## BINDER TWINE

Canadian Perfect 550 ft. \$11.40  
Canadian Medal 600 ft. 13.00  
Barb Wire 2 or 4 pt. 4.25  
Wire Nails - - - - 4.00

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A SHORTAGE OF \$10,000. Is Discovers By Auditors In Books of Toronto Fair Treasurer. Toronto, Ont., July 28.—Excitement was caused in civic circles to-day by the report of the auditors, recently engaged to report on the methods of book-keeping, that a shortage of nearly \$10,000 existed in the books of Col. J. K. Leslie, treasurer of the exhibition association. It seems that the balance of 1907 was not carried over to 1908. All the officials assert most emphatically that it was only an error in bookkeeping, and that the money is in the bank. Meanwhile, however, arrangements are made by which Col. Leslie has signed over sufficient property to cover the amount named. He has been treasurer for two years, receives twelve hundred a year, and is bonded for \$10,000. He recently toured the West in the interests of the next fair.

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Padded Montreal's Pay List. Montreal, July 28.—A warrant has been issued for ex-assistant foreman Charriet in a case of padding the electric pay lists. The amount involved is said to be \$1,486.

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