

## The Cent in Alberta

ENGLISHMEN, who revere the "ha'penny" as a national institution, must have been oddly jolted by reading May 31st issue of the Canadian Mail, on the front page of which there appeared this heading:

### COPPERS IN THE WEST COMING OF THE CENT WESTERN SHOPKEEPERS' CONCESSION

(Special to "The Canadian Mail")

The article called attention to a fact of Western history which constantly surprises even people from Eastern Canada—the five-cent piece that until lately has masqueraded as a copper. Says this Albertan correspondent:

"The coming of the copper has been one of the events of the season. It is an axiom out here that no copper coin is used in the West, nothing lower than the silver five-cent piece—just as the quarter-dollar, or 25-cent piece (still quite commonly known as 'two bits') used to be the lowest coin used in California. This is no longer true. The copper coin has come.

"For some years past the shopkeepers have been pricing numerous articles at odd figures. Butter, for instance, is now selling at 27½ cents a pound. But this only means that you get two pounds for 55 cents. If you dare to ask for a single pound you pay 30 cents. The Government, of course, cannot charge more for stamps in the West than in the East; but if you ask for a one-cent stamp and tender a five-cent piece, the postmaster tells you he cannot make change. Cheques may be drawn for any odd amount, but if you present a cheque for \$4 and 33 cents, the bank teller will only give you \$4 and 30 cents, though if you pay in the same cheque to your account you will be credited with the full amount.

#### One for One Cent.

"A few months ago, however, one of the department storekeepers boldly decided to stop giving credit—monthly accounts having been customary—and, at the same time, he announced that single cents would be accepted. At the candy counter, for instance, you may now see sticks of peppermint and other sweets labelled 'one for one cent.' Very few of us have been able to take advantage of this for lack of the coin itself. But some of those who come from the Eastern provinces, or have been down there on a visit, have had a few coppers lying useless ever since in odd drawers. These are now being hunted up and given to the children, who are having a good candy-time accordingly.

"Some see in this, and in the establishment of cash stores, a hope that an era of cheaper living is about to open. There are other hopeful signs. But the fact is that living out here is not so dear as you may imagine from the high prices quoted for many articles, or so dear as people find it who have not yet learnt to do without certain things—things brought in from a great distance, which they can easily dispense with—and to buy what they want in the most economical way. Of course, people who live in towns and have to buy everything they use have not the advantage that we farmers who live on the land possess. We kill a fat pig, for instance, and for months he keeps our table supplied with roast and boiled pork, bacon, ham, brawn and lard. At the present market price we reckon the cost of that pig at 4½d. a pound. The price is low, for good food—and pork is extremely good out here. Also, it is high, from the producer's point of view. That is the cause, not of woe but of rejoicing, for pigs even at 8½d. a pound, pay fairly well, and at the present price they are profitable in the extreme."

#### Splendid Shopping Facilities.

The article goes on to refer to the scale of prices for groceries, vegetables and grain commodities. It points out that the West has splendid shopping facilities, and makes very clear the fact that Alberta and the West generally are by no means crude and uncivilized.

# Sensational Gains This Week

## Miss Blanche F. Bourque, of Sydney, N.S., Gains Over 80,000 Votes and Has Reached the Quarter Million Mark.



Miss Blanche F. Bourque, Sydney, N.S., Who Gained Over 80,000 Votes This Week and Now is Over the Quarter-million Mark.

SOME very sensational changes have taken place in the Canadian Courier Contest standing this week. The greatest gain of all was made by Miss Blanche F. Bourque, of Sydney, N.S., who advanced over 80,000 votes for the week, bringing her grand total up over one-quarter of a million. In fact, it has been the largest individual gain since the

contest started, and gives Miss Bourque a lead of almost 50,000 votes over her nearest competitor. The advance is a tremendously handsome one and proves that Miss Bourque must have a splendid lot of friends in her town. From the very start Sydney, N.S., has given its candidate the most splendid support, and deserves the credit of being one of the most live and enterprising cities in all Canada.

The next important gain is that made by Miss M. Augusta McLeod, of Goderich, who went ahead nearly 55,000 votes during the week, an advance which was very creditable indeed, and gives Miss McLeod a strong hold on second place. Miss McLeod has been a splendid candidate, and her friends have been most loyal in their support. She has now over 200,000 votes, and it will not take her long to reach the quarter of a million mark.

Other important gains have been made as follows: Miss Olive Isaacs, Cobalt, over 18,000; Miss Annie Huestis, Sussex, N.B., 4,000; Miss Minnie B. Wentzel, Denholm, Sask., 5,000; Miss Margaret Campbell, New Waterford, N.S., 13,000; Miss Rhona S. Wright, Montague, P.E.I., 5,000; Miss Violet McKnight, New Liskeard, 7,000; Miss Alice E. Cooper, Richmond Hill, 6,000; Miss Lillian E. Holland, Halifax, N.S., 7,000; Miss Elizabeth Russell, Parry Sound, 5,000; Miss Katharine McDonald, Truro, N.S., 9,000; and others who gained smaller amounts.

#### The standing follows:

Miss Blanche F. Bourque, Sydney, N.S. ....	251,750	Miss Florence Sheehan, St. John, N.B. ....	11,600
Miss M. Augusta McLeod, Goderich, Ont. ....	209,000	Miss Ruth Gregg, New Westminster, B.C. ....	11,500
Miss Olive Isaacs, Cobalt, Ont. ....	189,800	Miss Bessie Wilson, Tillsonburg, Ont. ....	11,500
Miss Esther Downey, Comox P.O., B.C. ....	151,150	Miss Eustella Burke, Ottawa, Ont. ....	11,150
Miss Annie Huestis, Sussex, N.B. ....	112,700	Miss Polly Affleck, Lanark, Ont. ....	10,950
Miss Margaret Campbell, New Waterford, N.S. ....	83,600	Miss Margaret Sutherland, Kingston, Ont. ....	10,950
Miss Minnie B. Wentzel, Denholm, Sask. ....	80,150	Miss Emily Haryett, Edmonton, Alta. ....	10,800
Miss Violet McKnight, New Liskeard, Ont. ....	59,700	Miss Hazel Gillespie, Peterboro, Ont. ....	10,800
Miss Rhona S. Wright, Montague, P.E.I. ....	58,900	Miss Mabel Van Buskirk, Mouth of Jemseg, N.B. ....	10,800
Miss Alice E. Cooper, Richmond Hill, Ont. ....	54,700	Miss Myrtle I. Shaw, Collingwood, Ont. ....	10,750
Miss Lillian E. Holland, Halifax, N.S. ....	42,250	Miss Minnie Dixon, Fort William, Ont. ....	10,550
Miss Cecilia Pepin, Blind River, Ont. ....	40,700	Miss Alice Guilmont, Ottawa, Ont. ....	10,400
Miss Beatrice Booth, Lardo, B.C. ....	37,850	Miss Alice Hamill, Meaford, Ont. ....	10,400
Miss Mary E. Holland, Halifax, N.S. ....	35,500	Miss Kathleen Platt, Toronto ....	10,100
Miss Velma A. M. Welch, Vancouver, B.C. ....	32,900	Miss Lillian L. Pettit, Hamilton, Ont. ....	10,000
Miss Elizabeth Russell, Parry Sound, Ont. ....	28,750	Miss Mary Sumara, Amherst, N.S. ....	10,000
Miss Katherine Macdonald, Truro, N.S. ....	28,200		
Miss Edna Fraser, Canso, N.S. ....	25,500		
Miss Estelle M. Gow, Fergus, Ont. ....	24,450		
Miss Edna McLeod, Cookshire, Que. ....	24,450		
Miss Elsie Cuff, Trenton, Ont. ....	23,300		
Miss Jean Blakney, Sunny Brae, N.B. ....	22,750		
Miss Edna Coutanche, Vancouver, B.C. ....	22,650		
Miss Helen Bryan, Brandon, Man. ....	20,500		
Miss Jennie O'Brien, Athol, N.S. ....	20,100		
Miss Clara Cameron, Minnedosa, Man. ....	18,300		
Miss Vivienne Geldart, St. John, N.B. ....	16,850		
Miss Eva P. Whitman, Baildon P.O., Sask. ....	16,600		
Miss Mabel Christie, Peterboro, Ont. ....	16,500		
Miss Dorris Sneyd, Welland, Ont. ....	16,150		
Miss Helen Barnes, Regina, Sask. ....	15,550		
Miss Ethelne Schleifauf, Iona P.O., Ont. ....	15,400		
Miss George Mary Hunter, Toronto ....	15,000		
Miss Sophie Shriar, Montreal ....	14,900		
Miss Mary Dorcey, Ottawa, Ont. ....	13,500		
Miss Maimie Warner, Goderich, Ont. ....	12,700		
Miss Olivine Giroux, Pembroke, Ont. ....	12,250		
Miss Marie A. Hebert, Theftord Mines, Que. ....	11,850		
Miss Maud Chambers, Sudbury ....	11,850		
Miss Amy Reid, Meaford, Ont. ....	11,650		
Miss Ethel J. Smith, Montreal ....	11,600		

## Ballot No. 17

This ballot is good for 50 votes in the CANADIAN COURIER EDUCATIONAL CONTEST.

For Miss .....

Address .....

if forwarded to the CANADIAN COURIER to be credited in the official standing on or before July 12, 1913.