INKING FUND LOAN

8%

ROPERTY

ER, F.C.

SCHOOL DEBENTURES PURCHASED

to be erected this summer.
ular weekly meeting of the
City Council will be held
ng. To-night's business does
se to be as exciting as past
have been.
r John Ross is making an
of Grandin street school
early part of this week.
estigation of the Harris
ll begin to-morrow morning
rathcona City Council cham-
Judge Scott of the Su-
rt.
iends will regret to learn
J. F. Weir has been taken
rathcona hospital. Mrs.
been ill for some weeks,
a more serious turn some

t important question that
r discussion at the regular
meeting of the Strathcona
Trade yesterday afternoon
roposed high level bridge.
was anxious that the work
ced at the earliest possible
nd steps will be taken at
ertain if possible the cause
y.

Wednesday's Bulletin.)
ball league has been or-
tween teams captained by
Miss Bleakney and Miss
he first two teams played
and the game resulted in a
Miss Bleakney's aggrega-

.T.U. will meet at the home
homas Richards on Friday
at three o'clock.
of the ratepayers of Strath-
ng taken to-day on the by-
nt a franchise to the Mor-
and Oil Co. The general
is that the by-law will
a big majority.
g of the newly organized
ub of the Presbyterian
ll be held on Friday even-
t officers and make other
nts.
brigade was called out at
k yesterday for a fire in
f W. M. Armstrong, Third
th, near Fifth street east.
was badly damaged before
hich originated upstairs,
ut. One of the firemen,
y, was overcome with
collapsed, but soon reviv-
e care of Dr. Archibald.
al took place yesterday of
Mr. McCready, who died on
der exceptionally sad cir-
. She came out from Ire-
weeks ago with her hus-
nine children, and Mr. Mc-
ted a homestead near Tel-
rty miles from Leduc. The
e quarantined in Strath-
g to one of the girls being
scarlet fever, and scarcely
recovered than Mrs. Mc-
tracted pneumonia with ta-

WOMAN DROWNED.

nd, Sask., Has Sad Drowning Fatality.

Head, Sask., May 5—Sun-
a mile south of the town,
cene of a drowning fatality
clock yesterday afternoon,
daughter of Mr. and Mrs.
meeting death there. Miss
was fond of horses, was
a colt. On her return,
ng the high roadway, which
rrier of the big Sunbeam
horse became frightened,
beyond control plunged
0 foot bank into the water,
0 feet deep, dragging with
Boyd, who was caught in
Mr. Newton, who had ac-
Miss Boyd, jumped safely
diately raised an alarm.
's body was not recovered
lf an hour and lie was ex-
was an only child and a
orite in the community.

hese Coolies in Peru.

on, D.C., May 5—The Am-
ernment is in communica-
he government of Peru re-
threatened invasion of
y by Japanese coolies.
tate department is perfect-
n its representations, it is
firm in pointing out that
States can never permit
cement to grow to propor-
might eventually result in
the autonomy of Peru as
South American governing

s Opposed Politically.

May 5—On Saturday Dr.
frey will again receive the
e nomination for West
he legislature, and on the
his brother, John M. God-
nown Toronto barrister, will
ed in the Liberal interests
The two brothers hold ad-
itical views.

ack
Watch
wing Tobacco
and satisfying.
big black plug.
2288

SEMI-WEEKLY

The Edmonton Bulletin.

SEMI-WEEKLY

VOLUME V. EDMONTON, ALBERTA, CANADA, MONDAY, MAY 11, 1908 NUMBER 149

McINNIS HEADS THE BISLEY TEAM

Two Crack Shots From Edmonton District Only Representatives From West on Team.

Ottawa, May 6.—Major Charles Winter, secretary of the Dominion Rifle Association, this afternoon announced the team which will represent Canada at Bisley in July, and which will be under command of Lieut.-Colonel Labelle, of Montreal, and Captain W. C. King, of Bowmanville, adjutant. Corporal D. McInnis, 19th C.M.R., Vancouver; Lieut.-Col. R. J. Shear-Richardson, 48th Highlanders, Toronto; Lieut. T. F. Elmott, 43rd C.O.R., Ottawa; Staff Sergeant H. Kerr, 48th Highlanders, Toronto; Captain W. Hart McHarg, 6th D.C.O.R., Vancouver; Lieut.-Colonel R. J. Shearling, Sherbrooke, P.Q.; Captain C. R. Crowe, 35th Regiment, Guelph, Ont.; Captain T. J. Murphy, 7th Fusiliers, London, Ont.; Color-Sergeant J. Freeborn, 13th Regiment, Hamilton; Lieut. C. D. Spittal, 5th company C.A.S.C., Ottawa; Sergeant F. H. Morris, 46th Regiment, Bowmanville, Ont.; Private A. Steele, 30th Regiment, Guelph, Ont.; Sergeant Major F. W. Utton, R.C.R., Toronto; Armourer Sergeant S. S. Brown, 19th C.M.R., Edmonton; Sergeant V. F. Smith, G.G.B.G., Ottawa; Sergeant-Major D. A. Bethune, 5th Royal Highlanders, Montreal; Private J. Leash, 2nd Regiment Q.O.R., Toronto; Captain M. Hope, R.O., Montreal; Private E. H. Haystead, 63rd Regiment Bedford Basin, N.F. The waiting men who would qualify for a place on the team should any of the first named be unable to go is headed by Armourer Sergeant A. Martin, 15th Light Horse, Calgary.

TOFIELD TAXATION RATE.

Eight Mills on the Dollar—Assessment $241,861.

Tofield, Alta., May 7—The total assessment of the village of Tofield for the year 1908 is $241,861, and the rate of taxation 8 mills on the dollar. Debentures to the amount of $2,000 will be issued shortly to assist in providing for the estimated expenditure in civic improvements this year. At a recent meeting of the council $1,000 was voted for the purchase of a chemical fire fighting apparatus and $500 for the erection of a fire hall. Other amounts have been granted by the thriving G. T. P. town this year are: $100 for wagon and tank for fire brigade, $300 for a second town well and pump, $400 for sidewalks, $200 for village cemetery and a $100 grant to the Tofield board of trade.

The death occurred on Thursday, April 30th, of Allan Law, of Tofield, formerly of Ayrshire, Scotland. He was in the 67th year of his age and leaves a wife and three sons.

Charles Robarge, of Logan, who was well known in Edmonton, died on Wednesday morning last, aged 27 years. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Robarge, of Logan district, near Tofield. The funeral takes place today at 4 p.m.; interment at Logan.

New Immigration Official.

Toronto, May 9.—A resolution asking that the Dominion government appoint an official at Toronto, whose duties it will be to instruct newly arrived Italians in the broad principles of Canadian law, was carried with unanimity and enthusiasm at a mass meeting of natives to-night. The hall was densely crowded with a good natured and orderly, if somewhat demonstrative, assemblage. The chair was occupied by Dr. Smith, Italian consul.

The Manchester House
(Established 1886)

Women's Print and Sateen Wrappers

For Spring we are showing a good line of Women's Print Wrappers, House Dresses and Sateen Wrappers.

1.25 to 3.50

W. Johnstone Walker & Company
267 Jasper Avenue East.

A DRAMATIC SUICIDE.

Miner Tied Stick of Dynamite to Head and Fired it.

Virginia, Minn., May 6—A suicide which rivalled the dramatic death of Ling, one of the Chicago Haymarket anarchists, occurred here today, when John Urin, a young miner tied a stick of dynamite to his head and touched off the explosive. The explosion occurred in the dining room of a boarding house. The man's body was blown to atoms and the room was wrecked. He had called several women in to see him kill himself. When he struck the match the women ran from the room, but one of them was thrown down by the shock of the explosion and severely injured. The young miner had been accused by his room mate of unlawful practices, and it is supposed that brooding over the charge prompted his suicidal act. He spent some time looking for his roommate and it is supposed he intended to kill him also.

THE WORST CRIME OF THE CENTURY

Series of Shocking Murders Revealed by Fire in Home of Indiana Woman.

La Porte, Ind., May 7.—Four other bodies of men dismembered have been dug out of the barnyard of Mrs. Bell Gunness' place on McClung road, brings the total number of victims in this most collossal crime of the new century to thirteen. Coroner Mack said today that after the workmen had dug up the last skeleton, he believed Mrs. Gunness had killed and buried on her premises at least 25 persons. It is now believed that one of the unidentified men was Clie C. Budsperg, a well-to-do business man of Iola, Wis. His three children arrive tomorrow morning and will make an effort to identify the body of their father among the ghastly exhibits in the shed on the Gunness property which has served as a storehouse for the awful fruits of that barnyard garden patch.

One of The Victims.

Budsberg answered one of Mrs. Gunness' advertisements in March, 1907. It is not known exactly when he arrived at the house, for Mrs. Gunness was a secretive woman. Riding her sleigh successfully from the nearest of whom lives nearly a quarter of a mile away. But on March 23rd, 1907, he appeared at La Porte National Bank with Mrs. Gunness and made a draft on the Farmers' State Bank of Iola for $1,000. The money was placed to his credit here March 27th, and on April 6th he drew it out. Mrs. Gunness was with him then also.

More than six months later J. W. Crumpacker, cashier of La Porte National Bank, received a letter from J. C. Swenson, cashier of the Farmers' State Bank of Iola, asking for information concerning Mr. Burgperg. Mr. Crumpacker sent a man to Mrs. Munness' house, and he asked the woman when and where Mr. Budsberg had gone.

"Oh, dear me," exclaimed Mrs. Gunness, who talked to the bank clerk out of the second story window and would not let hi minto the house, "Mr. Budsberg went to Oregon to buy land some time ago. He was only here a week or so and I have not heard from him since he left."

Finds Brother's Body.

When A. Hebglein came from Aberdeen, S.D., on Wednesday and insisted upon digging in the garden patch for his brother Andrew, a wealthy Aberdeen bachelor, who had also harkened to the siren's call, he uncovered a body sewn up in a gunny sack, which he identified as his brother. When the mutilated body of Jennie Olson, aged 18, the adopted daughter of Mrs. Gunness, and the bodies of two unidentified men and an unidentified woman were lifted out of their hiding place, at the same time the thought of Budsperg's disappearance flashed across Mr. Crumpacker's mind.

He telephoned to Iola today and learned that Budsperg is still missing. There was no doubt in the mind of Cashier Swenson that one of those bone piles was once the body of the prosperous and highly respected Iola widower. With the exception of Budsperg, Jennie Olsen and three children of Mrs. Gunness, whose charred corpses were recovered from the ruins of the house after the fire, no identifications have been made.

Confessed to One Murder.

La Porte, Ind., May 7.—The most sensational development today in the series of murders mystery is the report that Ray Lampher confessed during the night to participation in at least one of the many murders perpetrated by Mrs. Bella Gunness, who was burned with her three children in a fire last week, and who is now supposed to have murdered at least 25 persons. In a driving rain today Sheriff Smutzer, Coroner Mack and his assistants have begun the search for more bodies. Six more graves have been marked to be opened.

Government Steamer Sinks.

Montreal, May 9.—The Canadian government steamer Montcalm, which was rammed last night in Quebec harbor by the C.P.R. steamer Milwaukee, sank at her moorings this afternoon. The damage was serious, and will require a whole season for repairs. The Milwaukee proceeded to Montreal, only slightly damaged.

MANUEL CROWNED KING OF PORTUGAL

Youthful Monarch Was Yesterday Acclaimed King Amid Brilliant Assemblage

Lisbon, May 7—With the customary ceremony King Manuel yesterday took an oath to support the constitution and was formally proclaimed sovereign of Portugal and the Portuguese possessions. The route from the palace to the parliament buildings, a distance of two miles, was guarded by soldiers. The king, wearing royal regalia and a crimson velvet mantle, lined with ermine, drove from the palace guarded by a large detachment of cavalry. A great gathering of titled and noble personages, diplomats and other dignitaries were assembled in the chamber of deputies where were placed the crown, sceptre and other royal insignia. A crucifix and missal were laid beside the throne.

Peers and deputies met the king at the entrance of the house and marched in procession to the throne, where he stood holding the missal in his right hand and the sceptre in his left. His majesty pronounced the oath as follows:—

"I swear to maintain the Apostolic Roman Catholic religion and the integrity of the kingdom. I swear to observe and cause to be observed the political constitution of the Portuguese nation and the other laws of the kingdom and to care for the general welfare of the nation, so far as it is in my power."

There was no coronation; indeed the sovereign of Portugal never does the crown which was consecrated to Portugal's patron saint. After taking the oath the king addressed the brilliant assembly, and the president of the house of peers responded. Then the heralds acclaimed "The most high, most powerful and faithful king," and the Opposition leader, Hon. Mr. Mickle, in the legislature declared them the cleanest the province ever had, and Mr. Mickle's only complaint was the heavy expense of the annual revisions, but the Conservatives were unwilling that the expense should interfere with fair play. There were one or two constituencies where the revision time was too short, but he pledged himself this would be remedied.

He charged Mr. Greenway with inconsistency in attacking the residence qualification, and, declaring Mr. Bole's affidavits as not bearing the impress of truth, stated that Rodueski, who signed one of the affidavits, was a criminal who had fled the country. He had queried Hon. R. Rogers, who wired in answer as follows: "Rodueski made by himself and others eight affidavits and sold the same to George Walton, the Liberal organizer, and I have the latter's cheque for $25 in payment of these affidavits. The original will be sent you at Ottawa. Do not lost cheque, as I wish to cash it some day. Insist on Mr. Bole reading the other affidavits for which Rodueski paid. The affidavits by all the parties named will be published to-night or to-morrow to show that the statements by Bole about Rodueski are absolutely false."

COERCION ACT REPEALED.

British House of Commons Revokes Bill of 1887.

London, May 9.—By a vote of 201 to 7 the bill repealing the Coercion Act of 1887 passed its second reading in the House of Commons yesterday. Chief Secretary Birrell strongly supported the measure declaring the Coercion act to be unconstitutional and intolerable and maintained that Ireland as a whole was law-abiding although there was, in certain parts, a spirit of lawlessness which he deplored and said that any attempt to govern Ireland by coercion would be political insanity.

School Building Collapsed.

London, Ont., May 8.—The entire ceiling of a room in St. George's public school collapsed at noon to-day just as about fifty of the pupils were leaving for lunch. Some fifteen or twenty were slightly injured.

GREAT BRITAIN HAS BIG SURPLUS

Premier Asquith Presents Budget Announcing a Surplus of $23,630,000

London, May 7—The budget for the first time in years was presented to the House of Commons this afternoon by Premier Asquith instead of by the chancellor of the exchequer. This departure from precedent is a result of the changes in the cabinet. Mr. Asquith, in his former capacity as chancellor of the exchequer, prepared the budget and it was thought he should himself explain it to parliament. The House was crowded. After commenting on the present stagnant condition of trade throughout the world he announced that Great Britain's realized surplus for 1907-08 amounted to $23,630,000, which would be largely applied to the reduction of the national debt.

The debt, he said, had been reduced by approximately $90,000,000 during the last year, and a further reduction of about $75,000,000 would be effected. Commenting on the differentiation in income tax introduced in the last budget, Mr. Asquith said this had proved practicable, that it had worked easily, that it had removed irregularities, and brought in $9,400,000 more than had been estimated. The new budget reduced the duty on sugar from 4 shillings 2 pence, to 1 shilling 10 pence per hundredweight.

NEW PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE.

Matter Before Alberta Synod Now Comes Up at Vancouver.

Vancouver, May 8.—The question of the new Presbyterian college to be opened next week came before the British Columbia Synod there to-day. Rev. Principal McKay, referring to a hot discussion last week at Edmonton said: "The attitude of Alberta Synod was most cordial and the animation of the discussion last week was due to misapprehension of the resolution." Rev. Dr. Campbell of Victoria went still further. He said: "Now that the assembly did not limit our boundaries in the east, I think we are at perfect liberty to cross the Rockies and invade Alberta. With all due deference to Principal Patrick of Winnipeg he has no right to say how far we shall go. We can perhaps go as far as Brandon and ask Principal Patrick for contributions."

Dr. Campbell declared that he believed the new college would have to be transferred from Vancouver to Victoria, in view of the fact that the provincial university would be established at the capital.

THE AMEER IS LOYAL TO BRITISH CROWN

Says Dr. Winter, Physician to Afghan Court, But He Fears To Excite Antipathy of Populace By Open Demonstration of Loyalty. His Brother Working For His Downfall.

London, May 7.—Dr. Winter, physician to the Ameer of the Afghan court, declares that the Ameer is personally loyal to Britain. He confirms the reports of the intriguing of the Ameer's brother, who is hostile to the British, and scheming for the downfall of his brother, to which end he is working his utmost to excite native prejudices and distrust against the foreigners. The Ameer does not feel strong enough to combat them effectively. Dr. Winter is convinced that the Ameer would long ago have consented to the Anglo-Russian agreement, but he fears the popular antipathy, and is unable to overcome the pressure of Nasrullah Khan. He feels himself practically isolated, and is ill through mental worry. Dr. Winter asserts that large quantities of arms and ammunition have been taken into Afghanistan. When leaving the country, he met a caravan of 500 camels loaded with rifles coming from British India. He did not state whether the importation was war material sanctioned by the Ameer, who is not in the least restricted by the treaty from importing arms.

Is Texas For Bryan?

Galveston, May 7.—A bitter campaign is on against Senator Bailey of this State who is charged with being responsible for a three-cornered division of democracy in Texas and it is predicted among leaders of the State convention either to send the delegation to Denver without instructions or badly split on the Bryan proposition for Democratic presidential nominee. Reports from the county conventions indicate that twenty-eight of them will instruct their delegates of the State convention to vote for Bryan and 20 others elected delegates without instructions.

TO BE SLAUGHTERING BY NEXT SEPTEMBER

Work is Now Being Rushed on the Big Packing Plant East of the City Limits—Agent is Already Purchasing Hogs.

(From Friday's Bulletin.)

Through the courtesy of A. G. Harrison, secretary of the board of trade, representatives of the Bulletin, Journal and Manitoba Free Press had the pleasure yesterday afternoon of a run out by motor car to the big packing plant and surrounding farm territory.

Work is now being rushed on the plant upon which the contractors are working overtime to have finished by the 1st of September and ready for slaughtering operations.

At the present time there are between ninety and a hundred men at work. The brick walls have reached the fourth story and the roof is now being put on the lower part.

Excavations are also in progress at the northeast end for the boiler house upon which work will be started as soon as the cellar is ready.

The installation of the machinery will be begun whenever the interior is ready to receive it.

J. Berkhart, who is in charge, states that he expects nearly twice as many hogs will be raised in the district this year as there were last year. He has already started purchases and secured a car this week. Next week he expects another car from Stoney Plain. These hogs are fed up at the stock yards and are then shipped to Winnipeg for slaughter.

Work on the G. T. P. Grade.

The gangs on the Grand Trunk Pacific are also at work nearby and a 30 foot fill is being made where the line crosses the Fort Saskatchewan trail, a short distance from the packing plant.

The surrounding district presents a busy aspect with two large cart filling machines to each of which ten horses are attached. There are also at work thirty or forty teamsters piling up the big fill.

A new enterprise for Edmonton that is being developed on a continually growing scale is the Klondyke gardens, located on the Fort trail about half a mile from the packing plant. These gardens, which embrace an area of ten acres, were started last year by two gentlemen named Foichat and Fraderiksan, who formerly lived in Dawson City, but came here, the former several years ago and the latter last fall. Foichat is a Frenchman, and Fraderiksan is a Dane.

This season they have a large number of vegetables already well matured in hot houses and it is their intention to get out a big number of plants this season.

IN DISMAY THEY TURN TO ROGERS

Conservatives at Ottawa Taken by the Ears by D. W. Boyle's Bomb.

Ottawa, May 7.—Jas. Conmee (Liberal, Thunder Bay and Rainy River), resumed the debate on the Hon. Mr. Aylesworth's election bill in the House of Commons this afternoon, citing instances where the enumerators appointed by the Ontario government were employed by the government candidates. In another case at Fort William no one was aware that the enumerator was at work at all. History and the records of the courts, he declared, should preclude the opposition from attacking the bill on the ground of past corruption.

Dr. Roche (Conservative Marquette) declared that there was nothing in the bill to minimize the Manitoba and British Columbia grievances, if any existed. Hon. Mr. Greenway's (Liberal, Lisgar) asertions were absolutely unfounded, and were only surpassed by the shameful imputations of D. W. Bole. He challenged Mr. Greenway's statement that some people had travelled hundreds of miles to register. The province was splendidly supplied with registration places, and he declared it impossible to unlawfully get on the lists without commiting perjury.

John Crawford (Liberal, Portage la Prairie), asked about the three men at Morrie.

Dr. Roche replied that the names were put on the wrong form, but the judge ordered the names put on, declaring that no mere technicality should stand in the way of their being allowed to vote. No complaints had been made in the legislature as to the way the lists were prepared, and the Opposition leader, Hon. Mr. Mickle, in the legislature declared them the cleanest the province ever had, and Mr. Mickle's only complaint was the heavy expense of the annual revisions, but the Conservatives were unwilling that the expense should interfere with fair play. There were one or two constituencies where the revision time was too short, but he pledged himself this would be remedied.

He charged Mr. Greenway with inconsistency in attacking the residence qualification, and, declaring Mr. Bole's affidavits as not bearing the impress of truth, stated that Rodueski, who signed one of the affidavits, was a criminal who had fled the country. He had queried Hon. R. Rogers, who wired in answer as follows: "Rodueski made by himself and others eight affidavits and sold the same to George Walton, the Liberal organizer, and I have the latter's cheque for $25 in payment of these affidavits. The original will be sent you at Ottawa. Do not lost cheque, as I wish to cash it some day. Insist on Mr. Bole reading the other affidavits for which Rodueski paid. The affidavits by all the parties named will be published to-night or to-morrow to show that the statements by Bole about Rodueski are absolutely false."

GOVERNMENT WILL CONTROL ELEVATORS

Clause Will Be Incorporated In Bill Amending Grain Inspection Act Providing For Government Inspection of Interior and Terminal Elevators.

Ottawa, Ont., May 7.—The government measure to amend the Grain Inspection Act, which will be introduced in the Senate shortly by Sir Richard Cartwright will, it i sunderstood, provide for an important change in the present system not incorporated among the amendments to act suggested by the report presented to parliament by the Royal Commission on the Grain Trade of Canada. It is the intention of the sub-committee, now considering the final draft of the bill and the recommendations proposed by the Western Grain Growers' Associations and others, to incorporate a clause providing for adequate government inspection of all interior and terminal elevators thereby bringing them all under government control and remedying the chief complaints now arising out of private ownership and operation.

It is also understood that a clause will be put in the bill providing for the selling of grain by sample instead of by grade only according to the present system. T his is along the lines of the request of many farmers in the west and is the system now in vogue in Minneapolis and other milling centres. By this arrangement the farmers will, it is expected, be able to get better prices for their grain required for milling purposes in the west in view of the fact that a considerable portion of the grain which, though it might grade only No. 2 Northern, is practically equal to No. 1 for milling purposes.

60th Anniversary of Accession.

Vienna, May 7—Emperor Francis Joseph today celebrated his sixtieth year accession to the throne. Many royal visitors are here. Among those extending congratulations are Emperor William and the royalties of half a dozen other European countries.

Tupper Not a Candidate.

Vancouver, B.C., May 7.—Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper has announced that he will not be a candidate for Conservative nomination in Vancouver.

MURDERER STILL AT LARGE.

Moir Is Heading For the Border — At Humberstone.

Welland, May 6.—Moir, the murderer, was seen at Humberstone on Monday morning. He entered the post office store and purchased a loaf of bread and three cents worth of butter and passed out quickly. The postmaster thought the circumstances suspicious but did not think of Moir until shown a picture by a policeman. This confirms the report that Moir was in Dunnville, twenty miles west, on Saturday night. It is plain that he is moving towards the border All trains are being searched at Niagara.

Ald. Moodie Victimized.

Calgary, May 6.—J. S. Cole, a theatrical man, is held by the police accused of defrauding Ald. Moodie out of three hundred dollars by means of a fraudulent check drawn on a bank in Portland Oregon.

RADICAL CHANGES IN CIVIL SERVICE

Merit Alone Will Advance Civil Servants in Future—New System of Examination

Ottawa, May 9—The bill amending the Civil Service act will probably be ready for submission to parliament next week. It is understood that one of the most important of the new features will be the elimination of the present system of annual statutory increases. In stead of the arrangement which has hitherto existed whereby all employees on the permanent staff get regular yearly increases until the maximum for their class is reached the government proposes that hereafter increases shall only be granted each year on the recommendation of the deputy ministers.

Thus the business-like principle will be adopted of rewarding the civil service employees on the basis of merit alone, and the drones in the service will have to be content with the minimum amount allowed for their respective classes. It is also the intention to reclassify the whole service and it is stated that the present intention is to divide the service into two main classes which may be designated as an administrative class and a clerical writer class. In the former will be included all officials who hold responsible positions requiring the exercise of executive ability and the oversight of various departments or branches. The clerical class will, as the term suggests, include the greater body of the service who are employed principally in doing clerical work under the supervision of the higher officials.

Will Re-Classify Employees.

One of the chief difficulties now before the government in the matter of making a final draft of the bill is in connection with the classification of those now in the civil service list under these respective divisions. It is understood that the minimum salary now allowed in the different classes of the service will be increased under the new act and that the increase in the total expenditure for salaries will hereafter be considerably offset by the fact that only a portion of the total number of employees will get the regular yearly increases now granted.

Another feature of the bill which tends to put the whole service on a more business-like basis will be the appointment of all new members of the permanent staff by competitive examinations, under the direction of an independent and entirely non-partisan commission according to the system that now prevails in Great Britain. It is further understood that these appointments will be at first only temporary, pending proof being shown that the appointee is able to do the work required satisfactorily. Arrangements are being made by the minister of agriculture to largely extend the work of the bureau of census and statistics by including a uniform system of gathering crop statistics from all over the Dominion.

New System for Crop Returns.

Hitherto the federal department of agriculture in gathering statistics of this kind has been obliged to rely principally on information furnished by the provincial authorities. In some instances it has been found that the provincial returns have not been very reliable, and have not coincided with the information furnished the department by federal officials. The need of accurate statistics reporting crops, etc., covering the whole Dominion is manifest.

It is believed that by the extension of the system now pursued in connection with the fruit branch, the work required can be done with but very little additional expense. The fruit branch now has correspondents all over the Dominion who send in reports to Ottawa without being paid any salary. Therefore, the department is now engaged in selecting correspondents in various parts of the Dominion from whom at various intervals reports may be received on any subject that may be desirable in connection with the agricultural interests of the country.

Bad Fire in Atlanta.

Atlanta, Ga., May 8.—The most disastrous fire in the history of the city started at four o'clock this morning in the Schlessinger candy factory and threatened to destroy the entire business section The fire was reported under control but the only building left standing in the block is the old Masonic Temple. The loss is a million and a half.

PRAIRIE FIRES RAGED FIERCELY

Battleford Scene of Worst Fire in Years—Rain Stays Progress of Flames Here.

(From Saturday's Bulletin.)

Many prairie fires raged throughout the west on Thursday, until the welcome rain of yesterday effectively stayed the devastating flames. In the Sturgeon district, so fierce was the fire that it jumped the river, at a point where the stream is 100 feet wide. Along the branches of the C. & E. line, in the district around Ponoka and Lacombe, considerable damage was done. On the C.N.R., the damage in the various districts was serious.

Worst in History of Section.

North Battleford, Sask., May 9.—Reports coming in today show that one of the worst fires ever known in this section has been raging for the last three days around North Battleford for a radius of 75 to 100 miles. The Eagle Hills are completely burned from end to end, and the homesteamds and mounted police have had a very hard time to save the property of the farmers. Yesterday another terrible fire on the south of the Saskatchewan River came raging from about forty miles east of here, and for a while threatened to burn the government buildings on the Battle River, but by the combined efforts of the citizens and mounted police of Battleford no loss was reported. Last night another fire, originated several miles north of the Saskatchewan River and threatened the north town, but was fought down by the modnted police and citizens when within three miles away. At this time the towns of Battleford and North Battleford were both surrounded by a mass of flames ranging from eight to five miles distant, and the wind was blowing 50 to 60 miles an hour. Today there is nothing left but the burnt prairies, with a few homestead shacks showing white on the distant hills. As yet no loss of life or stock is reported. Rain is very badly needed.

Fire at Vegreville.

Vegreville, May 9.—At Vegreville, with the wind blowing at the rate of 75 or 80 miles an hour, a prairie fire came up from the south-east and swept everything before it. The whole town turned out, and by heroic work prevented any damage being done in the town. Thompson Brothers' slaughter-house, about two miles out, was destroyed. The fire is still raging north-east of the town.

Bush Fires at Landing.

Athabasca Landing, May 9.—The home of Adelaid Major, a farmer residing fourteen miles of Athabasca Landing at Baptiste Lake, was completely destroyed by fire yesterday together with all the household effects, and the family barely escaped with their lives. The house caught fire from huge bush fires which have been raging in the vicinity of the Landing for some time. Fanned by the high winds of the past few days, these bush fires have spread over a large area, and the great heat and clouds of smoke from the fire make it impossible to check their progress. Yesterday the wind carried the flames so rapidly that Major's house was burning almost before the inmates were aware that the fire had come so close. The family barely escaped with their lives, and the house and contents is a total loss.

W. H. Stephen, of Strathcona, Dominion fire ranger, has gone north to take steps to check these bush fires if possible.

Loss in New Lunnon.

Wm. Hutchings, of New Lunnon, lost his house, stable and granaries by fire. The loss includes three valuable horses. Over $2,000 worth has been lost. The fire jumped the Sturgeon river, fully one hundred yards, at the Crow's Nest, and burned out Alex. Lewis at noon on Thursday. The settlers in this district fought the fire all Thursday night.

Word has been received that a fire at Namao on Thursday destroyed the premises owned by J. A. Carson, of Edmonton, and occupied by C. H. Webber, a well known auctioneer. The origin is not known. It is supposed to have started from sparks from a chimney. Two granaries, drive shed, an implement house and cow shed and farming implements were burned. The house and big stable were soved with the aid of neighbors. Webber lost $1,000 worth of grain, 30 tons of green feed, and all his hay except one stack. Carson's loss is $500, with some insurance. Webber's loss is practically entire, with no insurance.

What is Happening in Kabul?

London, May 9.—A correspondent of the Daily Mail, telegraphing from Peshawur, says it is imposible to get news from Kabul. The Ameer has his own post office in Peshawur, but instead of the customary correspondence both ways, not a letter is now passing. The position in Kabul is mysterious. It may be tragic. Peshawur is full of rumors of murder and chaos in Kabul.

Automobile Causes Death.

Winnipeg, May 9.—Mrs. Gilbert Johnston, one of the oldest inhabitants of this district, was returning home on the Springfield road, when the horse was frightened by the approaching automobile and got beyond Mr. Johnston's control. Mrs. Johnston was thrown from the carriage, and removed to St. Boniface hospital, where she died later.