SUPPLEMENT

London Advertiser

SECTION TWO

THE ADVERTISER, LONDON, ONTARIO, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1904. PRICE TWO CENTS.

JAPS THREATEN RUSSIAN FLANKS

Large Forces Moving to Fresh Attack on Kuropatkin

CZAR'S LOSS IN GUNS IS 133

Sensational Rumor in Europe That Japan and Russia Are to Form an Alliance.

London, Sept. 17.—The Daily Telegraph's correspondent declares that a Russian statesman, whose name if revealed, would wing his utterance with lightning rapidity over the globe, asserted Friday that it was his impression that the war might end sooner than people imagine, not through mediation, but through mutual recognition of the ruinous nature of the conflict, which would lead to negotiations that would result in a Russo-Japanese alliance. He contends, the correspondent says, that although Russia in the end could exhaust and crush Japan, yet Japan could hold out long enough to place an intolerable and useless strain upon Russia. Russia, therefore, was confronted with the alternative either of Japanese ruin purchased by ruinous sacrifices, or of a cordial friendship followed in the fullness of time by that offensive and defensive alliance which for years constituted the ideal of the Japanese Government.

More Fighting at Hand.

St. Petersburg, Sept. 16, 5:35 p.m. — The Associated Press dispatch from Mukden announcing that, according to information from Chinese sources, the Japanese are leaving a garrison at Liao Yang, and their main forces are moving out on the Russian flanks, is partially confirmed by the dispatch from Gen. Kuropatkin, reporting that the Japanese are massing on the Russian flanks, that a large force is concentrating at Bentsiaputze, 20 miles southeast of Mukden, and that another force, whose strength has not been established, is moving up the Liao Valley. But the greater part of Field Marshal Oyama's army is still near Yentai, encamped along the heights between the mines and the railroad. While the war office does not expect an immediate advance, the preliminary dispositions of the Japanese forces are taken to indicate that the Japanese intend, when they advance, to strike from the eastward, they seem to be avoiding the territory west of the Liao River, possibly because it is flat, and would give the Russians the advantage of their superiority in cavalry. Chinese residents fleeing to Mukden complain that the Japanese are pillaging Liao Yang.

Gen. Sakharoff telegraphs a formal denial of several of Oyama's statements. He says the alleged dum dum bullets found at Liao Yang are simply the regular square-nosed bullets of the service revolver. They are of the same caliber as the Russian rifle of 1891, and the bullets are all lead, are not jacketed, and are in no wise dum dums. The general also denies the statement that the Japanese captured a large quantity of ammunition. He says they obtained possession only of a few boxes of empty cartridge shells, and says it is not true that the Russian rolling stock fell into the hands of the Japanese. Only two old trucks, he adds, were left on a siding.

Paris, Sept. 17.—Exact figures of the Russian losses in killed, wounded and missing in the operations before Liao Yang, from Aug. 13 to Aug. 26, have been received by the general staff, according to the Journal's St. Petersburg correspondent. These amount to two generals, 256 officers and 21,800 soldiers. In addition 133 guns were lost. The material losses include fortifications costing $30,000,000.

St. Petersburg, Sept. 17, 2:25 a.m. — The war office has heard the report of an apparent Japanese concentration against the flanks of General Kuropatkin's army, preparatory to an advance toward Mukden. While it is not in a position to absolutely confirm or deny the report, it would surprise the war office should Field Marshal Oyama have been able in so short a time to organize his forces for a serious advance northwards.

St. Petersburg, Sept. 17.—A dispatch from Mukden says the Russian patrols, up to the present time have repulsed all Japanese outpost attacks, and that communications with Sinmintin have not been interrupted. Practically all the Russian stragglers, according to this dispatch, have arrived at Mukden. General Samsonoff has been promoted to the rank of general of division. It is announced that the Circum-Baikal railway will be opened at the end of September.

The Sacred Tombs.

Under date of Sept. 14, the Daily Mail's correspondent at Mukden telegraphs as follows: "On instructions from Pekin the Chinese governor has made representations politely requesting both armies not to fight at Mukden, owing to the danger of the demolition of sacred tombs. No response has been received."

The Daily Mail's correspondent at Shanghai reports that the Japanese scheme to raise a first national army of men from 32 to 40 years of age, the majority of whom have previously served with the colors, will provide a total strength of 120,000 men, who will be ready for service within a month.

SHOCK KILLS AT 3 MILES

Picks Up Telegraph Wire Crossed at Distant Village.

Greenwich, Conn., Sept. 17.—Abbie Merrit, daughter of Joseph Merrit, of Clapboard Ridge, was instantly killed by a live wire while on her way to school this morning. She and her younger sister espied lying in the road a telegraph wire which had been broken in last night's storm. She grasped it, and with a scream fell to the gound. Her sister grasped her and also fell, but in falling released her hold. It is believed electric light wires in the village three miles away had crossed the telegraph wire and made it deadly.

Abbie died before she could be removed to her home, but her sister will recover, Dr. Burke declares, although she was badly burned.

A SOUTHERN FEUD

Bloody Family War in Progress in State of Florida.

Jacksonville, Fla., Sept. 17. — After two days of quiet in the country near Baxter, an attack was made late on Thursday night on a posse which was guarding the home of Wm. Baker, one of the participants in the alleged Duncan-Altman feud. One of the members, Ellis Dowling, was killed, and several were wounded. Deputy Sheriff Thrift, in charge of the posse, was wounded. A company of state militia has departed for Baxter. It appears that the posse, in the attempt to prevent further bloodshed, was resting on its arms over Duncan's store, when they heard the mob approaching along the railroad track. Deputy Sheriff Thrift thrust his head out of the window and was slightly wounded. He then led his force outside to repulse the mob. The mob then retired to the home of the Altman brothers, where, it is said, they are preparing to resist all attempts to arrest the Altmans.

SENT OUT BY FRANCE

Delegation of Workmen Go to St. Louis and Come Here.

Paris, Sept. 17. — A delegation of French workingmen sent at the Government's expense sails for New York tomorrow, on its way to St. Louis. The industries represented are the manufacture of cotton, musical instruments, shoes, hats, machinery, tools, and railway supplies. Experts in commercial affairs, and in mail distribution, and the head of the national labor organizations, M. Brulsson and Rousseau, accompany the party, which, after visiting New York, will go to other American cities and to Canada.

HAMILTON MYSTERY SOLVED

Man Supposed to Have Gone Over Falls Turns Up.

Hamilton, Sept. 17. — The mystery in connection with the disappearance of Benjamin Walling, the superintendent of St. Luke's Sunday school, and a prominent churchman, who caused a sensation by dropping out of sight after dismissing his class on Sunday afternoon last, has been cleared up, and Walling is back home. The police on Tuesday discovered that he bought a ticket to Niagara Falls on Sunday, and his brother went there to see if there was any truth in the rumor that his body went over the falls, and found him at an hotel. His excuse for his strange actions was that he intended going to Pittsburg, and stayed off a few days at the Falls. He did not tell his wife for fear she might object. He claims to have sent her a note on Monday, but she never received it.

RUSSIA GIVES IN TO PROTESTS

Foodstuffs and Fuel Conditionally Contraband

AS HELD BY GREAT BRITAIN

All Cargoes Addressed to Private Persons To Be Exempt From Confiscation.

St. Petersburg, Sept. 17.—7:26 p.m.—Russia has given her answer to the American and British notes on the subject of contraband of war. Her answer was communicated to British Ambassador Hardinge, this afternoon varbally by Foreign Minister Lamsdorff and bears out the predictions on the subject of the Associated Press. The ambassador was informed in effect that according to the decision of the commission which has investigated the subject the Government has agreed to view as of a conditionally contraband character foodstuffs and fuel and that supplementary instruction had been issued to the Russian naval commanders and prize courts, calling their attention to the misinterpretation, which had been placed upon the prize regulations. These instructions, Sir Charles Hardinge was informed, make a clear distinction between the articles enumerated in Article 6 of the Russian prize regulations, which are susceptible to dual use, like fuel and foodstuffs, the assumption being that if they are addressed to private persons or firms in an enemy's port they are not intended for warlike uses; but their innocent character may be subject to suspicion if the ship's papers and the circumstances are. In effect, the new instructions will place the burden of proof that the foodstuffs, etc., are designed for belligerent purposes upon the captor.

The new instructions will involve a reversal of the judgment of the Vladivostock prize court by the admiralty court in the case of the provisions confiscated.

A direct answer to the American note is expected tomorrow.

Port Stanley Toll Road.

Toronto, Sept. 17.—Mr. Justice Anglin today granted an injunction reserving the County of Elgin from interfering in any way with the London and Port Stanley toll road, either by improving it or interfering with the controller management of the present owner, Mr. Roberts. The court granted an injunction until Sept. 22.

A FEAT OF INGENUITY—JAPANESE GETTING ARTILLERY INTO POSITION AT LIEN SHAN KWAN.

The scene as laid on the watershed between the tributaries of the Liao River and those of the Yalu. On these almost inaccessible crests the Russians had a strong position of forty guns, but the Japanese found a way through the mountain passes and got entire command of the Muscovite post, causing the Russians to evacuate it without firing a gun.

HUNG BY HIS SPUR

Toronto Lineman Has a Marvelous Escape From Death.

Toronto, Sept. 16. — James Tebbit, of 34 Sydenham street, a lineman in the employ of the Toronto Electric Light Company, had a remarkable escape from death while stringing wires in Crescent road, Rosedale, this morning. As it is, he is in the general hospital suffering from a badly burned hand and thigh.

While on a pole thirty feet from the ground he brushed against a live wire. Then he fell, but one of his spurs caught another wire lower down, and there he hung, unconscious. A fellow lineman went to his assistance, and with a rope lowered him to the ground.

Though escaping the fall, he had received the full strength of the electric current of 2,200 volts.

He came to before reaching the hospital, and, it is said, will be as well as ever soon. He is a married man, aged 31.

C. P. R. Boilermakers Out.

Winnipeg, Man., Sept. 16.—The boilermakers on the C. P. R. lines between Fort William and Victoria went on strike at 11 a.m. today for a new scale. About 150 men are out here.

A UNIQUE SUIT

Woman Sues Widow for Husband's Breach of Promise.

Scranton, Pa., Sept. 17.—A unique suit was begun today in the federal court in this city by Miss Amy Wegner, of New York, to recover $50,000 from the estate of the late J. Marshall Funck, who died in Lebanon, Pa., on July 7, 1903.

The suit is directed against Funck's widow and executrix, Mrs. Lizzie Funck, of Lebanon, and damages are asked on the ground that the deceased failed to keep his promise to marry Miss Wegner. In the bill it is alleged that Miss Wegner and Funck were engaged to be married and that at divers times between November, 1897, and February, 1899, the plaintiff agreed to marry the man.

She was at all times willing to carry out her part in the agreement until she learned that he had a wife living from whom he had not been divorced. She says she was "defrauded and cheated with deceitful intent."

Mason and May.

London, Sept. 17.—A. E. W. Mason, author of "Miranda of the Balcony" and "The Three Feathers," who, it is believed, is engaged to marry Edna May, is a passenger on the American liner New York.

EDMONTON'S FUTURE

Mr. Blair Says It Will Be a Great Railroad Center.

Edmonton, N. W. T., Sept. 17.—Hon. A. G. Blair says: "We have traveled over a great part of the Dominion. In no place is the outlook more promising than at Edmonton. Edmonton is bound to be a great railway center. There is no doubt of it. The C. P. R. is near here, and I hope to see it enter Edmonton in the near future. The C. N. R. is fast approaching, and the G. T. P. is bound to build both to and beyond here. These are not the only railways. There will be others running north, east and west, and all will be centered in Edmonton. I belive the town is on the threshold of great development."

BLENHEIM LICENSES

Hotelkeepers Take Case to Courts to Compel Their Issue.

Toronto, Sept. 16.—Three Blenheim hotelkeepers, Messrs. Shaw, Tait and Young, through E. F. B. Johnston, K.C., applied to Justice Magee today for a mandamus to compel the license commissioners to issue licenses. The town carried a local option bylaw, but the town council, on a charge of fraud, refused to give this a third reading. The hotelkeepers contend that the commissioners are prompted by prejudice in refusing licenses.

MEMBER FOR SOO DISQUALIFIED

Judges in Election Trial Declare Seat Vacant.

CROSS-PETITION IS DISMISSED

Decision of the Court Based on the Famous Trip of the Minnie M.

Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., Sept. 16.—The trial of the election petition, asking for vacation of the seat and disqualification of C. N. Smith, member of the Legislature for Sault Ste. Marie, was decided today. Since Tuesday the case has been steadily going on, important evidence in relation to charges of personation, bribery and buying of votes being brought out by the counsel for petitioners. The trial has been followed with great interest by citizens of the Soo and the country generally. Decision was given tonight by his Lordship Chancellor Boyd, declaring the seat vacant, and costs to be paid by respondent. The main charge which led to this decision was the now celebrated Minnie M. trip to Michipicoten with a party of personators.

One sensation of the trial was in connection with an important figure in this charge. The employment agent who procured the men for the party, one P. J. Galvin, of the American Soo, was proven to have paid witnesses money to stay away from trial. For contempt of court he was fined $100 and costs.

In his remarks before making his decision, the chancellor said he deplored the existence of impurity of political practices. Though there ought to be some change in the election law to make men more particular how they vote, he favored a suggestion of the counsel for respondent, G. H. Watson, K. C., of Toronto, which suggested compulsory voting.

Chancellor Boyd evoked applause by his closing remarks that "men should rise to the dignity of men, of Canadians, and then we shall have a country worthly to live in."

Justice Teetzel concurred in the remarks of his learned brother.

The cross-petition against Mr. Miscampbell, the Conservative candidate, was dismissed without costs on account of the fact that the judges wished to get away tomorrow, and unless matters were all settled up, it would likely linger on until later in the year.

MAJOR MOODIE GIVEN HIS ORDERS

Will Patrol Hudson Bay and Administer the Laws of the Dominion.

Ottawa, Ont., Sept. 17.—The instructions given by the Government to Major Moodie, who returns by the cruiser Arctic to maintain Canadian authority in Hudson Bay, are very brief and pointed:

"As you are already aware the letter says the object of the expedition is to explore and patrol Hudson Bay and the islands and waters north thereof, and to administer and enforce the laws of Canada therein until otherwise ordered. The route of the vessel is limited to Hudson Bay, Hudson Straits, Davis Straits, Baffin's Bay, Smith's Sound, Kennedy Channel, Lancaster Sound, and other bays and channels on the west coast of Hudson Bay, Davis Strait, or Baffin's Bay. The first duty of the expedition will be to impress upon the captains of trading and whaling vesssels and natives that after a reasonable notice and warning laws will be enforced as in other parts of Canada.

A Close Call.

Victoria, B. C., Sept. 17.—It is reported that the Dominion Government steamer Quadra, when on her trip from Port Simpson to Victoria with the members of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company aboard, struck a submereged rock on the east side of Vancouver Island, and that she was on the rock for six hours before the rising tide took her off. Members of the crew say it was a very close call.

BUFFALO YARN BADLY SHAKEN

The Testimony of Nelson Was Flatly Contradicted.

DENIED BY RELIABLE PERSONS

The Star Witness of the Conservatives at North Perth Trial Becomes Badly Confused.

Owen Sound, Sept. 16.—When the North Perth election trial was continued today, R. T. Harding, of Stratford, was called in connection with the Nelson charges. Witness said he had never seen Nelson before. Nelson's story that he had reported either verbally or by letter to witness was entirely untrue. The names that Nelson swore he had reported as likely to be purchasable were J. Campbell, Donald Campbell, and J. Calder, and witness said they were men of high principle, and it would be impossible to buy them. Mr. Patterson repeated the questions to witness, and Harding retorted warmly that when he came upstairs this morning Mr. Wright was on the outlook for him as he came up the stairs, and as Mr. McEvoy greeted him by name, Mr. Wright pointed witness out to Nelson.

W. M. O'Beirne, editor of the Stratford Beacon, was also called, and denied ever having met Nelson before. He never received any report, either verbally or by letter, concerning the parties referred to.

A Wright was recalled, and denied having pointed out Harding to Nelson, and stated that he did not know Harding and O'Beirne when they came up, and asked Nelson which was Harding. Nelson said it was the taller of the two.

Mr. Aylesworth challenged the statement of witness, and said: "Did you not point out Mr. Harding in my presence?"

Witness replied—I did not, and if you say I did, you are wrong."

Mr. Aylesworth—I am not in the witness box, unfortunately, and must accept your statement.

James T. Nelson was recalled, and questioned by Mr. Aylesworth as to how he had come to Owen Sound, in view of the Grand Trunk running trains. Witness was confused, and said he must have left Stratford on the day previous to the day he had given in his evidence. Witness said he saw Cap Sullivan in town last night.

The somewhat famous Graham episode was then opened up, in which Lewis Graham, of Brooke, charges that an agent of Mr. McKay came to his house about midnight shortly before the election and gave witness $25 to influence four votes in his house in the Liberal direction. The story was widely circulated in the press at the time of the alleged affair and witness had kept the alleged details well in hand by means of an affidavit. Nevertheless, Mr. Aylesworth pointed out a number of discrepancies between the affidavit and the evidence, and also a number of additions to the former and omissions from the latter. Graham's four sons, Victor, Peter, Amanzo and Arthur, were also sworn to add strength to the story, but with very indifferent success. Leonard Morris, a relative of Graham, swore that Graham had told him that he (Graham) had got four times as much money back as the $25 he had handed over to H. G. Tucker. Robert Hutton, a witness, who was wanted by Mr. Aylesworth, was not present, and some time was spent in waiting for him to close up the charge, but he did not appear.

Before adjournment counsel argued briefly on the merits of their respective cases, and Mr. Blackstock inquired of the judges how long they could devote to hearing the protest.

Chief Justice Moss replied that they could remain all day Saturday if the case could be finished then. They had engagements for two weeks following.

Mr. Blackstock did not think the evidence for the petitioner could all be heard before Saturday night.

Mr. Aylesworth said he was quite hopeful that the case could be concluded by Saturday night and believed there would be something very definite in sight before 24 hours had expired.

At 6 o'clock court rose until 9:30 today.

ANOTHER NIAGARA FOR LAKE ERIE

But It Will Be 3,500 Years in the Making, Says Professor Gilbert.

Niagara Falls, N. Y., Sept. 17.—The International Geographic Congress met here yesterday. Commander Robert Peary, of the United States navy, called the delegates to order and introduced the principal speaker, Prof. Gerove Karl Gilbert, of Brooklyn. Prof. Gilbert spoke on the formation of Niagara Falls and the gorge. He deprecated the use of the great water power of Niagara for untilitarian purposes, and expressed the hope that the natural beauty of the great cataract would ever be saved. Prof. Gilbert's address was technical, but many things he said were of general interest. The American falls, he said, have receded much more slowly because there is no depth of water at the base of the fall. A picture taken of the Horshoe fall in 1827 was shown. There has been a remarkable recession in 75 years. At the end of the glacial period, he said, the land was tilted as a result of the retreat of the ice. If this tilting contiues Lake Erie will, in the course of time, find another Niagara, and Niagara River will be dry. This change would be wrought in posibly 3,500 years. The congress meets every five years, and the first session of the present congress was held in Washington. The scientists left for Chicago, where another meeting will be held. From there they will go to St. Louis, where another session at the Exposition takes place.

WILL APPEAL TO POWERS

Armenian Patriarch to Ask Christian World for Help.

London, Sept. 17.—A mission appointed by the supreme patriarch of the Armenian Church to visit the chief representatives of the great powers and appeal to them to compel the Sultan of Turkey to establish and preserve order and tranquility in Armenia will sail for New York tomorrow to present to President Roosevelt a letter from the supreme patriarch of the Armenian Church in behalf of the Armenians.

MAY BE FROZEN IN

But a Few Weeks Left for Arctic to Make Hudson's Bay.

St. Johns, Nfld., Sept. 17.—Experienced Arctic navigators here doubt if the Canadian expeditionary steamer Arctic, now seeking a captain and mate here, will be able to reach her winter quarters before the inlets freeze over and navigation closes. Last fall the steamer Neptune, having on board Canada's first expedition, which is now in Hudson Bay, was frozen fast in Fullerton Harbor, her winter quarters, on October 17. It is not believed that the Arctic, which has only the speed and power of the Neptune, can reach Fullerton Harbor within a month.

THINKS WITCHES HAUNT CHILDREN

The Peculiar Delusion That Sways a Windsor Woman

WHIPS TO DRIVE THEM OUT

Believes by This Means She Chased One Witch From Child Into a Rabbit.

Windsor, Sept. 16.—Tormented by the belief that witches haunt her home and possess her three little children, Mrs. Charles Van Comberg, of 536 McClellan avenue, is a pitiful example of the mental slavery which comes with superstition. Worse still, the neighbors have been forced to complain to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children because of her alleged cruelty to her offspring.

The family is made up of Mr. Van Comberg, who has worked at the Ideal Manufacturing Company's plant for some time, and of his wife and three children—Mary, aged 5; Christina, aged 3, and Alice, who is about 15 months old. According to the statements of neighbors, made to Attorney Hill, the woman has been in the habit of beating her oldest child about the head with clubs, brooms, or with anything that might come handy. Often she has knocked her down and has pushed her into the street, it is said. Though no one has seen the other children ill-treated, shrill cries, apparently produced from fright and pain, have been heard coming from the house.

"She admited today that she whips all the children," said Mr. Hill. "She told me that they are possessed of witches and that the only way to get rid of them is to pound them out.

"I'll get rid of the witches if I have to kill the child," she is said to have told the attorney, referring to little Mary.

"I found that Christina, the 3-year-old, for some time was at the point of death from brain fever and spinal trouble," said Mr. Hill. "The woman believes that the witches prevent the baby from getting well.

"A week ago she informed one of the neighbors that the witch was finally ejected from Christina, and that it had gone into a rabbit. The rabbit afterward died, and Mrs. Van Comberg believes that particular witch has departed forever. Some time ago one of the neighbors gave the little girl a red ribbon and her mother immediately discovered an increase in the malignant influence. This called for increased whippings."

Mrs. Van Comberg refused to allow Mr. Hill inside the house and she would not permit him to see Mary, the oldest girl, in whose behalf the complaint was chiefly made. She said that the child was nervous, was afraid of every one, and would run and hide if a stranger appeared.

When two visitors called at the home last evening they had no better success at obtaining entrance. The father and mother, Mary and little Alice were, however, in plain sight through the screen.

"I let no strangers in the house after dark," said Mrs. Van Comberg, peering out at her callers. "Last spring I let some people in and they brought witches with them."

"Are your children possessed by witches?"

The woman glared from under her disheveled hair.

"Who are you? What do you want to know for?" she demanded.

"I don't want any more doctors here. I won't have them in the house; they do more harm than good."

Assured that the questioner was no doctor, Mrs. Van Comberg became quieter.

"Yes," she said, "the children are bothered with witches, though I don't know why. One night Mary was playing on the bed with her father, and all of a sudden she began to cry out that the pillow had hurt her. I was afraid and I kept the children in all the next day. But towards night Christina began to cry out that someone was sticking pricks in her hand, and then her back twisted all up crooked. I was frightened and sent for the priest. He told me to pray, and now we pray all the time. Yet the children are no better.

Attorney Hill told Mrs. Van Comberg that the whippings must cease, and that in the event of their not being stopped the children will be taken away from her. The babies appear to be as innocent as most children and not at all unruly.

The Van Comberg family are Belgians, and the man and woman are perhaps 30 to 35 years of age.

RAILWAYS TO PAY TWO MILLIONS

Ontario Taxation Commission Has Informal Talk.

RAILWAY LAWYERS PRESENT

A Discussive Conversation on the Inequalities Between Basis of Taxation in Ontario and States.

Toronto, Sept. 16.—After a discussive discussion on the subject of railway taxation between Mr. Pettypiece's commission and representatives of the Ontario railways at the Parliament buildings this morning, the chairman caused a sensation by saying that the railways might as well make up their minds to pay $2,000,000 a year in taxes.

Mr. Nichol Kingsmill, representing the Canada Southern and the Michigan Central, opined that not all the railways in Ontario earned $2,000,000 a year, a point which Mr. Pettypiece combated strongly.

Mr. Kingsmill said that such taxation would be nothing less than robbery.

Mr. Pettypiece pointed out that the Michigan Central paid a tax of $1,700 a mile in the State of Michigan, which Mr. Kingsmill said was also robbery, it was far too much.

Prof. Shortt said that the chairman was trying to scare the railway men.

The entire discussion was an informal one, and the railway representatives said that they were willing to pay their fair share of taxation but no more. It was agreed between both parties that it was impossible to establish a perfectly equitable system.

The commissioners said that a vast amount of information had been secured from eleven states, and no two of the states had the same system of taxation. The basis was $1,800 a mile in Illinois, $800 in Indiana, $1,700 in Michigan, while in Canada the maximum was not over $50 a mile.

Mr. I. F. Hellmuth, representing the Pere Marquette, the Canada Atlantic and the Canadian Northern, said that ability to pay must enter into the question; that in Ontario there was not a single road but one, the Great Western, that had not at some time gone into the hands of a receiver. He thought the amount received by the shareholders should be brought into consideration in the fixing of any assessment.

Prof. Shortt thought that in view of stock watering such a consideration would be impossible. It would be impracticable to tax on net earnings for bookkeeping could juggle the earnings and make them nil.

Mr. Pettypiece pointed out that there was not a great deal of inequality in the taxation in Canada and the United States. In one case a road had 21 miles in the United States and 240 miles in Canada. The American end was taxed $400 a mile, while the 240 miles paid only $4 a mile. Moreover, the $400 a mile was paid from the Canadian earnings.

Mr. Nichol Kingsmill, representing the Michigan Central, thought that if the United States basis was wrong the Ontario system should not be made to conform to it.

Mr. Pettypiece showed that Michigan had 7,000 miles of railway, the same as Ontario, and the amount received in taxation last year was $3,200,000. Ontario got about $200,000.

Prof. Shortt said while, theoretically, net earnings formed the proper basis of taxation, gross earnings was the only practical method.

Mr. Hellmuth thought the British system of assessing on rental value was an equitable one, but Prof. Shortt was of the opinion that no system now in operation was absolutely equitable. Someone having mentioned population as a basis, Prof. Shortt said that the commission had found that neither population nor mileage was a proper basis.

Mr. Angus McMurchy, of the C.P.R., pointed out that one consideration to be kept in view by the commission was the local municipal taxation on stations, terminals, etc.

On Mr. Kingsmill reverting to the chairman's suggestion that $2,000,000 might be collected, Mr. Pettypiece asked what the Ontario railways would think of the Connecticut law, where the basis of taxation was 1 per cent of the capital stock. In Ontario the result would be $1,100 a mile.

"As a matter of fact," said Mr. Pettypiece, "the Ontario railways have the greatest snap on earth."

During the course of the morning the chairman received a gentle curb from Prof. Shortt. Mr. Pettypiece had said, "We propose to put a tax on railways in Ontario equal, or nearly equal, to that paid in the United States."

On Mr. Carscallen, of the Toronto, Hamilton and Buffalo Railway, asking if that was the temper of the Government, Prof. Shortt said that the chairman had gone too far.

Before the conference closed, Judge Bell pointed out very forcibly to the railway representatives that they would do well to supply to the commissionnrs as much information as possible for the reason that the temper of the Legislature was towards increasing the basis of taxation.

The next meeting will be held on Oct. 8, when the railway men will present their case.

Those present were Mr. Angus McMurchy, for the C. P. R.; Mr. I. F. Hellmuth, for the Pere Marquette, the Canadian Northern and the Canada Atlantic; Mr. Nichol Kingsmill, for the Michigan Central; Messrs. E. Fisher and Henry Carscallen, M.L.A., for the Toronto, Hamilton and Buffalo, and Mr. Collins, of the Central Ontario Railway.

To Arm Western Trains.

Chicago, Sept. 17.—Managers of western railways will arm engineers, firemen and trainmen of the passenger trains. The success and frequency of hold-ups has called for some action and it is believed that arming the trainmen will insure some protection.

The Illinois Central, Rock Island, Chicago and Alton, Chicago and Northwestern and Union Pacific will take this action. Express messengers are always armed, but somehow they seldom bring down a bandit and are always robbed. Passengers seldom suffer, though not long ago occupants of two Pullman cars on an Illinois Central train were robbed just south of the city limits.

Winchesters in the cars will soon be as common as windows.