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Vol. 11 No. 22

REGINA, SASKATCHEWAN, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1909

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GETS MONEY AND SKIPS
Secretary-Treasurer of School District at Rama, Sask., Does Up People of the District and Absconds—Police Are After Him Now.
Buchanan, Sask., Aug. 26.—For two or three weeks this section for a radius of fifty miles has been greatly wrought up over the conduct and sudden disappearance of J. B. Russell who sojourned at Rama for a year. He went about making great claims as to his wealth and possessions. He worked himself into the good graces of the people and secured the appointment of justice of the peace, and secretary treasurer of the Rama school district. He claimed to have hailed from Winnipeg. About three weeks ago he suddenly disappeared after being kept out of sight of Buchanan for a couple of days. Then things began to come to the surface in earnest. Your correspondent today visited Rama and called on J. A. Berg, president of the school board, and gleaned the following facts:
Russell is short between \$200 and \$300 in his school funds, besides defrauding several Galician farmers out of various sums of money. All of the letters, receipts, bills, etc., were destroyed, even the bank pass book. The only cheque book found contained only four blank notes, each bearing the seal of the school district, but not a single stub filled in to show to whom or for what purpose or what amount the corresponding cheques bore. President Berg showed your correspondent the following cheques, none of which bore the seal of his office, but had been cashed and passed at bank at Sheho where the funds are kept. One was to J. B. Russell for \$300; one to "Cash" for \$100; one to James McNeil for \$107 account founda-tion (no work has yet been done and no one knows James McNeil); one to Komeil Merson for \$15; one to D. McMurphy for \$75; a second for \$35, a third for \$125; one to J. B. Russell for \$45; one to Jasper Huppe for \$75 (a hired man). These were all signed "J. B. Russell, secretary-treasurer S. D. 2,249," none of which bore the seal of his office, neither was a single one authorized by the president or by the board and so far as known was not in payment of any materials, supplies, labor or other perquisites of the school district, but were in payment of his personal accounts.
Among the Galicians who suffered was Peter Tarkaczuk, who was induced to borrow \$200 from the bank which he handed over, for which he was to receive some Indian scrip; another, Paul Tarkaczuk, who was induced to add to the S. L. G. exchequer the sum of \$100.
There are others whose patents to their homesteads are tied up somewhere, no one knows where. The cheque book now in the hands of the school board was found hidden away in the middle of a hay mattress. The bank officials were very slow in furnishing the board with a statement of the school fund, it being eight days before any answer was made, which gave the absconder ample time to get away.
A warrant was immediately issued for his arrest. The assurity company which went his bond is after him also. Just prior to his skipping out he disposed of several head of cattle farm machinery, etc., by bill of sale to D. McMurphy, J.P., of Buchanan, in payment of a store account. He left the country evidently by taking the train at Tiny, a flag station east of Buchanan. He hired the lively man to drive him to Genora, but ordered him to pull into Tiny instead. He was thoroughly disguised and heavily armed with six shooters, a rifle and a shotgun.
There are several more shady deals left in the wake of this party which will no doubt be probed by the proper authorities before the case is closed; it is the consensus of opinion of the people in all towns adjacent to Rama that investigation should be made into all the deals in order that the rights of the ratepayers of the school district and those of others, which might appear since things are in such bad shape, may be safeguarded.
Berlin, Aug. 26.—Two hundred and forty men were killed by the blowing up of the Yemen barracks, Yemen district, Arabia, in the Mahdist rebellion against the Turkish government. Soldiers were ordered to march against the rebels, but refused because they had not been paid.

NORTHLAND FILLING UP
Athabaska District Raises Good Wheat and Vegetables—Bishop Jossard Tells of Conditions in the Peace River Country.
Twenty-nine years is a large gap in human life to realize such is not easy of grasp, more especially when this array of years are spent away from civilization, where pleasures we realize here are as unknown quantities. A few days ago there stepped from a train at the Canadian Northern depot a man who, during this long time, has dwelt in the wilds of the northland, who until last Thursday had never set his foot in any town, his life for 29 years devoted to the work of his church in undertaking in Athabaska territory. A sacrificial life, heroic, beset with untold hardships, fraught with danger, yet summer's heat and wintry snows know no cessation to his exertions. This is Bishop Jossard, whose arrival was noted in the Free Press a few days ago. There is a full in his career for a shirt (sash), he is resting awhile at St. Boniface, en route to Quebec, a short stay there, then back to his far away diocese, the outside world may never be visited by him again.
In August, 1880, Father Jossard, now assistant bishop of Athabaska, arrived in Winnipeg, en route to his labors, for seventy-two days he travelled the wild western prairie to Lake Biche, where embarkation took place in a birch bark canoe for a sixteen day voyage to Fort Athabaska. The country was untrammelled by the influx of such civilization in these days, a small number of white men dwelt at the Fort and mission, with an outside estimate, five hundred of an Indian population. Fishing occupied the summer days, fur hunting accounted for the dreary months of winter. A lack of provisions was not unusual in those days, neither did it create much consternation when perhaps shooting some rapid on the turbulently after the worldly possessions of a man became irrevocably lost. In 1880, at the Fort, some sisters of the church had already arrived, and men were engaged in the erection of an edifice, for Bishop Grouard had planted the flag of his faith eighteen years prior to this date.
Today the scenes are different. At that lonely place there is a convent of one hundred children, under the charge of twelve sisters of Providence, whilst four priests of the Oblate order, with five lay brothers, are actively engaged in mission work. A large church eighty feet in length and two stories high is being constructed at Vermillion. There are likewise centres of mission work located at Little Red river, Wolverine point, Au river, Smoky and Spirit rivers, Grand Prairie, Larder, Sturgeon, Wabaska, and Whitefish lakes, and two Indian reserves, with a very important mission at Fond du lac. On Slave river, one hundred and fifty miles from Ft. Athabaska, Bishop Brayson is conducting a cattle ranch of gigantic proportions. Up to the present time wheat and barley have not been given any cultivation.
Attention has been called in recent years to the country in the Peace river, Bishop Jossard cannot allude too strongly to its characteristics and ultimate success. At Athabaska lake the splendid land adapted to agricultural pursuits may be said to commence at Little Red river, and 240 miles from this lake the soil cannot be equalled in any portion of the globe. Surveyors upon the Grand Trunk Construction were at the time of Bishop Jossard's departure in July busily laying out the railway route to Wabaska. The main line will be constructed forty miles from Little Red river, an route to the Peace river country. The day previous to his departure the chief officer of the survey party arrived at Vermillion and gave his opinion of the country in laudatory terms. He had traversed a great stretch of country in this region and stated that the area could not possibly be surpassed for the purpose of agriculture.
Alluding to the fur trade, Bishop Jossard regretted to state that for the past two seasons it had decreased. The rabbits had disappeared and a poor fur catch followed. Last winter a slight improvement was shown over the previous year, yet it was not as it should be. Still he looked for vast fur seasons in the future. Moose were prevalent in large herds, furnishing a staple food, and the waters of Lesser Slave lake provided a great fishing industry. At the present time but two firms of traders operated in the Peace River district,

Ladies' Fall Suits
WITH a greatly enlarged Ladies' Wear Department we are making a splendid showing for this Fall. The New Suits are specially worthy of your attention. Many entirely new shades are shown for this season: "Raisin," a dark purplish blue; "Gravier," a pebbly grey-green; "Zenith," a deep Olympian blue; Raspberry Red, Ashes of Roses, Etc.
HERE IS A DESCRIPTION OF A FEW
SELF-STRIPE VENETIAN SUIT
In the new "Raisin" shade. Coat is 44-in. long with lap seam at back giving plaited effect; trimming of large jet buttons, silk faced collar. Skirt is the circular gored style with foot plaits. **\$25.00**
VENETIAN SUIT
In the new "Zenith" shade. A strictly plain tailored suit. Coat is silk lined, 44-in. long, closing with three buttons. Pliskin gored skirt with jet buttons. Extra value **\$25.00**
BROADCLOTH SUIT
In the popular "Tampé" shade. Coat is silk lined, 44-in. long and closes at side of front with five large jet buttons, high military collar. Skirt has yoke top with foot plaits. **\$30.00**
SELF-STRIPE WORSTED SUIT
In the new "Gravier" shade. Coat is silk lined, 44-in. long and trimmed with self-strapping at sides, finished with buttons. Skirt is severely plain tailored style with front panel finished with buttons. **\$30.00**
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THE GLASGOW HOUSE

the Hudson Bay Company and the Revillon Bros., of Montreal, the majority of the freighting is accomplished in the winter months, consequently to cheaper rates for transportation.
In the summer months eighty miles of portaging with carts is requisite to be undertaken from Grouard (the new appellation for Lesser Slave Lake) to Peace River landing, light draught boats with flat bottom, propelled by gasoline, are adopted at the rapids, thence more portage labor and the Hudson Bay steamer to Edmonton.
A steamer of large tonnage traverses the river from Shute Smith to the shute of Little Red river, a distance of 400 miles. Great rapids are located at this place, one and a quarter miles in width, and it is conjectured that the Grand Trunk Pacific will erect its crossing in proximity to this point.
Mails are received once in every month via Smoky river, the transit occupying ten days, representations have recently been made at Ottawa for improved postal facilities, two services monthly will shortly be inaugurated.
In speaking of climatic conditions the bishop affirmed that it is only of rare occurrence that the thermometer will register fifty degrees below zero, its general standing in the depth of winter being from thirty to thirty-eight. Chinook winds are very prevalent, thus tempering the weather. The summer days are of long duration, mosquitoes and other winged pests are favorable in comparison with more settled parts of the Dominion. The potato crop is prodigious always in readiness for table purposes by July 15. Turnips oftentimes attain a weight of 25 pounds, cabbage 28 pounds are by no means a rarity. The forest wealth of the country attains stupendous proportions, and its minerals are fabulous.
During the past twenty years frost has upon three occasions only proved injurious to horticultural efforts, upon one record only has it caused damage. Samples of early Regina experimental farm at Vermillion have proved to be ten days earlier in attaining maturity than other varieties, producing a yield of thirty bushels to the acre. A mill is in operation by the Hudson Bay company, who, in the fall of 1908 paid the figure of \$1.25 per bushel for wheat, manufacturing strong bakers flour of high quality, and another brand slightly inferior known under the name of Voyageur, several thousand bushels of wheat were realized. Many families have already moved into this land of promise, and the incoming transcontinental railway will rapidly cause its population to increase a thousand fold. The hum of twenty hinders was audible at the mission house last harvest, this season the number is largely augmented.
Treaty money is paid to the Indian population in July, followed by the usual festivities. Yuletide is the mirthful season, when from far and near the red man and his scattered white neighbor arrive at the mission to participate in the Christmas services and cheerful surroundings.
The official residence of Bishop Jossard is at Vermillion. He is a fluent

representative of Canada, New Zealand and Australia. General statements were agreed on in each case for further consideration by other respective governments.
As regards Australia the suggested arrangement was that some temporary assistance should be given from the imperial funds and that the commonwealth should provide and maintain an Australian unit of the Pacific fleet. The contributions of New Zealand should be applied towards the maintenance of the China unit of which some of the smaller vessels have New Zealand waters for their headquarters. The New Zealand armored cruiser could be stationed in China waters.
As regards Canada it was considered that her double seaboard rendered the provision of a fleet unsuitable at present, but Canada would make a start with cruisers of the Bristol class partly to be stationed on the Atlantic and partly on the Pacific. According to arrangements already made the Canadian government would undertake the maintenance of the dockyards at Halifax and Esquimaux. Australia would eventually undertake the maintenance of dockyards at Sydney. The papers would be laid before parliament, he hoped, before the session concluded.
The Pacific fleet mentioned by Mr. Asquith will consist of three units, namely the Australian, China and East Indies squadrons. The last will be wholly British in composition.
The commons sense of Mr. Asquith's statement with rapid attention and unbroken silence. A sincere general cheer at the end showed that the house approved.
The comment of the press is just
(Continued on page 5.)

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