THE EDMONTON BULLETIN

(SEMI-WEEKLY.)

DAILY—Delivered in City, $4 per year. By mail, per year, $3. By mail to United States per year $3 SEMI-WEEKLY—Subscription per year $1. Subscribers in the United States $2. All subscriptions strictly in advance.

BULLETIN CO., Ltd., DUNCAN MARSHALL, Manager.

MINDAY, MARCH 1, 1909.

C. P. R. LAND TAXATION.

The long standing dispute between the people of the western provinces and the Canadian Pacific Railway company with regard to the right to tax the company's land grant promises soon to be settled once and for all. At the instance of the Provincial Government of Alberta the judicial committee of the privy council will be asked to declare finally whether the C. P. R. land can still go untaxed at the hands of the local improvement districts, the school districts, the villages and the municipalities of the province. The burden of this exemption has rested very heavily upon the people of the western provinces since the government of Sir John A. Macdonald declared that the land grant of the C. P .R. was to be free from taxation, by the Dominion, by the North-West Territories, by any provinces that might be established out of the North-West Territories, or by any municipalities therein for "twenty years from the grant thereof by the crown."

Since the two new provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan have been formed and settlement has been increasing by leaps and bounds, the burden of this exemption has been growing steadily more apparent. Large fertile areas scattered through the greater part of the province and increasing in value daily through the energy and enterprise of the settlers, go untaxed. Roads must be built. Schools must be supported. And the burden of it falls upon the struggling settler, while this corporation, the largest land owner in the province, cannot be taxed a dollar on its land.

Twenty years have come and gone since the exemption was put upon the statute books in 1881, but the company long succeeded in holding on to their exemption by the expedient of not asking for a patent from the Dominion government for the particular piece of land until they had not only sold the land but been paid all the annual payments. Then the company had the patent issued for that particular piece of land and the farmer who bought from them had to pay taxes. A few years ago the company were constrained to select all their land and it has been patented to them, but they still claim, so far successfully, that the exemption period has not elapsed.

It could never have been the intention of parliament that this method should be followed. It was doubtless expected that the patents for the land grant would be issued as soon as the company earned the grant, and, as it was expected that the company would have a hard time during its early years to make both ends meet, it was presumably considered fair to exempt the land grant for the first twenty years of the life of the company. But by the expedients referred to the company have got an exemption much nearer forty years than twenty because, so far, the courts have construed the words "grant from the crown" to mean "patent."

It is this legal construction of the language of the Exemption act that has done the damage, and it is this construction that Attorney General Cross combats and intends soon to have the judicial committee of the privy council pass upon. Ever since he became attorney general Mr. Cross has been collecting information about the sale, occupation or dealing with C. P. R. land, so that now he has all the information he requires to go before the courts with a thoroughly prepared case. The arrears of taxes due to local improvement districts, school districts and to the province under the Educational Tax act, not to speak of arrears due to villages, amount to more than $300,000. And the recovery of these arrears would be the smallest part of a successful issue of the attorney general's action for the question of tax or no tax in future is also involved.

The keynote of the contention of the attorney general is that the crown as represented by the Dominion government could not affect the rights of the people who live in Alberta by merely not issuing the patents for C. P. R. lands until the C. P. R. asked for them. In his view the crown merely holds the land in trust for the people who inhabit the province, and like any other trustee cannot affect the rights of the persons for whose benefit the trust exists by its failure to perform the merely secretarial act of issuing patents to the C. P. R.. And that inasmuch as the courts represent the crown, the courts should regard that thing as done which should have been done, namely, that for the purpose of computing the twenty year exemption period, the time should be taken to begin when the odd numbered sections granted to the C. P. R. were ascertained by the approval of the survey plans of the country. As these plans were all approved more than twenty years ago the exemption would now have expired, according to this contention.

The Canadian courts have heretofore upheld the contention of the railway company, but this phase of the matter has never been tested in England nor urged in the Canadian courts. He hopes to succeed in inducing the law lords in England to adopt his view, in which case all the C. P. R. land in the province will be liable to taxation and all the arrears paid up. The writ in the test action is expected to be issued at an early date.

THE NEED OF RELIEF.

The report of the Pork Commission was published in these columns on Saturday. Its perusal is well worth while. The commissioners arrange in clear and impressive manner the more or less commonly understood facts of the situation, illustrate and emphasize these by comparisons with the conditions elsewhere and conclude with the very sensible-looking proposal outlined in the Bulletin a few days ago. The publication of the report must do much to inform the general reader of the essential points of the case, and at the same time arouse his sympathy with the farmers who have been trying to follow this branch of agriculture. The wonderment of the reader is not that they found hog-raising unprofitable but that hogs continue to be raised in any number in the Province. The conclusion of the commissioners is that seventy-five per cent. of the cured pork used in the Province is imported; and that it is imported because the local packers do not develop the curing branch of the industry, but rely mainly on the fresh meat trade. As a result farmers are generally unable to secure what they consider a profit-yielding price for hogs, and not infrequently are unable to sell them at any price. On account of this "one-half of our "most energetic farmers have been "compelled to go out of the hog industry." This situation cannot but awaken the keen interest of the community at large, at least of the important element—those who recognize in the success or failure of farming the making or breaking of the Province; and to incline the public very favorably toward any reasonable means for its relief. The means proposed by the Commission is a farmers' curing plant, financed in the start by the Government, but paying for itself from a sinking fund drawn from the profits. The necessary investment is calculated at less than $80,000. Provision has been made in the estimates of $50,000 to begin the project if the requisite business is assured it.

CHAMPION OF LAW AND ORDER.

No people understand better than Albertans that the strict maintenance of law and order and the prompt and impartial administration of justice are necessary to the moral and material wellare of any community. In this respect Alberta may claim to be the model Province. Here the "bad man" as understood in other new countries, is an unknown species. Crime brings its punishment, surely and speedily. Life and property are secure. Peace and order prevail. Law is respected and observed. Disorderliness is rare and its appearance is the signal for its summary and effective suppression. Nowhere in Canada do people repose in surer confidence of the protection they may legitimately expect from the laws of the land. Nor is this all. More insidious invaders of public rights and welfare have been effectively rounded-up, their methods exposed and their operations terminated.

Because law and order are scrupulously maintained and justice enforced with an impartial hand, this Province more and more attracts the orderly, industrious, thrifty, moral and intelligent. Equally important—it does not attract as new countries commonly do, the disorderly, shiftless, and criminal. Alberta is known at large as a good country for the law-abiding citizen, but as the poorest kind of a place for the other type. Necessarily the expense of maintaining this desirable condition of things is large. It cost us $680,000 up to the end of last year, from the inception of the Provincial Government. But it was money excellently spent.

Credit for this satisfactory state of affairs rests with the attorney general directly and to a very large degree. Under our system of government the legal minister necessarily exercises wide powers of discretion. He holds the power to make the Province notable for its law-abiding or to allow it to become notorious for its lawlessness, a happy hunting ground for criminals, crooks, gamesters and the legion named harpies who feed upon the weakness or gullibility of mankind. Mr. Cross has taken his stand firmly and frankly on the side of law and order. He merits and receives the commendation of the dominant public opinion which desires and approves of this. That he will be assailed by the others is to be expected. They can pay no higher tribute to his worth.

WORTH KEEPING.

The movement for efficient police protection for the rural districts of Ontario continues and takes more and more the form of a demand for the institution of a Mounted police force. The Montreal Star, commenting on this recently, said:—

Quite a serious agitation is getting under way in Ontario in favor of a Mounted Police force for that Province. Something must certainly be done for the protection of the country road and the isolated farm house. They are left now to the wholly ridiculous guardianship of the local constables, who are too often selected for qualities quite other than those which mark a model policeman. As the Toronto Star aptly puts it: "It is strange, when you come to think of it, that a city should be guarded by husky young policemen, some mounted on good horses, while the long, lonely country roads are left to the protection of elderly gentlemen who would drop dead if they ran a hundred yards."

The splendid work of the Mounted Police in the vast areas of the North-west is sufficient comment on the power of such a force to make itself felt over large districts. It is not that the policeman is always on the spot when a crime might otherwise be committed. That is not by any means true of the finest city force in existence. It is the fact that the police may very possibly be on the spot which teaches the would-be criminal caution. Then the effect of a patrol would be far greater in the country than in the city. A police officer walking down a city street passes dozens of men as to whose business he knows nothing; but a mounted patrol riding down a country road would almost infallibly spot the dangerous city professional criminal whom he might find loitering there.

While the older provinces are thus learning from our example, we in turn may gather a lesson from their experience. In the western provinces is seen what a mounted police force can do; in the eastern provinces what a constabulary cannot do. The merits of the one are emphasized by the limitations of the other, and the considerations which make a mounted police force attractive to Ontario also make a constabulary undesirable for the West. That a notable movement is on foot in Ontario for the establishment of a mounted force is sufficient reason why the force in existence in the Prairie provinces should be maintained as the permanent rural police of the country.

THE KING STILL REIGNS.

Meantime the leader of the Opposition is in an awkward position—for the insurrectios to the contrary, the leader is leader still. True, he has been nominally reduced to the rank of a private, but in fact he is the man on the job. In theory he has been deposed, has even been represented as having abdicated; but actually he is the head and spokesman of the party in the House and out of it. It is true his crown was offered to another; but he still holds the sceptre. It is true that a professedly independent journal undertook to say that the party was not responsible for him; but there is no one else in sight for whose declarations it can be held responsible and the party can scarcely be considered non est on the authority of the Calgary Herald. To put it plainly, Mr. Robertson is the leader of His Majesty's loyal Opposition in the Legislature of Alberta and must therefore be publicly regarded as the head of the party represented by the Opposition.

The situation has been complicated by the intimation of McCarthy that the honors are not for him. What then of Mr. Robertson? In any event he must have been expected as a matter of course to obligingly hold the wheel until the new pilot got aboard. But the new pilot has signalled that the seas look troubled and he may not be able to get aboard at all. What then? Is the leader expected to continue to hold down the job knowing that he is allowed to do so only because the effort to oust him from it has failed? It is difficult to see what else can be the program. Clearly no one aside from Mr. McCarthy is entitled to supplant him—if even that gentleman may be considered entitled to trample the unwritten laws of the party under foot and snatch at the crown with no better excuse than the Red Deer resolution. This gentleman aside, there remains only Mr. Hiebert—and Mr. Hiebert has concluded that he neither wants to lead or follow on that side of the House.

The plain facts of the case are that the mutiny is over and the leader is leader still. The insurrection has failed, and having failed the former established authority stands unquestioned. The convention made no second choice, in the event of Mr. McCarthy being stranded or being too prudent to accept. He was their only choice. He having failed them, the movement for his accession is in ruins. And being in a state of collapse the old chief still holds the deck. That he holds it in default of intrigue and conspiracy and even open rebellion is nothing to his discredit. But it can add little either to his comfort or that of his disaffected subjects. To him the memory must be one of an undeserved and unprovoked affront; to the party one of a miserable and humiliating blunder. Really the shortest way to reducing a semblance of order out of the chaos seems to be to call another convention—minus Senator Lougheed and the coterie of plotters who distinguished themselves at Red Deer—and to confirm the member for High River in the position he has fairly won and which he generously offered to lay aside when he found a nest of traitors brooding around him

RAILWAYS WITHOUT COST.

The railway policy announced by the Premier last week agrees substantially with the forecast made and the hints dropped during the session of the Legislature. As understood from these, the policy is to guarantee the bonds of companies to a reasonable amount for roads built where and when they are needed.

With this few will disagree, and by the public generally it will be accepted as an effective, safe and inexpensive way of inducing the railway extension necessary to the continued and general development of the country. It involves no expenditure of public money save in the unlikely event of the roads being unable to pay their way, when the Province would be called upon to pay the interest on the bonds. That any railway built in Alberta, today, with any judgment as to location and cost should be unable to earn a living is scarcely credible. The guarantee policy offers the opportunity of getting the roads we need, when we need them, without paying bonus and with reasonable certainty that we shall never be called upon to pay a dollar in respect of them.

The amount of the guarantee is reasonable. On the roads throughout the settled portions of the Province bonds are to be guaranteed up to $13,000 per mile. On the development line to the great northern waterway system, where construction will be necessarily more costly, the guarantee may amount to $20,000 per mile. The general guarantee is less than that given by other provinces. The maximum guarantee, given to the northern line, is not more. On the whole, therefore, we have a better bargain in respect of the liability incurred than the Province of Manitoba, where the guarantee policy was adopted several years ago. And considering the results certain to flow from the construction of the projected lines the liability involved is moderate indeed.

As the first fruits of the policy we are to secure 1,600 miles of railway, traversing all parts of the Province from the international boundary to Fort McMurray. Construction must begin this year. All the roads must be completed in four years. In a word, we are to get the railways, not the promises of them. As an additional assurance of construction a company does not get its bonds guaranteed until it has built the road.

A satisfactory feature of the arrangement is the provision made for solving both halves of the railway problem. The G. T. P. and the C. N. R. are both to run lines into the southern portion of the Province, thus bringing accommodation and competition to the tremendously productive grain-growing districts there, as well as tapping the coal fields in the foothill country. On the other hand a line is to be run to Fort McMurray, thus providing transportation means for the large traffic already pouring into and out of the north, and opening up the country to development. Another line is to be begun, heading northwesterly for the farming districts on the Peace, and the Morinville branch of the C. N. R. is to be extended to the Landing. Competition is thus secured to the south and development to the north.

The lines projected, extensive though they are, must be regarded, of course, as only a first instalment. They are by no means all the lines which will be needed five or ten years' hence. Perhaps they are not all the lines considered necessary even now. But they constitute a step and a long step toward the desired goal. Not only is the mileage large, but the lines traversing the entire Province will form main systems from which branchts and feeders may be run as settlement increases in the outlying districts.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND EDUCATION.

To his responsibility as chief advisor to His Honor the Lieutenant Governor, Premier Rutherford adds the duties of provincial treasurer and minister of education.

In his former capacity the Premier is the receiver-general and custodian of the public money of the Province. As premier and treasurer it also falls to his lot to apportion the funds among the various departments in accord with their several needs, to give due attention to the relative importance of the matters under the charge of each and to make provision for them according to the pressing nature of their undertakings and so far as the revenues admit. This, to the end that no branch of the public business may be starved and none glutted, that each may have sufficient and all may be developed in proportion and harmony. He is also in a general way responsible for the entire outlay of the Government.

As provincial treasurer the Premier has been judiciously generous. True economy he has considered to consist in the proper expenditure of the money in hand. The Government has been considered not as a savings bank in which public mony should be laid up for future purposes, but a collecting and distributing agency whose business it is to gather the money due the public and expend it according to the public needs and for the public benefit. The treasury has not been made a vault for the hoarding of useless and unused specie, but a clearing house, where the funds were received and apportioned to the various uses which public well-being demanded. It has been properly borne in mind that "There is that scattereth and increaseth yet more; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth only to want."

To the treasurer, too, must be given much of the credit for the means of raising supplementary revenue. Approximately the Province collects a million dollars a year revenue aside from that received from the Dominion government as subsidies. This comes from the taxation of railway companies, of corporations, of speculative land outside school districts and from revenue-producing public services. The legislation giving effect to these policies is the work of the department of the attorney general, but to the provincial treasurer no doubt belongs a large measure of the credit for the policy involved. This million dollars of extra revenue is collected without adding to the burdens of the public. To the Province—or the people of the Provine—it is "found money."

The Premier has been an energetic and practical minister of education. His management of the department has been not academic but sympathetic and practically helpful. Where the cause of education has been concerned it has been safe always to calculate on his steady and sincere concern, whether the subject in hand was the formation of a new school district or the establishment of an institution for providing higher and special training. Under his administration common schools have multiplied, largely through departmental activity and in many cases directly because of Government initiative; high school accommodation has been greatly increased, and the foundations have been laid for a state-owned and controlled institution to meet the growing demand for advanced education. As a result of the generous provision made in the yearly estimates, the common school in Alberta receives more than double the per capita assistance from the Government the common school in Ontario, which justly boasts an excellent system. Besides, every scholar in the Alberta schools receives the necessary readers free from the government.

As administrator of his two departments the Premier has been observant, steadily energetic and enthusiastically devoted to the financial and educational interests of the Province. In the management of public funds his integrity is unchallenged by his critics. His means of raising supplementary revenue have been well advised and successful. His allotment of the funds has been generally and warmly approved as judicious, and intelligently adapted to the public requirements. His steady advancement of the educational system is a matter of common knowledge at home and of admiration among visitors.

A HOPELESS CAUSE.

The Edmonton Journal intimates that the Bulletin has been "gibing" at the leader of the Opposition. The insinuation is baseless. Throughout this paper has maintained a courteously sympathetic attitude toward the hon. gentleman, as seemed due both to himself and his misfortunes. It has consistently maintained that he was the duly chosen leader of the Opposition in the Assembly and therefore the duly constituted leader of the party in provincial affairs. It has exposed the heartless attempt to depose him made at the Red Deer caucus; has insisted that the revolt was mutiny, pure and simple, and when it failed, declared that the only amend possible was for the delegates to reconvene, admit their failure and formally tender Mr. Robertson the honor he fairly won, and which, despite the insurrectionists, he still retains. That much consideration is surely due the hon. member for High River, from the party he has served to the best of his ability. That his service did not always coincide with the schemes of the elements which warred about him may be true, but the hon. gentleman is scarcely to be held accountable for their waywardness. He has enough to answer for without that. Now that those who conspired against him have failed—through circumstances over which they had no control—the least they can do is to move him a vote of thanks, apologize to him, and confirm him in the position he attained in the regularly prescribed manner of the party, a position, which, by the way, he holds whether they like it or not. To the justice of his claim is added the physical basis that he is the man on the job. Nor is his claim invalidated by the resolution of his legislative following to march off under another banner. A subject may transfer allegiance, but the king still reigns. That Mr. Hiebert even desires to depose the honorable gentleman has not been intimated. And if this were his purpose there are obvious difficulties in the way of its accomplishment. Leadership does not deprive Mr. Robertson of the franchise and his vote in a show-down counts as much as Mr. Hiebert's. He is not only on the job, but sure of it unless and until the electors declare otherwise. As for the Bulletin it has consistently labored to get justice for the leader from his alleged friends, though with poor success must be admitted. Almost we are persuaded that the cause is hopeless.

THE ADMISSION.

This morning the Journal comes a shade nearer making itself understandable in explaining its peculiar attitude toward the construction of public works. It says:—

"No amount of argument can drown the fact that last year the government spent over $1,300,000 more than the province's annual revenue. No specious argumentation can hide the truth that the government this year proposes to spend more than $1,250,000 more than the income of the province. And these facts being incontestible, it will be hard indeed to persuade the people of Alberta that all is well with the financial administration of the country."

If this may be supposed to be construeable into language with a meaning, it is that the $1,300,000 should not have been put into telephone extension last year and that the proposed sum should not be put into public works this year; or in other words, that the telephone system should not be extended to meet the demand and need for service; that the streams should be left bridgeless; that the court houses at Edmonton, Fort Saskatchewan, Wetaskiwin, Medicine Hat and Claresholm, should be left unbuilt; work postponed on the Ponoka asylum and the Calgary land titles office until a more convenient season; that no provision should be made for securing sites for public buildings in the dozen or so important and growing centres where these must be built at an early date and where property is bound to rise rapidly in value.

ANOTHER OPPONENT OF PUBLIC WORKS.

The Calgary Herald joins the Edmonton Journal in condemning the extension of the Provincial telephone system and the construction of public works. It is hardly so impolitic about it as the Journal, but it arrives at the same getting off place. It says:

"In bringing down the estimates for the coming year Premier Rutherford announced the revenue at $2,483,665.58. The expenditure at $3,681,401.40.

"To make up the difference $800,000 will be charged to capital account. In answer to the leader of the Opposition yesterday the premier said this would be arranged by an overdraft at the bank. Last year the premier boasted that though other governments had found it necessary to create a capital account his government had not done so.

"Now the Alberta electors hear a revised version. A capital account is necessary, but it is to be arranged by an overdraft at the bank. From the well known philanthropic way in which western bankers do business this will not be charged against the government.

"From the premier's own statements the independent voters will begin to realize that he knew what he was talking about when he said his government 'had not been perfect.'"

The Herald probably wishes to be taken seriously in this. There is at least none of that jokesomeness apparent in which the Herald occasionally indulges. Being serious in the contention that it was wrong to spend the $1,300,000 in telephone extension last year, and that it is unjustifiable to spend the proposed $800,000 in steel bridges, and public buildings this year, the Herald must take the position either that these improvements should not be made or that we should pay for them altogether ourselves and hand them down to posterity as a token of our financial obtuseness. Posterity would no doubt enjoy the latter plan, but the present generation does not figure that way. Neither does the Herald figure that way in its own business or in municipal affairs. Alike in private enterprise and in municipal undertakings, permanent betterments are charged over a period of time sufficiently long to make the annual burden bearable, and to distribute the cost as nearly as may be over the time of usefulness of the work. Yet when the Provincial Government extends a telephone system as a capital investment, or proposes to treat the cost of steel bridges and public buildings as a permanent betterment, the Herald grows alarmed. The only conclusion is that it argues for the absolute abandonment of extensions to the telephone system, for leaving the streams unbridged and the Province without public buildings.

SAVING MONEY.

Under the item, "Cost of Legislation," are included the sessional indemnities to members of the Assembly; the salaries of officials, clerks, messengers, Mr. Speaker, and, generally, all the expenses incurred in proposing, discussing and enacting provincial statutes.

The Railway Taxation act, Land Titles act, Corporation Taxation act, Mechanics' Lien act, District Courts act, Unoccupied-Lands Taxation act, Telephone act, Railway act, Workmen's Compensation act, Eight-Hour Bank-to-Bank act, Industrial Schools act, etc., etc.—here is a bulky heap of really vital legislation, yet it is a small proportion of the volume passed through the Provincial legislature in their four sessions.

The legislative expenses for the whole term, to January, amounted to only $99,000. Bearing in mind the volume and value of the work done, probably no such record has previously been made by a Canadian legislature. The legislators have not produced "cheap" legislation, but they have produced good legislation cheaply.

In large measure the credit for this rests with the electors. They voted solidly for a government of responsible men, unhampered by party warfare. In so doing they made possible sessions devoted strictly to business and relieved themselves of the burden of maintaining a political beargarden.

It costs the Dominion not less than $28 per minute for the weeks annually wasted at Ottawa in acrimonious debate which has and can have no purpose or consequence but the supposed advancement of party interest. In Provincial legislatures evenly, or nearly evenly divided, the waste is proportionately large. In Alberta there is practically no such waste.

With a government of weak men or of unreliable men, a strong Opposition is of course the only means of safety, whatever the cost. Alberta has been fortunately situated in having an administration who do not need watching and who have amply demonstrated their ability and readiness to conserve and promote the public interests by whatever means seem available. Under such circumstances the electors were wise in cutting out the expense of maintaining a hostile array on the Opposition benches. They will be equally well-advised in saving their money in the same way for the next term.

LAW REFORM FOR THE PEOPLE.

In 1905 there were only three judges of the Supreme court resident in Alberta. Sittings of this court were held at seven of the centres of population. All litigants were obliged to attend court at these points however great the expense.

The Provincial Government established a new judiciary. It consists of a Supreme court of five judges and a District court system, also made up of five judges. The five District court judges hold court at more than fifty points. These sittings occur at each point three or four times a year. In large centres court is held more frequently.

These judges now go to the people, not the people to the judges. Long, expensive journeys of litigants to cities, where court was held, are things of the past.

The District courts are empowered to deal with civil cases up to $400, as these should be quickly and cheaply decided. Cases involving larger amounts are reserved for the higher courts, because in such cases the expense is not likely to hinder action. District court witnesses do not have to travel long distances as formerly, hence there is a large saving in witness fees to litigants.

Another advantage from the new system is the quickness with which cases are settled. Formerly the litigants had an anxious waiting period, sometimes of months, or even a year. At present all District court cases are disposed of within one month or two.

District court judges are also empowered to act as local judges of the Supreme court. Again litigants are saved the expenses of long journeys and large witness expenses.

District courts also deal with the probate of estates. These transactions are now attended to with speed and little expense is involved.

District courts have jurisdiction in criminal cases, if the accused elects to be tried by them. This brings judgment to local centres, where prisoners generally are held. This advantage did not exist under the Territorial regime.

How this change is appreciated is evident from the statistics of some of the larger District courts. At most points the accused in criminal cases elect to be tried by the District court judges. In one year there were tried:

At Lethbridge, 18 criminal cases, 19 civil cases.

At Edmonton, 22 criminal cases, 115 civil cases.

At Calgary, 15 criminal cases, 20 civil cases.

At Macleod, 14 criminal cases, 64 civil cases.

Will Be Charged With Murder.

Lethbridge, Feb. 21.—Richard Vadnais, the French-Canadian rancher near Cardston, whose wife some time since ended a domestic quarrel by shooting him with a revolver, died in the Galt hospital today. Mrs. Vadnais, who was detained pending the outcome, will now have to face a murder charge.

UNITED STATES MAY TAKE PROMINENT P

Pacific Fleet Will Go to C America Where a Free Fo Fight Is Threatened Between of the Small Republics.

Panama, Feb. 27.—Advices we ceived here late this afternoon the vessels of the American F fleet have been hired by the nav partment at Washington to r vous in the west coast of C America for the purpose of prot American interests. A free f fight iss stshsreatened between agua, Hondurasss, Salvador and temala, and the situation is s ious that an outbreak of host may occur at any time.

Nicaragua and Honduras are up on one side and Guatemala Salvador are lined up on the Diplomatic relations between countries have been broken off all the countries are preparin eventualities.

President-elect Taft during h cent visit to the isthmus let th be know that he was tired of p cal revolutions and uprisings in tral America and it is believed drastic measures will be used b United States to put an end to ent conditions.

THE FAIR CO-ED MUST G

Governors of Weslevan Unive New York, Decide to Abolis Education.

New York, Feb. 26—Thirty e gentlemen, sitting behind doors, decided by an almost un ous vote to abolish co-educati Wesleyan university. The 190 co-ed. must go elsewhere for he cation. There are now forty w students at the university at M town, Conn. Dancing has been on at the Wesleyan gymnasiu some time in spite of the fac the discipline of the Methodist c forbids this form of amusement students may take their answ their petition to use the gymn for dancing in the resolution co-education, for what is the dance without the fair co-ed.? was some consolation for the w however, in the following repor

"The committee on establis for a separate college for wom commends that such college be lished by this board as soon necessary funds are provided that the matter of details, inc the consideration of the amou money necessary to such an est ment, be referred to a special mittee to report at the annual ing in June."

THE SERVIAN QUESTIO

Trouble Between Austria and S But War Not Expected.

Berlin, Feb. 26—The foreign has now received word from S ersburg, or Belgrade, that the sian government has declare Servia cannot hope for suppor Russia in the event of an ou of hostilities between Austria-H and Servia. It is apparent tha ters are being permitted to dri if this circumstance is seen th serious danger.

The declaration of policy Servian parliament yesterday Novakovitch, the new prem considered fairly moderate in the excited state of the Servia ing. Servian students in the technic school at Goethen h ceived telegraphic orders to j colors, and many Austrian s in Germany are homeward be expectation of war. The best opinion here however, is tha will be no war between Austr gary and Servia.

ANOTHER IMPERIAL L

Fort Churchill Will Form Sa of Communication.

Ottawa, Feb. 25.—At a meeti corps of guides today, Lieut. Tyrrel, the well known explore a paper on the Hudson Ba from a military point of vie declared Fort Churchill to be the most feasible of the ports bay. He said Davis straits c relied upon for unobstructed from July 15 to November 1, possible exception of two w each end of the season. From tary standpoint it would be tageous to have so retired an line of communication wit Britain.

WHICH IS IT TO BE

Splendid Solidarity or Dis ment Asks Mackintosh

London, Feb. 26.—C. H. tosh, urging preference wi empire, in the Standard, ask it is to be, splendid solida unification or gradual dis ment. "Canada speaks plainly manent unification and cons a truly Great Britain, surroun galaxy of kindred states all edging one sovereign, one constitution and one great destiny."

AFTER HAMILTON MURD

Large Reward Offered For Slaye Kimrade—Police Are Act

Hamilton, Feb. 26—A provin has been applied for in the murder case, as the local polic themselves at a loss to find a of the tramp. Miss Kimrade's is serious. She had only just ed from an attack of malaria t the shock of the tragedy has case a dangerous one. Kimrade ed $1,000 and the city council the arrest and conviction of derer.

Vancouver Harbor Improve

Vancouver, Feb. 26.—A la deputation, including Mayor and several aldermen and men, left by private car t noon for Ottawa to lobby in harbor improvement, etc., for ver.