

Topics of the Day

IT is rather a feather in the cap of the Railway Commission that they decided upon a uniform passenger rate of three cents a mile on all Canadian railways before the present agitation in the United States had fully developed. Otherwise it might be said that they were influenced by events in the United States.

The decision of the United States railways to experiment with a universal two-cent rate will be watched with interest on this side of the line. If it is economically successful, then our more progressive railway managers will be likely to advise the Commission to introduce the two-cent rate into the more thickly settled portions of this country. This period of experiment is likely to extend over two or three years however, and the question is not likely to come before the Commission in the immediate future.

How far the lower rate in the United States is the result of public agitation and how far it is the result of common sense and investigation on the part of railway managers, it would be difficult to say. The anti-railway legislation, as it is called over there, has certainly reached considerable proportions. That the railway managers have decided that it is best in the interests of peaceful business to inaugurate the reform on a large scale, speaks volumes for either the agitation or the managers. If the reduction should result in a general increase in receipts from passenger traffic, the effect will be far-reaching.

The Hon. Walter Scott, premier of Saskatchewan, has returned home after spending six months in the south. He looks strong and hearty and is full of ambition for his public work. When passing through Toronto, he spent an hour in the Canadian Courier office enthusing the staff concerning the greatness and the possibilities of his province. Being a trained journalist, Mr. Scott realises the value of the modern illustration as an advertising medium. The illustrated periodical and the picture post-card have taken over much of the work of the descriptive writer.

Canadians were specially favoured at the King's garden party at Windsor, the other day. Forty-seven persons from this country were present, including Senators Macdonald, Gibson and Ellis; Premiers McBride and Rutherford; Colonels J. M. Gibson, Lessard and Ryerson; the Grain Commissioners, Miller, McNair, Goldie and Nield; and a number of others. The Canadian agriculturist was thus represented at a function usually confined to officials and members of professions.

On Sunday and Monday last the French-Canadians celebrated the national festival of St. Jean Baptiste.

Church services, patriotic speeches, processions and bonfires were features of the programme. June 24th is St. John the Baptist day.

The farmers of the West are divided in their affections. They are trying to prove that more acres have been sown this year than ever before; and at the same time they are trying to hold up the wheat market so as to get a high price for the wheat now on hand. This contradictory attitude must be rather trying.

There is much of last year's wheat moving to the sea-board. A despatch from Rosthern to the Winnipeg "Free Press" says that 150,000 bushels were marketed there during the week ending June 20th. As Rosthern is only a small town, in a comparatively new district, these figures may be taken as an index of the enormous movement now proceeding. In this same district, according to this report, the wheat was twelve inches high last week, and the increase in acreage sown amounts to ten per cent.

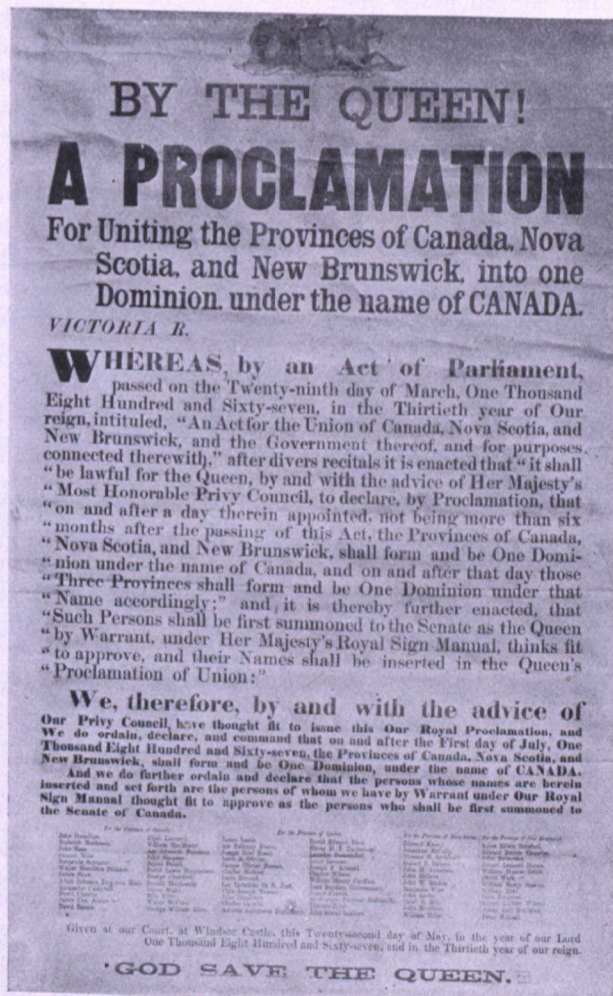
Lloydminster reports 250 homestead entries during May which is another indication that new settlers are pouring in at a tremendous rate.

The bank clearings in Winnipeg for the week ending June 20th were over twelve millions of dollars, a gain of 41 per cent. over the same week in 1905. Such progress is exhilarating.

Cobalt and other mining shares continue to command lower prices on the stock exchanges. People with mines, real mines not paper certificates, are working away getting out their ore, driving shafts, tunnels and drifts, bringing in machinery and doing other necessary work. The stock market slump only bothers those who expected to sell shares and use the money for prospecting.

The Postmaster-General has brought an action against a postmaster in Quebec to recover a missing \$1,000 deposit and \$1,000 penalty. Postmasters' salaries may need a degree of protection.

The usual number of Homecomers' Festivals is announced for this summer. In spite of the jokes at the expense of these occasions made by the newspaper humourist, they conduce to peace in the Dominion and good-will to men. For some mysterious reason, Toronto has not succeeded with either a carnival or a Homecomers' event, while Hamilton has made such an occasion a brilliant success, whether regarded from the standpoint of finance or friendship. The greatest of these events next month will be the gathering at Ottawa, which has every prospect of such enjoyment as an ideal summer city and the renewal of youthful ties can afford.



The Proclamation which was distributed through this country forty years ago this week.