

Austro-Servian War Rumours.

A rather sensational dispatch from Belgrade announces great preparations for war with Austria. As is not unusual, radical and devastating novelties in warfare are promised; hand grenades, and egg-shaped bombs fired from carbines are to produce such slaughter as the world has never seen. It was the same before the Franco-German war; the chassepot rifle and the mitrailleuse between them threatened to work so much havoc among the Germans as actually to win a certain amount of foreign sympathy for the doomed Teutons. The Servians talk too much to be dangerous. They will not even be allowed the privilege of making war unless some greater power wants war.

The Carnival. Our Carnival visitors were treated to every possible variety of Canadian winter weather, including some of the best. They had severe cold, and heavy thaws, they had rain, sleet, snow and fog and they had some exquisitely mild, clear and yet bracing atmosphere. The man who could not find in this variety the kind of winter weather he wanted will have to try the tropics.

Dominion Iron & Steel and Dominion Coal.

The text of the Coal Company's offer to the Steel Company has been made public and is along the lines indicated by THE CHRONICLE last week. It is expected that the directors of the Steel Company will meet early in March to consider the offer.

CANADA NORTHWEST LAND CO.

The Canada Northwest Land Company's annual report shows only 8,692 acres of farm lands to have been sold during 1908, the lowest showing since 1905. However, the price per acre was \$11.13, only 20 cents less than the 1907 record of \$11.33. With recovery in the tide of immigration, and with an increasing influx of well-to-do American farmers, the 1909 showing bids fair to show a marked advance upon that of the past year. The company is in a strong position financially—the capital having all been paid off with the exception of a nominal amount of \$1 per share. Proceeds in hand have made possible an initial distribution of \$5 per share in realization of assets payable April 15. Averaging the company's 519,683 selected acres at \$11, its assets aggregate \$7,350,000—about \$125 for each of the 58,707 shares.

THE REPORT OF THE HALIFAX TRAMWAY COMPANY for the year ending December 31, shows total receipts of \$424,618, an increase of more than \$19,000 over 1907. Net earnings were \$150,905, which is over 11 per cent. upon the capital stock. After the usual dividends and other charges are deducted the surplus account is increased by over \$60,000 for the year. Total earnings have doubled since 1899, and net earnings available for dividends on the stock have almost trebled in the decade.

THE SENTENCING OF POLICE CHIEF MALONE, of Simcoe, Ont., to life imprisonment is the ending of one of the strangest cases ever before a Canadian Court. His attempted murder of a constable—accomplice led to the discovery of their having led for months a career of arson and burglary.

From Provinces by the Sea**HALIFAX VIEW AS TO DOMINION STEEL-COAL MATTERS.**

What Nova Scotia Legislature has in Hand for Session—Another Project to Harness the Tides of Fundy—Prince Edward Island's Finances.

Mr. J. H. Plummer, president of the Dominion Iron & Steel Company, accompanied by Mr. Hector McInnes, K.C., counsel in the Steel-Coal litigation, arrived at Sydney this week.

With reference to the probable nature of any consultation between Mr. Plummer and the Premier of Nova Scotia, it is interesting to note a recent pronouncement of the Halifax Chronicle—generally considered as reflecting views of the provincial government. It says:

"If these companies refuse to come to terms, the Legislature will have to intervene and by means of a commission of experts determine what the Coal Company can afford to sell its coal for and what the Steel Company can afford to pay therefor, and then by legislative enactment compel the acceptance by both companies of these terms."

Nova Scotia Legislature.

The third session of the eleventh Legislature of Nova Scotia is now under way. The speech from the throne recently foreshadowed legislation providing for the audit of provincial accounts and the appointment of a provincial auditor, the supervision of securities issued by municipalities and the sinking funds established therefor, and for regulating and controlling rates for telephone lines and electric lighting.

Dominion over Sea and Air.

A project for harnessing the world-famous tides of the Bay of Fundy for mechanical purposes, has led to a company being organized which will petition the Dominion Parliament for an act of incorporation. In its petition the company indicates that its purpose is to develop electric power and it seeks authority to construct dams across a large number of rivers.

The maritime provinces seek to assert dominion over the air as well as the sea. Alexander Graham Bell's aerial experiment association this week continued their tests on the ice on the Bras d'Or lakes at Baddeck, Mr. Douglas McCurdy, secretary of the association, eclipsed all records of the association by flying four and a half miles at an elevation of between forty and fifty feet in the air and turning a complete circle.

Strong on Education.

"Right little, tight little" Prince Edward Island faces like some larger governments, something of a deficit.

The public accounts, presented in the legislature show ordinary expenditures for the fiscal year ended September 30, 1908, to be \$377,602; capital expenditure, \$43,215; ordinary receipts, \$366,601. Education, costing \$127,000, was the largest item—no mean distinction for the smallest province.

The revenue included the Dominion subsidy of \$263,681; taxes on commercial travellers, \$8,000; insurance and other companies, \$9,000; banks, \$7,000; income, \$8,000; on land, \$28,000; roads, \$11,000; succession duties, \$8,000.