THE RESOURCES OF THE NORTH LAND

Banquet Teadered Business Men by Mr Violette—Will Form an Asphalt Company.

(From Friday's Daily.)

That the Guggenheims of New York are considering the financing of a railway from Edmonton to Fort McMurray was the statement made last night by Alfred Violette, manager of the Fort McKay Oil and Asphalt Company, at a banquet which he tendered to 100 prominent business and professional men of the city in Lewis cafe. Addresses on the resources of the north country were delivered by Mr. Violette, J. L. Cote, M.L.A., A. F. Ewing and others, and a resolution that every gentleman present resolve himself into a committee of one to press upon the Government the need of opening up the northland, was unanimously carried. Ald. H. L. McInnes was chairman of the gathering. Mayor Armstrong, who was to have taken the chair being unable to attend through illness. A sumptuous repast was provided and music was furnished by Turner's orchestra.

In the course of his address Mr. Violette expressed his surprise at the apparent apathy of the people of Edmonton towards the development of the resources of the region north of the city, rich in minerals, oil and asphalt.

"I met the Guggenheims in New York last winter," said Mr. Violette. They were greatly interested in what they heard of the Fort McMurray country. But when they asked me how many of the people of Edmonton were supporting the north country, I was choked. I said in reply "The people of Edmonton are all real estate mad at present."

May Build Railway.

Mr. Violette stated that Mr. James Guggenheim and two other New York financiers were coming to Edmonton to take a trip north with him in July. He said that they had told him that if he could show them the asphalt beds described, level country through which a railroad could be built for five or six million dollars, he would not have to go any further to finance a railway to Fort McMurray. "If I couldn't back that statement up," said Mr. Violette. "I wouldn't come out and say this to you business men of Edmonton."

The last four years had been spent by Mr. Violette in the exploration of the north country in the vicinity of Fort McMurray and Fort McKay. From his knowledge of this region, he was prepared to say that a railroad from the City of Edmonton to Fort McMurray would tap the richest country in Western Canada. Mr. Violette described in detail the riches of the Athabasca region in asphalt, timber and minerals. Not the least support to a railway into that country would be found in the fine agricultural land northeast of Lac la Biche. Of this land, generally supposed non-existent, he was prepared to say that it was the best and most fertile in Alberta. The Great Slave Lake, 350 miles long, and Lake Athabasca, 75 miles long, teemed with fish. The fish industry alone would be a great support to a railway. Then a railway to McMurray would tap a waterway of more than 3,000 miles.

Mr. Violette was positive that oil would be struck in the Fort McMurray district in great quantities. The formation was the same as that of the oil fields of Illinois. There was a strata of original Devonian limestone 175 feet in depth. The right test had not yet eben made for oil. He was putting in $15,000 worth of machinery to test this summer, and was just as sure he would strike oil, as that he had struck asphalt.

It was not generaly known that copper existed in abundance, and galena in millions of tons in the Great Slave Lake District.

At Fort McKay there was an ideal site for a city, high and dry, and with an abundant supply of pure water.

To Form Company.

To exploit two asphalt claims of 1,920 acres each which he held in the Fort McMurray district, Mr. Violette expressed his intention of forming a joint stock company. In this company he wished to interest first of all the business men of Edmonton. He had an offer from a British Columbia syndicate to exploit the asphalt beds, but he wished to give the first opportunity of investment to his own city.

Mr. Violette referred to the test of McMurray asphalt which was to be made on an Edmonton street. Last year he had had an analysis made of this asphalt by Warren Bros., the great paving firm. It had been pronounced 96 1-5 per cent pure bitumen. Trinidad asphalt was 45 per cent. bitumen and Venezuela asphalt 47 per cent. The McMurray asphalt had thus twice the percentage of bitumen which the Trinidad and Venezuela asphalts showed on analysis. The bed of asphalt north of Edmonton was the largest in the world. It had a depth of 25 feet and an area of 69 square miles.

Mr. Cote.

J. L Cote, M.L.A, declared that Mr Violette had given a fair representation of the resources of the north which he knew from personal knowledge gained by travel through the country.

How far north is the country fit for settlement This, Mr. Cote considered a most important question. He thought it could be answered by ascertaining the farthest north haunts of the buffalo in the early part of last century. The first exploration report was made in 1780 by a man who went up to the Peel river and across to the Yukon. In this report the buffalo herds in the north were mentioned. McKenzie, Franklin, and others in the reports of their explorations all stated where they had seen buffalo herds. A map drawn showing where the buffalo had been seen gave a line runing east of the Red river, south of Lake Winnipeg, north of the Clearwater river, east of the Athabasca river and the east end of Athabasca Lake as far north as Great Slave Lake, and then running slightly south as far as the mountains. This was the range of the buffalos. If they were found living in that part of the country then ordinary cattle could live there too ,and if ordinary cattle coud live there, then people could also subsist in those regions.

Mr. Cote believed that Fort McMurray, with its tar sands, timber, and possibilities of electric power development, was destined to be the manufacturing town of Alberta.

"But we can't expect people from New York or London to show us what we have in our country," said Mr. Cote in conclusion. "We must have confidence in ourselves and exploit our own resources."

Other Speakers

Dr. Robrtson, in a short address, stated that he had good reason for believing that within the next few months there would be a rush into the country north of Lake Athabasca as a consequence of a free gold discovery.He had been shown excellent samples discovered in that locality. One party was proceeding with development there now. The north country, with its riches in copper, gold, oil and asphalt should stir up Edmonton people to get busy and leave no doubt of their city being the gateway of the north country.

A. F. Ewing, Ald. Hyndman, Ald. Grindley, Alex. Stuart, F. M. Morgan, president of the Edmonton Board of Trade, and S. St. Clair Blackett, also spoke briefly on the resources of the Fort McMurray country and the need of a railway into that district. Mr. Morgan moved the resolution, seconded by Mr. Blackett, that each gentleman present resolve himself into a committee of one to do all in his power to bring about the opening up of the north by means of transportation facilities.

A vote of thanks to Mr. Violette, was passed with applause and the gathering broke up with the singing of the National Anthem.

G.T.P. OFFICIAL TO GO INTO GRANDE PRAIRIE

R. C. Lett, Colonization Agent of Railway Will Go North of Government Road From Edson to Spy Out the Land For Benefit of Incoming Settlers.

(From Friday's Daily.)

R. C. Lett, colonization agent of the Grand Trunk Pacific, will make a trip over the new road from Edson to Grand Prairie to spy out the land for intending settlers and be able to give them accurate information and sound advice in regard to the Peace River country. Mr. Lett reports that with the tremendous rush in immigration of the present year the demands for homesteads has increased by leaps and bounds and th G. T. P. is anticipating great difficulty in finding sufficient land on which to locate the incoming settlers. With this in view the railway is making every effort to find out just where free land suitable for farming can be obtained within reason able distance of the railroad. Mr. Lett is this year devoting his time here and at Wainwright obtaining information in regard to the number of homesteads left. He will go west to Edson; from there he will drive north over the new Government road to Grande Prairie to see the country and find out for himself how feasible the road is for the average stitler. On returning from the north Mr. Lett will go out to the end of the steel and possibly on into Jasper Park.

Last year, in cómpany with F. A. Talcott, Mr. Lett undertook travelling by pack train and canoe, through the mountains and down the rivers for the purpose of ascertaining the possibility of the country from a tourists point of view. This year, however, owing to the growing scarcity of homesteads the railway is forced to take up the more practical question of finding the settlement by the greatly increased numbers that are expected to travel over the line during the coming year.

LICENSE BYLAW IS INEFFECTIVE

Magistrate Declares One Clause Ultra Vires, And Says He Has No Power to Discipline License

(From Friday's Daily.)

That several important sections of the city's license by-law are of no effect was the declaration made by Magistrate Cowan in the police court on Thursday when he dismissed the claim of John Renand against Violette and Harvey, employment agents, for fees paid for finding work which Renand was unable to obtain at the camp.

A week or so ago a number of men were engaged by employment agencies in the city, of which that of Violette and Harvey was one, and paying the fee of one dollar each, left for the construction camps only to return later with the complaint that they were refused work, and had lost, in addition to their time, from $5 to $11 in expenses.

The Renand case was chosen, as a test case and conducted by Jos. A. Clarke, solicitor for the men. It was dismissed by the magistrate, who ence of almost the entire employment office circle to give a general lecture on the many complaints that had been brought to him regarding the practise of sending men out to work where there was no work, and keeping the dollar which they had paid.

Dealing with the by-law governing the licensing of these employment offices the magistrate said, that the Clause (No. 7) which attempted to define what was criminal and what was not criminal, was clearly ultra vires of the city council and was of no effect whatever.

Dealing with Clause 5 which provided that where men pay $1.00 and do not get work in a week, they can get 50 cents back, the magistrate held first that the workmen would be forced to bring evidence from the place prove the lack of work there. Mr Clarke attempted to combat this stand of the magistrate but His Worship was firm in his interpretation of the law, although he apparently agreed with Mr. Clarke that this would effectually prevent any workman being able to successfully establish his claim to the 50 cents.

His Worship stated that he was practically helpless in the matter, as no authority existed for the city to have control over any licensed premises operating under a municipal license. The magistrate held that he could not cancel a license or discipline a licensee.

Mr. Clarke states that he has been requested by the men to bring this condition of affairs before the city council and if no redress can be obtained there to draw the attention of the Provincial Government to the condition which exists and the helpless condition of the workmen who are in the district seeking work.

"Our baby cries for Chamberlain's Cough Remedy," writes Mrs. T. B. Kendrick, Rasaca, Ga. "It is the best cough remedy on the market for coughs, colds and croup." For sale by Dealers everywhere.

PREPARING A BIG FORESTRY PLAN

The Government's Comprehensive Scheme of Conservation.

(From Friday's Daily.)

That the Dominion Government was prepared to embark on a scheme of forest administration of first magnitude, for the preservation and control of Canada's untold timber resources, was the statement of A. Knechtel, inspector of Dominion forest reserves, to the Bulletin this afternoon. With this purpose in view, the Department of the Interior are starting a campaign of a necessarily two-fold nature, first to educate public opinion to recognize the importance of our timber resources and the inadequacy of the methods at present adopted for their preservation, and at the same time to deal in as practical a manner as possible the problems most pressing and to protect the timber most seriously threatened, as preliminary to the larger question of caring for the timber of our vast hinterland and making a beginning at reforestation. The educational campaign is being carried on by Mr. A. Knechtel in a series of public lectures, accompanied by stereoptican slides, calculated to explain the fundamentals of forestry in its bearings on commercial life. It is hoped that if the facts are presented to the public in a straightforward way, interest can be aroused to back the larger scheme the government has in mind, of a thorough organization of our untouched forest wealth.

Mr. Knechtel also gave an account of the work planned by the Department for their forestry branch this year in laying the foundations for this broader scheme when the time is ripe for putting it forward.

"This spring," said Mr. Knechtel, "a party will go into the Peace River country to determine what areas should be placed in forest reserves and put under forestry management."

The two parties sent out last summer, along the line of the proposed Hudson's Bay Railway, to make a survey of the timber and report concerning the best means for its preservation, will continue their work in the same territory. A third party is also being outfitted this spring for the same work."

"Last summer the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains was set aside as a forest reserve by orders-in-council. Two forest survey parties, one under the direction of Mr. G. H. Edgecombe, one under Mr. T. L. Cavenhill, operated all last summer indicating the boundary line between the settlements and the reserve, so that the boundary can be fixed by Act of Parliament. This summer, Mr. Edgecombe will continue this work by running the line northward from the North Saskatchewan river. He is already here to begin this work."

"A party will also operate upon the Porcupine Hills, in Southern Alberta, making a detailed study of the timber. This party will probably arrive about the middle of May and will consist of a forestry ranger, a fallman and a tranquil surveyor, now a mere thread of water trickling over its rocky bed. The contrast with Germany was most striking and instructive, where the folds in the landscape are smooth and verdant with the foliage of forests carefully planted and tended, calculated to produce crops for the people for generations. The lecturer pointed out the necessity for wood in our commercial life for lumber, firewood, mine timber and other purposes. Even in Italy, where the consumption was reduced to a minimum, the country used 270,000,000 feet of timber every year, of which but 25,000,000 feet were produced within her borders.

The regulation of the water supply was then referred to as one of the benefits accruing from the preserving of the forests and these offer mechanical resistance to the flow of water and allowing the moisture to permeate the soil most thoroughly by following the channels made by the roots. The moisture, too, is absorbed by the mulch and the humus in the soil as a result of the decomposition of the leaves. Careful forestry effectively prevented erosion, which was illustrated by several slides showing the havoc wrought by the washing away of the soil where the trees had been completely cleared. The advantage most enjoyed in a prairie country was that of protection of growing crops from the winds.

Mr. Knechtel then referred to the forests of the Dominion as probably showing the finest scenery of any of the forests of the world. Several slides were thrown on the screen of scenes in the bush that clothes the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains recently set apart as a forest reserve. An account was given of the work being done by the forest rangers of the department to protect these from the ravages of fire, and to allow the younger trees to grow to maturity.

At the request of Mr. Fisher several slides were shown of methods used in Germany in reforesting denuded areas, and replanting those from which the trees have been removed.

The slides shown were all that could be desired and some of the finest received outbursts of enthusiastic applause. This was the case of several slides of autumn leaves, the product of a New York artist, and which cost some thousands of dollars.

The lecturere received a hearty vote of thanks at the close, and promised another visit and lecture in Edmonton in the future.

Embezzler Sentenced.

Victoria, April 16.—H. C. Bywell who embezzled $2,000 while accountant for the Empress hotel pleaded guilty today and was sentenced to two years.

SAVING THE CHILDREN.

(From Thursday's Daily.)

The office of the Superintendent of Dependent and Delinquent Children has issued the following appeal:—

The kindergarten of citizenship is childhood; and childhood, to be successful either from the viewpoint of the child or of the individual who has the best interests of the children at heart, must be filled full of happiness, health and interest.

No child can find this combination unless its footsteps are directed by adults who have given the matter of childhood, in its relation to citizenship some study and some thought.

The public school system of the country takes the child often five or six years of age, fills its days from nine in the morning until four in the afternoon. During that time, it can naturally be supposed that the child is not contracting habits that will later be detrimental to its interests. It is after the dismissal of the school and before bedtime that the average child acquires the habits which later on stamp it either as a successful individual or one who is a drag to humanity.

Children coming from bad homes usually acquire their manners, such as they have, from contact with the more refined influences of the school room, and it is only the fact that they are coming in contact with teachers and children from refined homes that gives them any chance at all to take a place in the race of life.

The sights of the average city street do not tend to develop the best in the mind of the average child. Whiskey signs, profanity and drunken men have not a refining influence upon the lives of children, and in view of the fact that children are imitators, and as a rule are allowed to run the streets without care or guardianship, it is not to be wondered at that some very innocent looking children can indulge in the vilest profanity, and act out scenes of debauchery which would astonish many a mother were she to know that her child had any knowledge of such things.

Immense sums of money are being spent in all of the larger cities on the continent in providing playgrounds under adequate supervision in order that the children may be protected from the influences of the street and may be guarded during the time between school hours and bedtime.

Modern economic conditions make it impossible for the average home to provide a private playground or even a playroom within the home circle. If children are worth saving to citizenship, the investment of fifty or one hundred dollars—in addition to the hundreds of thousands which are spent on school buildings and equipment—should be made in each municipality in order that playgrounds may be provided for the sake of the children who will some day sway the destiny of the nation.

CANADA'S FORESTS AND THEIR VALUE.

Inspector of Forest Reserves Gave Interesting Lecture in the Separate School Hall.

In the Separate School Hall the purposes of forestry were presented in a striking way last evening by Abraham Knechtel, inspector of Dominion forest reserves in an illustrated lecture on the place of forests in the life of a people and the proper methods to protect, reproduce and crop, at stated periods, the products of their growth.

Mr. Knechtel began in a historical and reminiscent strain, referring first to the forests that covered in ancient time the greater part of Canada. He then took the audience back to his boyhood days on the banks of the Maitland river in Huron County, Ontario. This stream in pioneer times flowing out at a full and tranquil current, now

Nuckles Employment Agency

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FLAX GROWING.

This Branch of Farming Receives Impetus in Southern Part of Province.

Medicine Hat, April 11—The establishment of a linseal oil mill at Medicine Hat and the prospects of a large linen mill being established here within the year is having a stimulating effect on the flax industry in this district. Seed dealers a Calgary estimated that the amount of flax cultivated will be limited only by the available supply of seed.

There is an extreme demand for flax seed, and the supply will not be adequate to meet the demands caused by the superior weather conditions.

Flax seed has jumped from $1.50 per bushel to $3.75 per bushel. It may go higher. Owing to a lean crop all over the states last year the price of linseed oil was advanced from 75c to $1.45 per gallon, and seed increased proportionately. Local prices are still advancing.

The flax industry in this country is now one of the most promising agricultural pursuits, and the Calgary district is admirably suited to its culture. The new linseed oil mill, combined with the unprecedentedly favorable weather, has given an astounding impetus to the cultivation of this crop. The linen mills are also a certainty, although the dimensions of the concern are not yet decided. Agriculturalists are looking ahead to wonderful developments in flax growth in this district within the next five years.

Hudson's Bay Indians Starving.

Winnipeg, April 11.—Indians in the Hudson Bay district are almost on the verge of starvation and have had to be assisted by the Hudson Bay officers. The terrible severe weather, with the scarcity of furs in the region around Churchill, Nelson and Trout Lake, is assigned for the state of affairs by the Rev. H. T. Wright, of Nelson, who with Rev. Mr. Laing, from York Factory and Godsell from Trout Lake, mushed it in from the bay and have arrived in the city.

A DISPUTE BETWEEN RIVAL VINEGAR FIRMS

Culminates in Arrest of R. E. McLaren, Charged With Theft—Trial to be Held This Afternoon—Satisfactory Bail Was Not Arranged for After Arrest Was Made.

(From Thursday's Daily.)

Charged with the theft of nearly $1,000 worth of vinegar and various chemical products, R. E. McLaren, manager of the Edmonton Vinegar company, is now lying in the police cells and was arraigned yesterday afternoon in the police court on this charge, preferred on the complaint of the R. E. McLaren Co., of which he himself was originally the promoter an whose employ he recently left.

Some time ago Mr. McLaren started the R. E. McLaren Co., for the manufacture and sale of concentrates and extracts with headquarters on Fraser avenue. About one month ago difficulties arose between himself and other members of the company and McLaren left their employ to start the Edmonton Vinegar Co., on Sutherland street. Agreements were made for the disposition of the stock which was to be divided between the now rival companies. In the carrying out of this agreement it is alleged that misunderstandings have arisen and the prosecution claims that the new company have appropriated more than the amount due them under the contract. The trouble eventually culminated in the preferring of a charge of theft against McLaren on the complaint of members of the older company, including, it is understood, Z. W. Mitchell, of the Loyal Legion Investment company.

McLaren was arrested yesterday by the Edmonton police. On being taken to the court satisfactory bail could not be given and he was held for trail until today. Mr. McLaren will be represented by Hector Cowan, of Short, Cross, Biggar & Cowan. It is quite probable that the defence will take the ground that the question is simply a dispute regarding the contracts between the two companies with which McLaren was connected, and ask that the case be dismissed.

GENIUS APPARENT IN EARLY BOYHOOD

Young Mischa Elman, Remarkable Violinist, who is Coming to Edmonton to Give a Performance on Monday, May 1st.

(From Thursday's Daily.)

Twenty years ago in the little village of Stalnoje, in the government of Kiev, Russia, was born into the family of a poor school master a boy who long before he reached manhood was destined to cause a profound sensation in the musical world.

This boy was Mischa Elman, who is to give a recital in Edmonton, Monday, May 1st. His father was something of a musician and when the child was 4 years old ,he gave him a toy violin which the boy learned to play before he could read a note of music. A year later Mischa was taken to play before a woman of nobility, who was so impressed with his remarkable talent that she wanted to adopt him and give him the education necessary to make him a virtuoso. As this meant abandonment of the Jewish faith in the lad, his father refused but he managed to scrape up enough money to take the boy to Odessa, where he succeeded in putting him in the Imperial Music School under the tuition of Professor Fiegelmann.

Those who came in contact with young Mischa quickly recognized that his talent was enormous, not only in playing his chosen instrument but in music in general. So greatly was Fiedelmann impressed with him that in 1903 he obtained a hearing for him before Leopold Auer, professor of violin at the St. Petersburg Conservatory and one of the great violinists of Europe. To use Auer's own words, he was "simply carried off his feet" by the wonderful precocity of the youngster, and made up his mind then and there to take him as his own pupil. From that time on his study and his progress were continuous.

Not a single unfavorable notice did Elman get in New York or elsewhere; on the contrary, all the critics were most enthusiastic over him, seeing in him a most extraordinary combination of technique and musicianship. One of them wrote: "Elman must be regarded as the most extraordinary artist the present generation has seen. It seems impossible to find a flaw in his artistic armor. He is strong at all points and the public is not more enthusiastic over him than are musicians."

This greatest of all violinists will appear in Edmonton, Monday, May 1st, at the McDougall Auditorium. Seats will be on sale at Harmony Hall Monday morning next. The sale will be very large.

STATUTORY HOLIDAYS.

Addition of King's Birthday Makes Nine Holidays for the Dominion

Ottawa, April 13—With the addition of King George's birthday there are now nine statutory holidays in Canada. They are in the following order: New Year's Day, Good Friday, Easter Monday, Victoria Day, May 24, King's Birthday June 3rd, Dominion Day July 1st, Labor Day first Monday in September, Thanksgiving Day fixed by proclamation, and Christmas Day. In addition for this year, Coronation Day, June 22nd, will be proclaimed a public holiday. Under the statute no interest can be charged on those days.

Italian's Body Found.

Toronto, April 13—The body of Guise Ppe Longrettis, an Italian, aged 28, missing from Depot Harbor since November 18th, was found in a field near the C.P.R. tracks near here. An inquest is to be held, as there are some suspicious circumstances.

MONTHLY MEETING BOARD OF TRADE

Committee Chosen to Consider Question of Civic Planning—Board Rooms to Be Re-arranged.

(From Thursday's Daily.)

At the monthly meeting of the Board of Trade, held yesterday afternoon, S. W. Candy and Lionel Gibbs were appointed a committee to inquire into civic planning for Edmonton and to make a report to the next meeting of the council of the board.

Mr. Candy's motion in favor of an agitation for such a scheme was unanimously passed, though the opinion was expressed that full information should be obtained before going much further. Full discussion followed, many expressing an opinion in favor of the move. Mr. J. H. Picard dissented, on the ground that a report had already been made to the council, and that the board would be acting in a presumptuous way in ignoring this report, which had cost $500. It was embodied in the motion that the committee appointed should first obtain this report as a basis for any further action.

Mr. Lionel Gibbs' speech outlined in a concise way the nature of the plan. Although it was supposed by some that town planning was a matter for experts, it was really a matter of general policy. Civic governments followed public opinion and he had no doubt that the council, however good their intentions, would not act until forced by a strong public agitation. There were three methods of town planning:—

1. The haphazard method;
2. General planning outlined by council and approved by an expert;
3. Civic planning commission to employ an expert, get a plan and report.

They could accomplish their object by employing one expert or two separate ones—a landscape expert and a transportation expert—in order to solve both aspects of the problem, the aesthetic and utilitarian.

One of the duties of the committee, Mr. Gibbs thought, was to interest other municipal bodies in Edmonton and Strathcona in the project.

Edmonton had a peculiar position from site, and the fact of its being a capital city, and it was the duty of the citizens to live up to their possibilities and prevent us making mistakes in the planning of a great city.

The following new members were enrolled: A. E. May, R. A. G. Little, Howard Stutchbury, Geo. F. Emerson.

The report of the council was approved dealing with the Grand Trunk Hotel, a railway to the north, civic driveways along the river, and the South African veterans' monument.

The arrival of the Sheffield choir on May 9th and 10th is to be the occasion of a formal welcome by the board, for which the entertainment committee asked power to spend not more than $500. Several members of the board thought that this estimate should be reduced, the board had other uses for its money. It was pointed out by the President that the choir included a large number of prominent business men and capitalists in England and that the board would be losing a good opportunity in failing to recognize them.

The committee dealing with the lease of the board rooms reported that if the board relinquished the front offices, Mr. J. B. McCulla, proprietor of the King Edward Hotel, would give them in return equivalent space in the rear, the whole free of rent for the balance of the lease. The acceptance of this proposal was strongly recommended.

The meeting adjourned at 2.30.

HON. FRANK OLIVER IS NOW IN THE WEST

Minister of Interior En Route to Edmonton to Meet Constituents—To Address Public Meeting in Winnipeg—Will Address Meeting in Calgary on Friday.

Winnipeg, Man., April 11.—Hon. Frank Oliver, minister of the interior, who will address a public gathering in the city on Wednesday night, is a guest at the Royal Alexandra. He is accompanied by Mrs. Oliver and Miss Lucy, and will leave again for the West Wednesday night. This morning he was kept exceedingly busy meeting Western people having business with the Department of the Interior, and he will be similarly occupied during the balance of the brief time which he is able to spend in the city.

Asked this morning regarding the purpose of his present visit to the Western provinces, the minister said:

"My object in making the trip to Edmonton at the present time was to meet my constituents during the Easter recess. It was the more desirable that I should do this, owing to the fact that there is a possibility that the session may be unduly prolonged."

In addition to speaking at the gathering in Winnipeg, arrangements have been made by the Liberal Association at Calgary for a meeting there on Friday night of the present week."

"Was it your intention to take up especially the discussion of the reciprocity agreement" he was asked.

"No," replied the minister. "I am ready to discuss the proposed trade agreement with the United States, as I am prepared to discuss any policy of the government. My trip to Alberta is not made to argue this subject or debate it. The questions which I may discuss in my gatherings will depend on the circumstances of the case."

Conviction Quashed.

Toronto, April 11.—Mr. Justice Sutherland this afternoon quashed the conviction of Johnson and Carey, of Rainey River, who were fined $500 by Judge Fitch of that place for a breach of the anti-alien labor act, for bringing in railway laborers from St. Paul. The conviction is quashed on the ground that the consent to prosecution required by the statue had not been filed.

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