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LIBEL CASE.

Issued for Newspaper
Who Fails to
ppear.

1.—A bench warrant,
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came up for hearing

YEAR AFTER

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Lepine against Jean
inister of the colon-
d fisheries, published
the Nationalist. Pre-
es for libel.

WAGES OF HELPERS

Advances to Men in
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and Laggan

11.—A decision re-
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be $3.38½, while on
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difference will make
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to the change, which
yesterday, the wages
o divisions were $2.97

UNBOUNDED FAITH IN THE FUTURE

CANADA LIFE HAS BIG INVESTMENTS IN WEST

Senator Cox Says Men Are Being Obtained in Wales for Fernie Mines.

Winnipeg, Oct. 10.—Senator George A. Cox, of Toronto, president of the Canada Life Insurance Company, accompanied by H. L. Watt, secretary-treasurer, and W. G. Morrow, of Peterboro, manager of the Toronto Savings & Loan Company, arrived in Winnipeg to-day.

Senator Cox stated that the trip is his first to the west in three years.

"Our trip was taken solely in the interest of the Canada Life Insurance Company to look over our present interests, which, I may say, amount to over seven millions in the west, and to examine conditions with the object of even further extending our operations. During the first nine months of the year, or until the first of October, we have increased our mortgage loans in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta by one million and ninety thousand dollars, and the purchase of school debentures and corporation bonds will increase our investment for this period by a further quarter of a million. We have, I believe, loaned more money in the west than other companies, and despite the temporary check the country has received this year, we have unbounded faith and more confidence than ever in its future. Rumors current with regard to the small returns for the present crop are, I believe, unfounded, and I believe that any shrinkage in quantity will be offset in such a degree by increased values as to return as much money as in any previous year."

Two days were spent by the party in the vicinity of Fernie, B. C., inspecting the coal mines of the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company, at Fernie, Michel and Morrissey, where some 3,000 men are employed. With regard to this portion of the trip Senator Cox said that four additional mines were at the present time being opened, and that every effort will be made to double the output of the company, which is now 4,000 tons daily, in the shortest possible space of time. He stated that to bring about the proposed increase the company was severely handicapped for men, and that an endeavor was being made to bring labor from all points.

"At the present time," he said, "there is an agent in Wales who is employing all the available men he can procure for the mines, and they are being sent to Canada under a contract for so many months. We do not employ any Oriental labor whatsoever."

Asked whether any contract for the Fernie mines would be distributed on the prairies this coming fall and winter, Senator Cox said: "There is scarcely any coal sold east of the mountains, and our entire output is used by the C. P. R., the Great Northern and in the smelters. For the latter purpose some 3,000 tons of coal," he said, "are converted daily into coke."

Speaking of the agitation at present in force among real estate agents of Winnipeg to secure better financial conditions and the claim made by these dealers that some fifty millions of Canadian money had been invested by the Canadian banks in call loans in New York, thereby causing undue tightness in the Canadian money markets, Senator Cox stated that real estate men were apparently in error in this regard.

"The Canadian banks have branches on the other side of the line," he said, "and I have no doubt that a large proportion of this fifty millions was deposited by Americans." "In any event," he said, "if the theory were correct, would it not be better, in view of the present existing conditions, for the Canadian banking institutions to invest their money in call loans, which can be realized upon instantly in case of emergency, instead of in western real estate, where the process of securing ready cash from mortgage loans is extremely slow?"

Senator Cox will leave for the east on Saturday next.

CONFESSES TO BLACKMAILING

Bigelow Demanded Money From Prominent Denver Firms--Threatened Dynamite if Refused

Denver, Colo., Oct. 10.—Kemp Bigelow, the young clerk from Bryan, Ohio, who mailed dynamite packages last Monday to Governor Buchtel and several other prominent citizens of Denver, confessed to-day that he was also the author of letters mailed on August 29th last to the Burlington railway, the Moffatt road, the Adams Express Company, the Daniels and Fisher stores, the May Show and Clothing Company and to Postmaster Sours, demanding amounts ranging from $10,000 to $50,000 and aggregating $190,000.

These letters contained threats that unless these demands were complied with, passenger trains would be wrecked with dynamite, the Daniels and Fisher and May stores and Federal building in this city would be blown up, and C. M. Day, local agent of the Adams Express Company, would be killed within thirty days.

Bigelow's confession was made to Chief of Police Delaney in the presence of Mr. Day and John F. Valley, agent of the Burlington road in Denver.

Suspicion was directed to Bigelow by the similarity between the handwriting in the threatening letters and the addresses on the infernal machines mailed this week to Governor Buchtel and others.

At first Bigelow denied the accusation that he wrote the blackmailing letters, but he finally broke down and confessed. He will be turned over to the federal authorities and prosecuted on the charge of using the mails to defraud.

ATTEMPTED SUICIDE.

Quebec, Oct. 11.—A big sensation in social and business circles was caused yesterday by the attempted suicide of F. W. Methot, president of the Caisse D'Ecomy. Mr. Methot, who is nearly 70 years of age, has been president of the bank for many years. He often said his aim was to become a millionaire. His son founded Methot's mills. Ill-health is said to be the cause.

MINISTER MAY RETIRE.

Ottawa, Oct. 11.—The deputy minister of public works, it is said, will be superannuated in the near future. He has been in the public service since 1872. He intends taking up a practice of law in Montreal.

EMPLOYERS HAVE RIGHT TO ORGANISE

Judgment Given in Montreal Court of Law Establishes a Precedent.

Montreal, Oct. 10.—An interesting judgment was rendered to-day in the Superior court by Mr. Justice St. Pierre. In 1905 the Journeymen Plasterers' Union notified the masters that on and after July 3rd they would not work for less than forty cents per hour, instead of the 33½ cents they had been receiving. A meeting of the masters was held, when it was decided to oppose the demand, and an agreement was drawn up and signed by which, among other things, the employers bound themselves to lock out the members of the union in the event of their going on strike, to stand by one another, not to engage men at more than the existing rate of wages, and to deposit their notes of hand for $500 each in the hands of appointed trustees as liquidated damages in case any one of them violated the terms of the agreement. The strike was duly declared, and the agreement came into existence.

After the strike had been on for some weeks, the firm of Knott & Gardner came to terms with the union, whereupon the employers' association entered suit for the recovery of the $500 liquidated damages. The defence was that such an agreement was illegal and immoral, and in restraint of trade, and that such damages could not be recovered. It was also denied that any damages had been caused.

Judge St. Pierre held that the agreement was legal. In his judgment he pointed out that the law clearly gave workingmen the right to organize for the improvement of conditions, and held that if they possessed this right it was clear that the right also belonged to the employers of organizing to opose such demands. The allegation that the agreement was in restraint of trade was met by the fact that the agreement only provided for the doing of a certain thing for a certain length of time, and that it interfered in no way with the operation of the law of supply and demand. If the union created an artificial condition, it could not be termed restraint of trade for the employers to oppose it. Besides, the elements of excessive profits and malice common to conspiracies of this nature were entirely lacking. Regarding the penalty clause of the agreement, the judgment did not pronounce definitely.

Judge Pierre found that the defendants had neglected to withdraw from the association, and had not demanded the return of their $500 note, and in view of these facts gave judgment against the defendants for the amount claimed, holding that the plaintiffs had established that they had suffered damage as a result of the action of the defendants in making peace with the union and thereby encouraging it to prolong the strike. What would have happened had the defendants endeavored to withdraw from the association and had demanded the return of their deposit the court did not say.

DISAPPEARS WHEN ON BAIL.

Millionaire's Wife Charged With Many Thefts May Not Be Present at Trial.

Chicago, Oct. 10.—Mrs. Charles J. Romadaka, wife of a rich manufacturer of Milwaukee and a self-confessed thief, disappeared from Chicago to-day following her release on $9,400 bonds.

Charles Jones, the negro with whom Mrs. Romadaka said she worked, is still in a cell. Mrs. Romadaka appeared at court late in the afternoon accompanied by Attorney Donovan, of Milwaukee, and Clement Romadaka, her brother-in-law. After the formal arraignment Attorney Donovan secured a continuance of the case until October 15th, and Albert J. Ward, a brother-in-law of Clement Romadaka, signed the bond.

Mrs. Romadaka and the attorney entered a cab and drove rapidly to the Sherman house. They left there a few minutes later and have not been seen since.

Although the police say they do not know Mrs. Romadaka's present address, they entertain the belief that she has returned to Milwaukee, and assert that they have no fear that she will appear when her case is called next week.

BANK OF FRANCE.

Paris, Oct. 10.—The weekly statement of the Bank of France shows the following changes: Notes in circulation decreased 30,450,000 francs; treasury deposits decreased 225,000 francs; general deposits decreased 28,800,000 francs; gold in hand decreased 2,500,000 francs.

Agates, cornelians and other valuable stones are found on the pebbly beaches of the Suffolk coast.

NOTED CRIMNAL DIES IN PRISON

CARNEGIE'S PSEUDO NEICE IS NO MORE

Cassie Chadwick Swindled Men and Banks Out of Millions of Money.

Columbus, O., Oct. 10.—Mrs. Cassie Chadwick, whose financial transactions culminated in the wrecking of an Oberlin, O., bank, died in the women's ward at the Ohio penitentiary to-night at 10.15. Mrs. Chadwick had been in a comatose condition for some hours previous to her death, and the end came peacefully. No friends or relatives waited at her bedside, only the prison physician and her attendants being present. Her son, Emil Hoover, had been summoned from Cleveland, but he was not expected to arrive before to-morrow.

Mrs. Cassie L. Chadwick, whose maiden name was Elizabeth Bigley, was a native of Woodstock, Canada. She first came into public notice in Toledo, O., about 20 years ago, where she told fortunes under the name of Madame Devere. While in that city she forged the name of Richard Brown, of Youngstown, O., and for this crime was sent to the penitentiary at Columbus for nine years. She served but a portion of the sentence, and then located in Cleveland, where she married a man named Hoover. Her second husband was Dr. Lerop S. Chadwick, of Cleveland, a man of good family and excellent standing in his profession.

In the latter part of 1902, or early in 1903, Mrs. Chadwick, in the presence of her husband, gave to Ira Reynolds, the cashier of the Swade Parke bank of Cleveland, a box containing notes signed with the name of Andrew Carnegie. The forged notes are alleged to have amoutned to $7,500,000.

Reynolds gave to Mrs. Chadwick a receipt for the papers, which described the notes and the signatures upon them. Mrs. Chadwick's life with Reynolds as an explanation of the existence of the notes the statement that she was a natural daughter of Carnegie. With the receipt of Reynolds in her possession, Mrs. Chadwick went to different banks and many capitalists, making loans and paying not only high interest to the banks, but heavy bonuses to the bank officials who loaned her the money. The extent of these transactions will never be fully known, but they ran up into the millions. They involved men of high standing in the financial world, and caused heavy losses to many banks.

In November, 1904, she was sued by a man named Newton, of Brookline, Mass., from whom she had borrowed a large amount, which she was unable to pay. Other creditors came down upon her, and within a short time she was placed under arrest by the federal authorities on the charge of conspiring with Charles Beckwith, the president, and A. B. Spear, of the National Bank at Oberlin, Ohio, which had been substantially looted. Mrs. Chadwick had obtained from this institution such large sums of money that it was compelled to close its doors, causinb heavy losses to the depositors and ruining many of them.

Mrs. Chadwick, Beckwith and Spear were indicted for a variety of offences against the national banking laws. Beckwith died before coming to trial. Spear pleaded guilty, was sentenced to seven years in the penitentiary, and is serving time at Columbus, Ohio.

Mrs. Chadwick was brought to trial on March 6th, 1905, and after a hearing which lasted for two weeks, was found guilty of conspiracy to defraud a national bank, and was sentenced to ten years in the penitentiary. Her health, which was not good at the time of the trial, failed steadily after its conclusion.

Mrs. Chadwick left one son, born of her first marriage, Emil Hoover, who is now about 20 years of age.

BRYAN OPPOSED TO NATIONALISATION

Says That Roosevelt's Plans for Railroads Are too Far Reaching to be Accepted

Cincinnati, Ohio, Oct. 10.—Opposition to President Roosevelt's suggestion of national incorporation of railroads was declared in an interview here to-day by Wm. J. Bryan, of Lincoln, Neb.

Mr. Bryan said: "The national incorporation of railroads as proposed by President Roosevelt is the most far-reaching step for centralization, proposed in this country since Hamilton submitted his plan of government. Hamilton provided for president and senators to be elected for life, and for the appointment of state governors by the national government to serve for life.

"The president's plan contemplates the national incorporation of railroads and other corporations doing an interstate business. The result would be to extend greatly the powers of the general government and proportionally reduce the authority of the states. The president is no doubt actuated by the same sincere motives that Hamilton was, but like Hamilton, he seems to believe that the further we get government away from the people, the better it is.

"I am satisfied that his plan will not be accepted. In fact two official bodies have recently taken the other side. The attorney-general at St. Louis prepared a memorial asking for restriction of the jurisdiction of the lower federal courts, and this morning's papers report that the state railroad commissioners have expressed opposition to national incorporation."

A DRAMATIC END.

Wife of General Von Buelow Falls Dead at Her Sick Husband's Feet.

Berlin, Oct. 10.—The wife of the Imperial Adjutant General Adolf Von Buelow died last night under sad circumstances. The General, who has been bedridden suffering from asthma, had a severe attack in the night, and his attendants called his wife, who, finding him apparently suffocated and unconscious, shrieked, "The General is dying; so am I."

As she uttered the last words she fell dead at her husband's feet. The General recovered consciousness later, but remains in a serious condition, and has not yet been informed of his wife's death.

A DARING FEAT.

New York Steeple Jack climbs the Singer Tower, 703 Feet High.

New York, Oct. 10.—A new record for steeple-Jack climbing was made to-day when Ernest Cappelle climbed up the flagstaff of the Singer building tower and clamped a gilded glove to the top of the staff, 703 feet above the ground. Thousands of people watched the daring little man as he made the perilous ascent.

W. SLOAN, M. P., IS BACK FROM NORTH

He Tells of the Conditions Prevailing in Cassiar District and Elsewhere.

Mr. William Sloan, member for Comox-Atlin district in the House of Commons at Ottawa, has returned from a seven weeks' trip through the northern part of his district. Mr. Sloan met with a splendid reception at all points visited.

His first call was at Telegraph Creek, in the Cassiar district, where Mr. Sloan was tendered a banquet and otherwise given a flattering reception, he being the first Dominion representative to visit that section.

Interviewed last night in Nanaimo, Mr. Sloan stated that the northern country was enjoying an era of unprecedented prosperity. The mining properties about Dease Lake were showing up good, and a syndicate was busy surveying Haskin's mountain, a copper property in which a number of Nanaimo and Victoria people hold stock. From reports sent out, this property promises to turn out well.

While in the north, Mr. Sloan discussed with the residents of that district the question of winter mails and aids to navigation on the Stikine river.

From Telegraph Creek he went down the Stikine river in a small boat to Wrangle, where connection was made with Prince Rupert, which place Mr. Sloan states is forging ahead very rapidly. At this place some 500 acres of land are being cleared for a townsite, and a wharf 100 feet long has already been built. The hydrographic survey at this point is now concluded, and the result shows Prince Rupert to have one of the finest harbors on the Pacific Coast.

The development of the quartz mining properties on the Portland Canal and on Queen Charlotte Islands was being pushed and showing up well, especially the Jedway property which was attracting much attention.

Speaking of the northern fisheries, Mr. Sloan stated that the north had experienced a very successful season, the canneries putting up a good pack. The Dominion hatcheries now being built in that section were being rushed to completion, and it is expected will be doing active work before the season ends.

The loss of the boats on the Skeena river had greatly retarded settlement, remarked Mr. Sloan, but it is expected other boats will soon be put on the run, and business resume its normal conditions.

Speaking of Port Simpson and vicinity, Mr. Sloan states that the place showed considerable development since his last visit, and during the construction of the Grand Trunk Pacific railway will be a distributing centre for supplies, etc.

At Port Essington, the Dominion member was tendered a banquet and reception, which was well attended by the residents of that town, who turned out to welcome their representative.

A well attended meeting was held at Bella Coola on Saturday night last, addressed by Mr. Sloan. Bella Coola is the starting point for the interior, where much work is being done at present, especially in the Ootsa Lake district. The increased settlement in the Bella Coola district has necessitated the opening up of new post offices, and while in the north Mr. Sloan arranged for the opening up of two new post offices, one of which the residents of that district named "Sloan" in honor of their popular member.

CRUSHED UNDER WHEELS OF TRAIN

Passengers Thrown From Platform Beneath the Wheels--One Killed and Many Injured.

Warsaw, Ind., Oct. 11.—A westbound Pennsylvania train ploughed into a crowd at Bourbon station last night, killing Tom Sloan, a Warsaw saloonkeeper, and injuring several other persons.

At the time of the accident one thousand persons were standing on the platform awaiting an eastbound passenger train. Somebody said "Here she comes" and the mob of human beings surged towards the train, several persons being thrown in front of the locomotive.

KILLED BY FALLING DERRICK.

Cleveland, Ohio, Oct. 10.—Four men were killed to-day and several others seriously hurt, by the falling of a derrick where a new railway bridge is being built.

MAN KILLS AND EATS EIGHT HUMAN BEINGS

Terrible Tales of Cannibalism, Deadly Feuds and Wholesale Murder, Come From the Wilds of Labrador.

(Special to the Times).

Winnipeg, Oct. 11.—Tales of cannibalism, wholesale murder, awful famine and deadly feuds among natives between the northern shore of James Bay and Labrador, are brought back by J. A. Asborne, veteran editor of the Fort Francis Times, who has just completed a trip of exploration in that desolate country.

While at Moose Factory that explorer met a young man who had fled thither in terror of his uncle, whom he said had killed and eaten eight human beings.

There, too, he saw a woman who killed and ate her two children, so great was the famine.

This lack of food was primarily brought about by the woods being almost entirely without their usual number of deer and rabbits. One village on the main river was wiped off the map because of the remarkably great snowfall during last winter.

A relief expedition found nothing but thirteen corpses.

The feud between two half-breed families resulted in the killing of his brothers by a hunter, who was disguised as a bear. The relative of the dead man went home, called out the village hunters and killed five members of their families.

Friends of the brothers thereupon took up the fight and wiped out the family of the murderer, so that in all thirteen people lost their lives.

BASIS PROPOSED FOR THE REPAVING

Petition Which Is Being Circulated Among Property Owners on Government Street.

A petition is being circulated among the property owners on Government street looking to a settlement of the paving question. This was prepared by the streets committee of the city council and if agreeable to the property owners the basis for repaving contained in it will be made the scheme for carrying out the work.

The petition which Alderman Henderson is circulating as chairman of the streets committee, is as follows:

To His Worship the Mayor and Board of Aldermen:

Gentlemen:—The petition of the undersigned humbly showeth:

Whereas the city council has, by resolution passed on the 16th day of September, 1907, signified its intention of re-blocking the pavement on Government street between Johnson and Courtney streets, with wooden blocks treated with creosote;

And whereas the blocks with which the said street was first paved have only lasted five years, although it was contemplated when the work was done that they would last 10 years, and the assessment therefor was levied upon the property benefitted for 10 years accordingly;

And whereas your petitioners, being property owners interested, or the representatives of such, object to pay a second concurrent assessment for the remaining term of five years in order that the work of renewal may be now carried out;

And whereas your petitioners understand that it is proposed that the basis of assessment for the new work will be the same as that under the first levy, with regard to the distribution of the cost, as between the property owners and the city, namely, that each shall bear 50 per cent. of the said cost;

And whereas it is estimated by the city engineer that the total cost of the proposed work would be $14,307, and the cost to the property owners interested, if over a period of 10 years, would be 37 cents per lineal foot frontage;

And whereas your petitioners realize that the conditio nof the present pavement is such as to greatly incommode and seriously endanger the safety of the public, and that its renewal cannot longer be delayed;

Wherefore your petitioners respectfully ask:

1. That the period of the life of the new work of reblocking be determined at 10 years.

2. That the property owners interested be exempt from assessment for the first five years, the city to assume the payment of the total amount of assessment therefor, one-half of which assessment would otherwise fall upon the property owners during that time, and that the property owners interested pay, during the remaining five years of the 10-year period, the full amount of the assessment therefor (one-half of which assessment would otherwise fall to the city to pay), that is to say, at the rate of 74 cents per lineal foot frontage.

3. That if this proposal is agreeable to your honorable body the necessary steps be taken to have the work of renewal proceeded with at once.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

TROUBLESOME CASE.

Member of Crew of Sailing Ship Is Seeking Pay for Lost Time.

Before Magistrate Jay in the city police court this morning an interesting case was brought up by Richard Lowe, of the law firm of Moresby & O'Reilly, on behalf of Peter Cable, an able seaman. Cable was a member of the crew of the British sailing ship Socotra, now at Chemainus, and on the way from the United Kingdom to these waters he was either put ashore or went ashore at Los Angeles on account of an injury he had received through an accident on the ship.

Cable claims that the master of the Socotra, Capt. J. H. Witt, sent him ashore at Port Los Angeles and left him there. He is seeking to obtain the payment of wages from the captain, having followed the ship from California upon his recovery.

Yesterday the case was brought up in the County court under the provisions of the Canadian Shipping Act, but Judge Lampman decided that he had no jurisdiction to try the case under that act. This morning the case was brought up in the police court under the British Merchants' Shipping Act, but the objection was raised by F. Peters, K. C., for the defence, that the case could not be tried under this act. The plaintiff's solicitor contended that certain provisions were made in the act to allow of trial in the colonies under various circumstances.

Magistrate Jay adjourned the case until to-morrow morning to look into the objection raised.

The British Household Cavalry number 1,360; the Foot Guards, 8,053.

CONDITIONS THAT MUST BE ENFORCED

C. P. R. Telegraph Company Has No Rights Beyond Those of a Common Carrier.

This is what the C. P. R.'s telegraphs must concede to the newspapers of Western Canada, if not peaceably, then under duress:

1. The same recognition of the Western Associated Press that has been given by the Canadian Northern Telegraph Company, the Great Northwestern Telegraph Company, and the Western Union Telegraph Company.

2. The restoration of the press rates in force prior to October 1st, pending the decision of the railway commission as to whether the conditions of service justify an increase.

3. Where the C. P. R. gives special rates for the carrying of its own press service it shall extend the same rates to an independent service of equal volume going to the same place.

There is nothing unreasonable in these demands. The newspapers ask for nothing which is not their right.

Given these terms the newspapers of Western Canada will meet the competition of the C. P. R. Telegraphs under equal conditions. We ask only for a "fair field and no favor."

The C. P. R. will not yield any one of these points willingly. It knows that its control of the news service to newspapers along its lines — a monopoly dear to its soul—is entirely dependent upon the maintenance of the discriminatory terms now enforced. Without the protection thus afforded the C. P. R. would go out of the business of supplying news to Western newspapers within a month because it would not have a client left.

For these reasons the C. P. R. will make a strenuous fight to retain its present advantages. Public opinion may be trusted to mass itself solidly behind the Western newspapers; but the C. P. R. has been known, very unwisely as the sequel proved, to resist public opinion.

Public opinion, however, has weapons, with which it can enforce its decrees. The Parliament of Canada will be in session in five weeks' time. When Parliament opens this issue of rigid supervision of telegraphs by the public will vision of telegraphs by the public will be, we have no doubt, very prompt and efficient action. The end of the exactions of this insolent, inefficient tyrnnous monopoly is in sight.—Manitoba Free Press.

PROVINCE GETTING INCREASED SUBSIDY

Dominion Government Will Pay in a Few Days Under New Scale.

Ottawa, Oct. 11.—Premier McBride will receive in a few days the increased subsidy for the province.

It dates from July 1st and is paid every six months. The increase amounts to $277,000.

FOR METHODIST MISSIONARIES.

Toronto, Oct. 11.—The Methodist Board of Missions has inaugurated an advance policy for a general appeal to the church in the matter of missionary support and will ask for an increase over the present year's contributions amounting to $150,000. This means an advance in all from congregations of forty per cent. Rev. Mr. Heartz having declined to accept the superintendency of Home Missions in the maritime provinces, the board appointed Rev. Thomas Marshall, of Charlottetown, P. E. I., in his place.

KILLED BY ELECTRICITY.

Employee of the Portland Cement Company Receives a Shock of 10,000 Volts.

Calgary, Oct. 11.—By a shock of electricity received through lead at the plant of the Portland Cement Company, Walter Rogers was killed and L. Hutchinson severely burned and rendered unconscious. Both employees were engaged as millers. Ten thousand volts were received by the dead man. The injured man rushed to his assistance, but failed to save him. Rogers was 45 years old and leaves a family.

SOUTH AFRICAN CONFEDERATION

SUBJECT BELIEVED TO BE CONSIDERED

Mr. Justice Lawrence of Cape Colony May Have Important Part in it.

A prominent official of Cape Colony is in the city to-day in the person of the Hon. Mr. Justice Lawrence, of the Supreme court bench of that state, who for the past twenty-five years has occupied high places in the judicial councils of that country. During his long activity as a member of the bench, Mr. Justice Lawrence has filled some very important commissions on behalf of the government, and it is said his present visit to Canada has to do with some constitutional questions which are to be disposed of there.

At the Dominion capital Mr. Justice Lawrence had a consultation with Sir Wilfrid Laurier on matters relating to the constitution of the Dominion with respect to the various provinces, and was given the fullest opportunity for obtaining the most full information on all matters having relations to the privileges and responsibilities of the various provinces with respect to the general government.

The commissioner, for while there is in a sense no official significance associated with his visit, is acting in consort with a desire which has found wide habitation in South Africa for information concerning the fabric of the Canadian confederation. He was in conference with Premier McBride for several hours this morning, and the confederation obligations as regarded from the provincial view were talked over at length as well as all matters which might be of service in forming opinions with respect to the adaptability of a constitution. Mr. Justice Lawrence will proceed from here to Winnipeg, where he will see representatives of the government there in a similar mission, and will also extend his enquiries to other provinces of Canada.

As to the direct purpose of his visit to Canada Mr. Justice Lawrence was reticent. But while he did not admit that his visit was officially directed with a view to the collaboration of facts for guidance in the formation of a South Africa confederation, this idea was clearly suggested in reply to a question put by a Times reporter. When informed by the newspaper man that he had intimation that there was a scheme of confederation in prospect among the South African states, Mr. Justice Lawrence said that public men in South Africa were at present much interested in the practical working out of the Canadian constitution, and are anxious to obtain detailed information on the subject. "My visit to the Dominion, however, is surely unofficial," he said, "although I have been glad to take the opportunity of making myself acquainted with the institutions of the Dominion and the provinces."

So far as could be gathered from the reticence of the distinguished visitor, the scheme of making one great dominion out of the various states now under British rule in South Africa has as yet not advanced beyond the theoretical stage. Nevertheless there is reason to think that the idea has found a place in the minds of some of the country's greatest men and Mr. Justice Lawrence's investigations will be made to serve educationally at least toward the consummation of that great object, if indeed his assistance is not to be given to the drafting of a constitution for the confederation scheme.

At present the states of South Africa are in a position similar to that of the provinces of Canada before the union. That is, to a certain extent, for there are some of the colonies which are not yet possessed of responsible government. The comparison, however, will apply to Cape Colony, the Orange River Colony and the Transvaal. The others are more or less small states administered directly by the British government. For instance there are Griqualand, Mashonaland, British Bechuanaland and others. As Mr. Justice Lawrence declined to discuss the question fully, the nature of the plans which are forming for the confederation of the various states could not be gathered, but it is believed that the three chief states will be the first considered in the contemplated scheme, and that the others will be drawn into the union as their development and conditions may warrant subsequently. In fact, it is assumable that the same process which was followed in the creation of the Dominion of Canada will work out in the scheme of bringing all the British dominions of South Africa, now operating as separate states, under one great confederation.

A PROVINCIAL TEAM.

H. Helmcken Wants to See Lacrosse Players Go to England.

In conversation with H. Dallas Helmcken, K. C., this morning, the subject of sending a British Columbia lacrosse team to England next year during the Franco-British exposition was discussed. Mr. Helmcken is quite enthusiastic over the project, and thinks the provincial government should take the matter in hand.

It would be a splendid advertisement for the province, and would prove one of the great attractions of the exhibition. It is all very well, he thinks, for Westminster to send a team, but that is not representative of British Columbia. The team that is sent should go as a provincial team, and its visit would prove one of the great events of the year. It would, when playing at the world's metropolis, draw the eyes of the whole world in this direction, and be one of the best possible advertisement the province could have.

According to the new Transvaal diamond law, the government has a right to take up to 60 per cent. of the profits of any diamond mines found in the colony, after allowing for all capital expenditure necessary to equip the mine.