THE HARD WHEAT BELT

Professor Saunders Takes Exception to a Popular Notion.

A despatch from Ottawa says: Some interesting facts were brought out on Wednesday morning at the first meeting of the House Committee on Agriculture. Dr. Saunders, of the Experimental Farm, was on the platform, but now and then his opinions clashed with the preconvinced notions of the members of the committee. Mr. Saunders, for example, takes no stock in the notion that the quality of wheat is deteriorating and that the hard wheat belt is steadily moving north. In Ontario, for example, he says that exhaustion of the soil might reduce the quantity, but it cannot affect the quality of the wheat.

Mr. Sexsmith (E. Peterboro') insisted that in his riding, where the red Fife wheat was first grown, the farmers used to raise 40 bushels of Spring wheat and now they only raised 15 per acre. The decrease, he said, could not be due to soil exhaustion, because the same field which now only grows 15 bushels of Spring wheat grew 40 bushels of Winter wheat to the acre. For the past ten years the average yield in Ontario has been 17 bushels per acre and in the West 19.

Comparing Ontario with the West, Dr. Saunders stated that just as good wheat can be grown in Ontario, at Ottawa for example, as anywhere in the Dominion, and the yield per acre is little less. Last year the average yield of wheat per acre in Saskatchewan was 14 bushels, in Manitoba 17, in Alberta 29. In Ontario the average for Spring wheat was 15.8 and for Winter wheat 23.6 bushels.

B. C. HAS SURPLUS.

One Million and a Half Dollars to the Good.

A despatch from Victoria, B. C., says: In the budget address to the legislature on Wednesday night Finance Minister Tatlow showed a surplus of a million and a half. The revenue for the next fiscal year would reach six millions, and the expenditure five and a half millions, of which nearly three millions would be for public works, the largest in the history of the province. The public debt had been reduced from $11,000,000 to $9,000,000 within a year. The minister proposed still a greater development, when the A. B. C. route, as the minister styled the Alberta and British Columbia grain route would in the near future be in operation, and the Panama Canal completed.

DIED ON LONDON STREET.

Tragic End of Capt. A. W. Porte, of Oakville.

A despatch from London, Ont., says: Capt. A. W. Porte, of Oakville, former managing director of the Toronto Biscuit Company, dropped dead in front of the residence of his sister, Mrs. George Brickenden, Queen's Avenue, at 6 o'clock on Thursday evening. Mr. Porte was walking with a young lady and was apologizing for walking slowly. "My heart is bad and it is dangerous for me to walk rapidly," he said. With these words he pitched forward dead. Capt. Porte was one of the best known citizens of London before his removal to Toronto 12 years ago. He was about 60 years of age.

WASHWOMAN'S FORTUNE.

An Estate of $42,300, the Savings of Twenty Years at the Tub.

A despatch from North Adams, Mass., says: What economy will do was illustrated here on Thursday, when the inventory of the estate left by Mrs. Ann Collins, a washwoman, was filed in the Probate Court. It is valued at $42,300. Mrs. Collins was left a widow and penniless, with six children, twenty years ago. She supported the family and saved her competence from her earnings at the washtub.

THE ICE GAVE WAY.

Four Rhode Island Children Drowned While Skating.

A despatch from Norwood, R. I., says: While skating hand in hand on Sand Pond on Wednesday night four children were drowned when the ice gave way, another was barely saved and several persons who attempted to rescue them narrowly missed being engulfed in the icy waters. The children drowned were: Ranghilda, Lillian and Amel Hanson and Joseph Johnson. All were under fifteen years of age.

CANADIAN SHIPPING.

Three Hundred and Ninety-two Vessels Built Last Year.

A despatch from Ottawa says: The annual report of the Marine Department for the last fiscal year, just presented to Parliament, shows that the total number of new vessels built and registered in the Dominion during the year was 392, measuring 38,410 tons register, with a total estimated value of $1,728,450. The total number of vessels on the register books of the Dominion at the beginning of last year was 7,528, measuring 698,688 tons. The number of steamers was 3,007, with a gross tonnage of 471,795 tons.

In respect to total registered tonnage Canada ranks tenth among the maritime countries of the world.

The report shows 520 wireless stations now operated by the department on the Atlantic and Pacific coasts. They sent over 65,000 messages during the year.

TWO-CENT RATE ON G. T. R.

Privy Council Decides Against the Railway.

A despatch from London says: The judgment of the Privy Council in the case brought by Mr. Robertson, of Toronto, to have it declared that the Grand Trunk's charter requires it to give a two-cent rate on third-class cars between Toronto and Montreal, was given on Wednesday by Lord Loreburn. His Lordship said the section imposing third class fares at two cents a mile was still in force. The whole question was whether the section was inconsistent with the Railway Act of 1906. He held that it was not, and also that the Privy Council could not decide whether the section was left on the statutes by desire or because overlooked. The appeal was dismissed with costs.

WAS 115 YEARS OLD.

Indian Dies Near Brantford — Retained Faculties to Last.

A despatch from Brantford says: The death has been reported to the Indian authorities here of John Silversmith, a resident of Tuscarora Township, in his 115th year. Deceased retained all his faculties until recently. He was a basket-maker.

ROD THROUGH HIS BODY.

Karl K. Johnasson Killed Near Superior Junction.

A despatch from Port Arthur says: A dynamite explosion occurred in construction camp No. 2, near Superior Junction, on Thursday by which a tamping rod was blown through the body of Karl K. Johnasson, a Swede, killing him instantly. He leaves a wife and five children in Sweden.

WATCHED THE OPERATION

Long Island Veterinary Surgeon Saw His Own Appendix Removed.

A despatch from New York says: Dr. Edward J. Robbins, a veterinary surgeon of Bayshore, Long Island, refused to take ether when he had his appendix removed last week. He remained quiet throughout the operation, and just four days after it he drove five miles to his home. The following day he was attending to his practice. The case is believed to be without a parallel.

Dr. Robbins drove over to the sanatorium of Dr. William H. Ross at Brentwood, five miles from his own home. Dr. Ross and Dr. Hoven prepared to operate, and as the nurse approached the patient with the ether cone he calmly waved her aside.

"There's nothing the matter with your heart, old man," Dr. Ross, who is an old friend, assured him.

"I know it, but I'm going to cut the ether out, because I want to see the operation," said Dr. Robbins.

"You may paint on a little cocaine if you wish."

This was done and the operation proceeded steadily, without interruption from the patient, whose head was propped up so he could see every move of the surgeons.

CONDENSED NEWS ITEMS

HAPPENINGS FROM ALL OVER THE GLOBE.

Telegraphic Briefs From Our Own and Other Countries of Recent Events.

CANADA.

Manitoba is preparing to float a new loan in the British markets.

Ontario Bank assets already show an increase over the estimate of $180,000.

The ship brake invented by Mr. Louis Lacoste of Montreal is to have a trial on the U.S.S. Indiana.

A very large deputation waited on the Manitoba Government to ask for legislation to abolish the barroom.

Quebec brewers have formed a trust which will control practically the whole output of beer of the Province.

Victor J. Beaupre, the first Sergeant-at-Arms in the Legislature of Manitoba, died at Gleichen, Alberta.

It is reported at Montreal that the C.P.R. will build the Peterboro'-Coldwater branch during the coming summer.

The Quebec Board of Trade celebrated its hundredth anniversary on Saturday last with a banquet in the Chateau Frontenac.

The Council of the Dominion Rifle Association is in favor of more rapid firing in the matches, to make conditions more like actual warfare.

Savings deposits in Canadian banks are increasing at a record rate, and now aggregate $443,170,000. Total deposits amount to $636,456,000.

The Attorney-General of Quebec has ordered a prosecution of picture show proprietors who have been giving Sunday exhibitions in Montreal.

A number of salary increases were decided on by the Hamilton Council, and it was proposed to increase the tax rate from 20 to 21 mills.

In the annual report of the Department of Railways and Canals Mr. M. J. Butler speaks strongly on the necessity of enlarging the Welland Canal.

The new Grand Trunk shops at Stratford were opened on Thursday with a public reception. Mr C. M. Hays and staff were present, and were entertained at a banquet by the city.

The Dominion Coal Company has decided to offer the Steel Company to carry out the original contract or make a new one, and to pay the loss incurred in the purchase of coal while the old contract was in dispute.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Two suffragette raids in London on Thursday resulted in the arrest of a large number of women.

Ten more suffragettes were sent to prison in London for creating a riot and resisting the police.

Mr. Austen Chamberlain moved a formal tariff reform amendment to the address in the British Commons.

Mr. Austin Chamberlain's tariff reform amendment to the address was defeated in the British House of Commons by 276 to 107 votes.

UNITED STATES.

The United States Senate Committee on Foreign Relations has favorably reported the fisheries treaty.

The two-cent letter rate between Newfoundland and the United States will go into effect on March 1st.

The House of Representatives at Washington passed a bill admitting Arizona and New Mexico to Statehood.

Seven starving Chinamen, supposed to have come from Canada were found in a car of lead ore at Port Morris, N. J.

An extra session of the United States Congress to undertake the revision of the tariff has been called for March 15.

GENERAL.

Earthquake shocks are reported from Asia Minor, Hungary and the West Indies.

Bulgaria has notified the powers that she thinks the time for recognizing her independence has arrived.

A bill is shortly to be introduced into the Cuban Congress prohibiting foreigners from holding property in the island.

WORKMAN BADLY MANGLED.

Drawn Into Machine in a Guelph Factory.

A despatch from Guelph says: Oswald Bahn, 18 years of age, was drawn into a four-spindle tapping machine in the Standard Fitting and Valve Company's factory on Thursday. He was extricated by his fellow-workmen, and found in a frightfully mangled condition. His right arm was so badly mutilated that it had to be amputated at the shoulder, and in his left forearm there are two bones broken and some badly torn muscles. He has a gaping wound across his chest, and a number of wounds about the head and face. His recovery is doubtful.

THE WORLD'S MARKETS

REPORTS FROM THE LEADING TRADE CENTRES.

Prices of Cattle, Grain, Cheese and Other Dairy Produce at Home and Abroad.

Toronto, Feb. 23.—Flour—Ontario wheat 90 per cent. patents, $3.90 to $4 in buyers' sacks outside for export. Manitoba flour, first patents, $5.60 on track, Toronto; second patents, $5, and strong bakers', $4.90.

Wheat—Manitoba wheat, $1.15½ for No. 1 Northern, and $1.12½ for No. 2 Northern, Georgian Bay ports. No. 2 Northern, $1.17½, all rail.

Ontario Wheat—No. 2 Fall, $1.02 to $1.03 outside.

Oats—Ontario No. 2 white, 47 to 47½c on track, Toronto; No. 2 Western Canada oats, 47c, Collingwood, and No. 3 at 46c, Collingwood.

Rye—No. 2 68c outside.

Barley—No. 2 barley, 57 to 57½c outside; No. 3 extra, 55 to 55½c, and No. 3, 53c.

Buckwheat—58½ to 59c outside.

Peas—No. 2, 88c outside.

Corn—No. 2 American yellow, 72½c on track, Toronto, and No. 3 yellow, 71½c, Toronto. Canadian corn, 66 to 67c on track, Toronto.

Bran—Cars, $22 to $23 in bulk outside. Shorts, $23 in bulk outside.

COUNTRY PRODUCE.

Apples—They bring $4 to $4.50 for choice qualities, and $3.50 to $4 for cooking purposes.

Beans—Prime, $1.90 to $2, and hand-picked, $2.10 to $2.15 per bushel.

Honey—Combs, $2.25 to $2.75 per dozen, and strained, 11 to 11½c per pound.

Hay—No. 1 timothy, $10.50 to $11 per ton on track here, and lower grades, $9 to $10 a ton.

Straw—$6.50 to $7.50 on track.

Potatoes—Ontarios, 65c per bag.

Poultry—Chickens, dressed, 12 to 13c per pound; fowl, 10 to 11c; ducks, 13 to 14c; geese, 12 to 13c; turkeys, 17 to 18c per pound.

HOG PRODUCTS.

Bacon—Long clear, 11¼ to 11½c per pound in case lots; mess pork, $20 to $20.50; short cut, $23 to $24.

Hams—Light to medium, 13½ to 14c; do., heavy, 12½ to 13c; rolls, 10½ to 11c; shoulders, 10 to 10½c; backs, 16 to 16½c; breakfast bacon, 15½ to 16c.

Lard—Tierces, 12½c; tubs, 12¾c; pails, 13c.

BUSINESS AT MONTREAL.

Montreal, Feb. 23.—Peas—No. 2, 97½ to 98c. Oats—Canadian Western No. 2, 49 to 49½c; extra No. 1 feed, 48½ to 49c; No. 1 feed, 47½ to 48c; Ontario No. 2, 48 to 48½c; Ontario No. 3, 47 to 47½c; Ontario No. 4, 46 to 46½c; No. 2 barley, 63½ to 65c; Manitoba feed barley, 55 to 55½c; buckwheat, 55½ to 56c. Flour—Manitoba Spring wheat patents, firsts, $5.60; Manitoba Spring wheat patents, seconds, $5.10; Manitoba strong bakers', $4.90; Winter wheat patents, $5.40 to $5.50; straight rollers, $5 to $5.10; do., in bags, $2.35 to $2.45; extra, in bags, $1.95 to $2.05. Feed—Ontario bran has advanced $1 per ton, with sales of car lots at $23 to $24; shorts are 50c higher at $24.50 to $25; Manitoba bran, $21 to $22; Manitoba shorts, $24, Ontario bran, $23 to $24; Ontario shorts, $24.50 to $25; Ontario middlings, $25 to $25.50; pure grain mouille, $28 to $30; mixed mouille, $25 to $27. Cheese—Finest western, 12¾ to 13c; easterns, 12⅜ to 12½c. Butter—Fall creamery, 25c; winter creamery, 23 to 24c; dairy, in tubs, 20c; rolls, 21c. Eggs—New laid, 32 to 33c; selected stock, 29c; No. 1 stock, 27c.

UNITED STATES MARKETS.

Buffalo, Feb. 23.—Wheat—Spring wheat firm; Winter nominal. Corn—Stronger; No. 3 yellow, 69c; No. 4 yellow, 68½c; No. 3 corn, 68 to 68½c; No. 4 corn, 67½ to 68c; No. 3 white, 70½c Oats—Stronger; No. 2 white, 57½c; No. 3 white, 56½c; No. 4 white, 55½c. Barley—Feed to malting, 67 to 72c.

Minneapolis, Feb. 23.—Wheat—May, $1.11⅛ to $1.11¼; cash, No. 1 hard, $1.14; No. 1 Northern, $1.13; No. 2 Northern, $1.11 to $1.11¼; No. 3 Northern, $1.07 to $1.09. Bran—$23 to $23.50. Flour—First clears, $4.10 to $4.25; second clears, $3.05 to $3.15; first patents, $5.55 to $5.65; second patents, $5.40 to $5.50.

Milwaukee, Feb. 23.—Wheat—No. 1 Northern, $1.16; No. 2 Northern, $1.14; May, $1.14¼ to $1.14⅜ bid. Rye—No. 1, 77½c. Corn—May, 65½ to 65⅝c. Barley—Standard, 66c; sample, 62½ to 66c; No. 3, 63½ to 64½c; No. 4, 62½ to 63c.

CATTLE MARKETS.

Toronto, Feb. 23—There were not many of the choice variety of export cattle offering, and these were soon cleared, while the cry was heard for more. The top price paid to-day was $5.35.

Butcher cattle were in fair demand, but the quality offering was poor. Choice cattle were unchanged; medium quality easier; cows, steady. Lambs—Firm and slightly higher. Sheep—Unchanged. Calves Steady and unchanged. Hogs—Select hogs, f.o.b., $6.30 to $6.40; fed and watered, $6.55. Stockers and feeders were in fair demand.

THE DAIRY MARKETS.

Butter—Pound prints, 22 to 24c; tubs and large rolls, 20 to 22c; inferior, 18 to 19c; creamery rolls, 27 to 27½c, and solids, 26c.

Eggs—Case lots of cold storage, 25c; selects, 27c, and new laid, 28 to 29c per dozen.

Cheese—Large cheese, 13¼c per pound, and twins, 13½c.

FIFTEEN VILLAGES VANISHED

Have Been Wholly or Partially Destroyed by Earthquake in Western Persia.

A despatch from Teheran, Persia, says: The Governor of Burujurd, a town in southwestern Persia, has sent out agents to investigate the damage wrought by the earthquake of January 3. This was the disturbance that was registered by seismographs around the world, but the exact location of which was determined only on Wednesday.

The meagre reports that have reached Teheran indicate that the devastation was particularly severe in the mountainous region between Burujurd and Luristan province. Fifteen villages are known to have been wholly or partially destroyed, and it is estimated that the total number will undoubtedly be more than fifty.

Some villages disappeared completely, and no trace can be found of the hamlets of Bahrem and Leben. It appears that not a single soul belonging to these communities was left alive, and only the rivers, mountains and broken valleys remain to tell the tale of this fearful convulsion of nature.

The fact that there were no foreign Consuls anywhere in the neighborhood accounts for the delay of a month in the receipt of the news here.

CASHIER ARRESTED.

Twelve-Hundred-Dollar Robbery at St. John, N. B.

A despatch from St. John, N.B., says: One of the most sensational robberies that ever had St. John for its scene, took place on Friday at the noon hour, when, according to his statement, W. Herbert Downey, billing clerk with the C. S. Sims Company, brush manufacturers, was attacked while alone in the office, choked into insensibility, and left lying alone on the floor. Twelve hundred dollars in cash was stolen from the office, the money having been intended to pay wages. The story had an equally sensational sequel on Friday when the money was found in a box under Downey's desk near where his feet would rest as he worked at the typewriter. The discovery was promptly followed by Downey's arrest in his boarding house. Downey when put under arrest made no statement, but during the afternoon and before the money had been found he told a most circumstantial story of how he had been set upon from behind and choked.

DROWNED IN OIL TANK.

Sarnia Man's Fatal Slip at the Imperial Refinery.

A despatch from Sarnia says: A well known and popular Sarnian, William Lowrie, met a tragic death between one and two on Friday morning by drowning in one of the great underground oil tanks at the Imperial Oil Refinery. There was a depth of 12 feet in the tank, and the young man had evidently descended to turn a windlass, when he slipped and fell about 10 feet before being engulfed in the oil. His absence was noticed and the body was found by workmen an hour later. Dr. Hayes tried artificial respiration without success.

TORONTO'S NEW BISHOP.

Archdeacon Sweeney Has Been Elected.

A despatch from Toronto says: Venerable Archdeacon J. Fielding Sweeney, M.A., D.D., rector of St. Philip's Church, Toronto, has been elected Bishop of the Diocese of Toronto in succession to the late Archbishop Sweatman. The election appears to give the utmost satisfaction, and when the Chancellor of the diocese announced the result of the ballot on Friday and added that the Venerable Archdeacon was elected there was suppressed yet audible applause, with some gentle handclaps and stamping of feet. At the evening session Archdeacon Sweeney announced his acceptance of the high office.

DEMAND EIGHT-HOUR DAY.

May be Strike on the Government Railways.

A despatch from Moncton, N. B., says: The Transcript says: "The putting of employees of the Government railway shops here and at other points on short time with short pay is likely to lead to unexpected results. At a meeting of the Trades and Labor Council, held here last week, it was resolved to demand a continuance of the eight-hour day, but with ten hours' pay, and to enforce it if necessary by a general strike, in which course it is understood the local council has the assurance of support from the trades and labor organizations throughout the country."

FASTEST OF STEAMERS.

Turbine Flyer Mauretania Has Made New Record.

A despatch from New York says: The turbine flier Mauretania of the Cunard Line came abeam of the Ambrose Channel lightship at 10.35 o'clock on Thursday night, thus completing a voyage in which several new ocean records were established. The steamer not only broke her own record over the long winter course of 2,890 miles by two hours and twenty-five minutes, but she also hauled down the figures held by her sister ship, the Lusitania, and has set the new record of four days and seventeen hours and fifty minutes, which is one hour and forty-six minutes better than the Lusitania's best time over the course. Another achievement of the voyage was a day's run of 671 knots, which breaks all records for a 24-hour run.

WILL EXTEND STEEL PLANT.

English Capitalists to Make Considerable Additions.

A despatch from Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., says: Manager Franz, of the Lake Superior Corporation which was recently taken over by English capitalists, on Saturday issued a statement that the company would immediately commence extensive additions to the open hearth furnaces at the Algoma Steel Plant in the Canadian "Soo." Other improvements are to follow fast, the intention being to make it the greatest steel concern in Canada. It is reported that the company will erect new blast furnaces and a structural steel plant.

HILL RAILWAYS IN MANITOBA

Bill to Authorize Great Northern Lines Before the Legislature.

A despatch from Winnipeg says: A bill introduced in the Legislature foreshadows the construction of another transcontinental railroad by the Hill interests. The bill is for the incorporation of the Great Northern Railroad in Manitoba, and one clause asks for power to construct a line from Winnipeg west to Brandon, thence to Elkhorn, and to the westerly boundary of the Province. Five years is given to commence construction and ten years for completion. It is believed that the bill means Hill is preparing for his invasion of Canada on an extensive scale.

TO VISIT DYING WIFE.

Belgian Workman Tramping Across Canada.

A despatch from Winnipeg says: Charles Rover, a Belgian workman, has arrived here, on a desperate tramp across Canada in the heart of winter, in the forlorn hope of working his way back to Europe to see his dying wife, who is a victim of consumption, and is appealing to him to come home and see her before she dies. He has no money, but is determined to comply with her wish, nevertheless, or perish in the attempt.

KILLED A POLICEMAN.

Nelson Dessler, of Berlin, Ont., Shot Officer at Olean, N. Y.

A despatch from Rochester, N. Y., says: Police Captain Timothy Hassett of Olean was shot and instantly killed by Nelson Dessler, a burglar, in that city early on Sunday morning. Before Hassett fell he sent two bullets into Dessler's abdomen, and on Sunday night it was believed the man would die before morning. Dessler is from Berlin, Ont., and has a lengthy police record.

600 JAVANESE KILLED.

Three Villages Buried Under 90 Feet of Earth.

A despatch from The Hague says: Six hundred Javanese were killed in a landslide which buried the villages of Tjiboebotham, Warensgineto and Telakbanjoe, according to a message from Pendajaloe, Java. A part of the Mount Kentjana slid down on the villages, covering them under 90 feet of earth.