

A FAR-REACHING PROGRAMME

The British Government Will Introduce Many Reforms.

A despatch from London says: It is learned on good authority that the Asquith Government, feeling that the result of the recent general election justifies them in the belief that they have received a mandate from the people to carry out far-reaching measures of reform, have decided to introduce the following programme:

1. Veto Bill.
2. Local government for Ireland, and possibly home rule all around.
3. Electoral reform, including (a) Re-distribution according to population. The basis will be about 12,000 voters for one member. (b) One man one vote.

(c) Elections on one and the same day. (Elections now last three weeks.)

(d) Payment of members—£300 a year.

(e) Reduction of the legal expenses of elections.

(f) Stringent regulations as to voters.

(g) Three months' residence to qualify for a vote. (It now takes about 18 months.)

4. State insurance against (a) Unemployment.

(b) Sickness.

(c) Invalidity.

5. Disestablishment of the Church of England in Wales.

RAILWAYS RESPONSIBLE

Locomotives Start Thirty Per Cent. of the Forest Fires.

A despatch from Ottawa says: The Conservation Commission has issued a statement in regard to the starting of forest fires by locomotives, and the proposed legislation on the question.

The Commission declares that it has had investigations made by competent men and finds that thirty per cent. of all forest fires have been started by locomotives, and that they have caused enormous loss. The legislation will hold rail-

ways responsible for damage caused by fires started by locomotives unless it can be shown that all reasonable precautions have been taken to prevent such fires.

The precautions will include the best possible spark-arresting devices, efficient fire-fighting staffs to check fires which have been started, and the companies will have to show that there has been no negligence on the part of their employees in allowing fires to start or spread.

EARL GREY'S TRIP.

Cruiser Rainbow to Meet Him at Mouth of Mackenzie River.

A despatch from Ottawa says: It is intended that the cruiser Rainbow of the Canadian navy will be sent from Victoria to the mouth of the Mackenzie River to meet Earl Grey in the trip which he has planned for next summer to the Arctic. The time of starting will likely be in June, and will be made from Edmonton, but whether the Peace River route or another will be followed to the Mackenzie River is not yet determined. The governor-general will be escorted by a detachment of the Northwest

Mounted Police, and it is stated that the trip from Edmonton to the mouth of the Mackenzie can be covered in the space of three weeks. The sea trip by the Rainbow would be four thousand miles, and would be the farthest north that a warship has ever gone.

HER CITIZEN ARMY.

Australian Boys Come Forward to Offer Their Services.

A despatch from Melbourne says: The registration of youths between the ages of fourteen and seventeen for military service is in active progress. Judging from the response to this call to duty, the service will be popular.

NEW BOATS FOR ALLAN LINE

Two Monster Steamers of the Speediest Type Ordered

A despatch from Montreal says: The Allan steamship company will add two new large steamers to its Canadian service in 1912. The company has had tenders before it for some time past for the construction of the boats, and news was cabled to the city on Wednesday from London stating that "the Allan Line had just entered into an arrangement with a large shipbuilding company for the construction of two new monster steamers of the speediest type."

The contract provides that the ships shall be of the highest class

in every detail and their proportions will be as great as safe navigation of the St. Lawrence will permit. They will have a length of about 600 feet, a breadth of 70 feet, with 20,000 tons displacement and will be capable of developing a speed of from twenty-two to twenty-three knots an hour.

Mr. Geo. Hannah, to whom the matter was referred for further information, stated that negotiations had been going on in England, but he could not give any of the details of the transaction. He thought it extremely likely, however, that the cable was correct.

ASSASSIN GANG IN LONDON

The Police Suspect a Plot Against King George at the Coronation.

A despatch from London says: The Daily Chronicle states that one of the theories that is being considered by the police regarding the discovery of a bomb factory in the East End on Tuesday is that it is connected with a plot intended to develop at the time of King George's coronation.

The police attach the greatest importance to their latest discov-

eries in connection with the Houndsditch crime, in which three policemen were killed. They claim to have found documents proving that the assassins belong to a desperate, highly organized international gang.

Among the documents found are said to be letters revealing a sensational plot, and containing a great mass of other Anarchists in London and in continental capitals.

THE WORLD'S MARKETS

REPORTS FROM THE LEADING TRADE CENTRES.

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

BREADSTUFFS.

Toronto, Jan. 3.—Flour—Winter wheat 90 per cent. patents, \$3.60 to \$3.65 seaboard. Manitoba flour—First patents, \$5.40; second patents, \$4.90, and strong bakers', \$4.70, on track, Toronto.

Manitoba Wheat—All-rail rates as follows:—No. 1 Northern, 98½c, Bay ports; No. 2 Northern, 96c, Bay ports, and No. 3 at 93½c, Bay ports.

Ontario Wheat—85 to 86c, outside for No. 2 white and red Winter.

Barley—56 to 58c outside, and feed 48 to 50c outside.

Oats—No. 2 white, 34 to 34½c, on track, Toronto, and 32c outside; No. 2 W. C. oats, 38c, Bay ports, and No. 3 at 36½c, Bay ports.

Corn—New No. 3 American, 51½ to 52c, prompt shipment, Toronto freights.

Peas—No. 2 shipping, 78c outside.

Rye—No. 2 at 60 to 61c outside.

Buckwheat—No. 2 at 46 to 48c outside.

Bran—Manitobas at \$19, in bags, Toronto, and shorts, \$21 in bags, Toronto. Ontario bran, \$19, in sacks, Toronto, and shorts, \$22.

COUNTRY PRODUCE.

Apples—Spys, \$4.50 to \$6; Baldwins, \$4 to \$5; Greenings, \$4 to \$4.50; No. 2 assorted, \$3.50 to \$3.75 per barrel.

Beans—Car lots, \$1.60 to \$1.70, and small lots, \$1.80 to \$1.85.

Honey—Extracted, in tins, 10½ to 11c per lb. No. 1 comb, wholesale, \$2 to \$2.25 per dozen; No. 2 comb, wholesale, \$1.75 to \$1.85 per dozen.

Baled Hay—No. 1, \$12.50 to \$13 on track, and No. 2 at \$10 to \$11.

Baled Straw—\$6.50 to \$6.75 on track, Toronto.

Potatoes—Car lots, 70 to 75c per bag.

Poultry—Wholesale prices of dressed poultry:—Chickens, 12 to 13c per lb.; fowl, 9 to 10c per lb.; ducks, 13 to 14c per lb.; turkeys, 19 to 21c per lb., and geese, 13 to 14c per lb. Live, 1 to 2c less.

THE DAIRY MARKETS.

Butter—Dairy prints, 22 to 24c; cloisce dairy solids, 21 to 22c; inferior, 18 to 19c; choice large rolls, 21 to 22c. Creamery 27 to 28c per lb. for rolls, 25c for solids, and 24 to 25c for separator prints.

Eggs—Case lots of pickled, 27c; cold storage, 27 to 28c; selected, 30 to 31c, and strictly new-laid, 33 to 40c per dozen.

Cheese—Large at 12½c, and twins 12¼c.

HOG PRODUCTS.

Bacon—Long clear, 12½ to 13c per lb. in case lots; mess pork, \$24; short cut, \$26.

Hams—Light, to medium, 16c; do., heavy, 15c; rolls, 12½c; shoulders, 11½c; breakfast bacon, 18c; backs (pea meal), 18½c.

Lard—Tierces, 12½c; tubs, 12¼c; pails, 13c.

BUSINESS IN MONTREAL.

Montreal, Jan. 3.—Oats—No. 2 Canadian Western, 39 to 39½c; extra No. 1 feed, 38½c; No. 3 Canadian Western, 38½c; No. 2 local white, 37½c; No. 3 local white, 36½c; No. 4 local white, 35½c. Barley—Manitoba No. 4, 48 to 48½c. Flour—Manitoba Spring wheat patents, firsts, \$5.60; do., seconds, \$5.10; Winter wheat patents, \$4.75 to \$5; Manitoba strong bakers', \$4.90; straight rollers, \$4.35 to \$4.50; do., in bags, \$2 to \$2.05; extras, \$1.65 to \$1.75. Feed—Ontario bran, \$19 to \$20; Ontario middlings, \$22 to \$22.50; Manitoba shorts, \$21 to \$22; Manitoba bran, \$18 to \$20; pure grain meal, \$31 to \$32; mixed meal, \$25 to \$28. Cheese—Westerns, 11½ to 12c and easterns 11¼ to 11½c. Butter—Choice, 25½ to 25¾c, and seconds, 24 to 24½c. Eggs—Strictly new-laid, 55c per dozen; selected stock, 32c; No. 1 stock at 27c, and No. 2 at 23 to 24c.

UNITED STATES MARKETS.

Buffalo, Jan. 3.—Wheat—Spring, No. 1 Northern, carloads, store, \$1.13 to \$1.13 1-8; Winter No. 2 white, 93c. Corn—No. 3 yellow, 48½c; No. 4 yellow, 47c, on track, through billed. Oats—No. 2 white, 35½c; No. 3 white, 35¼c; No. 4 white, 34½c. Barley—Malting, 87 to 90c. Minneapolis, Jan. 3.—Wheat—No.

CANADA AND UNITED STATES

Railway Commission to Have Authority in Both Countries

A despatch from Washington says: As a result of conferences between Judge Martin A. Knapp, Chairman of the Interstate Commerce Commission, and the Hon. J. P. Mabee, chief of the Railway Commission of Canada, an agreement has been reached to recommend to the Governments of the United States and Canada the creation of an International Railroad Commission, which shall have supervision over the railway rates between the two countries.

Mr. Mabee arrived in Washington from Ottawa on Tuesday night to discuss the details of an agreement he had reached with Judge Knapp last August, and on Wednesday the two officials who were designated by their respective Governments to consider the subject and make a report upon it were in conference.

No details of the report are yet available, beyond the fact that it recommends the establishment of the International Commission, upon which shall be conferred certain defined regulatory powers. Whether the Commission is to be created by treaty between the two Governments or by joint legislation cannot be announced at this time.

For a considerable period it has been realized that the increasing

traffic, both passenger and freight, between the United States and Canada was likely to render control over rates in the future difficult, unless some international action were taken.

The acquisition by American railroads of Canadian terminals and by Canadian railroads of American terminals and lines present increasing difficulties. In the existing circumstances it is not possible to compel either railways or express companies to establish joint through routes and rates to and from points in the two countries. In other words, neither an American nor a Canadian carrier may be required to furnish to a shipper a through bill of lading to any point in one country from any point in the other.

The reasonableness of the international rates, which ordinarily are a combination of the rates local to each country, can be determined only by a circuitous proceeding instituted before the commissions of both countries. No power at present exists that can require carriers engaged in international transportation to establish what may be regarded officially as reasonable through joint rates, and to apportion those rates among the participating carriers in the event of not reaching an agreement among themselves.

TRACED BY A PHOTO.

Danish Resident of Montreal Had Been Given Up as Dead.

A despatch from Montreal says: Sophus Hansen, a Danish resident of Montreal, disappeared from this city mysteriously in November, 1904, leaving a wife and daughter, who had long since given him up for dead. At the time of the visit of the western farmers' delegation to Ottawa recently a group picture of its members was published in a Montreal paper, and the wife and daughter of Hansen claim that they recognized his picture among the party, and now they are making enquiries to ascertain where the man is living in the west. Hansen went out with an old country friend one evening, and never came back, and this man told confused stories of what became of his companion.

CRUELTY TO STEP-SON.

Father and Step-mother Locked Up For Maltreating Child.

A despatch from Montreal says: Locking her step-son in a woodshed, whipping him when he cried from the cold, and only bringing him into the house to be fed, then sending him back into the woodshed again—these are details of the charge of "cruelty" made on Wednesday against Mrs. Phileas St. Jean of Chabot street. "Horrible, horrible," exclaimed Judge Lantot. "This is simply barbarous." His Honor promptly ordered both father and step-mother to be locked up, without the option of bail, pending preliminary investigation into the case.

1 hard, cash, \$1.02 7-8; No. 1 Northern, cash, \$1.01 3-8; December, \$1.00 7-8; May, \$1.03 ¼; July, \$1.04 ¼. Flour—First patents, \$4.75 to \$5.25; second patents, \$4.75 to \$5.15; first clears, \$3.15 to \$3.55; second clears, \$2.15 to \$2.75.

LIVE STOCK MARKETS.

Montreal, Jan. 3.—Prime beefs sold at 5½ to 6c per lb.; pretty good animals, 4½ to 5½c and the common stock, 3 to 4½c per lb.; milch cows sold at \$35 to \$65 each; springers, \$25 to \$50 each. Calves sold at from 4 to 7c per lb. Sheep, 4½c per lb.; lambs, 6½c per lb. Good lots of hogs sold at about 7½c per lb.

Toronto, Jan. 3.—A few loads of the better stuff brought prices that were a good average in comparison with the normal prices previous to the ante-Christmas market. The light and rougher cattle were very much easier. Sheep and lambs were slightly off, but hogs remained unchanged at \$6.75 f.o.b. and \$7 fed and watered.

SHAKEN BY EARTHQUAKES.

Inhabitants of Greek Villages Flee in Terror From Homes.

A despatch from Athens says: The earthquakes in the Elis district have been continuous for five days. The Villages of Lechaena, 36 miles from Patras, and Andravida, about 33 miles from Patras, have been destroyed. The inhabitants of these villages, who number about 2450 and 1800 respectively, have fled to Pyrgos. Their distress has been increased by heavy rains. The full extent of the damage is not known.

CARPET FOR CORONATION

Looms at Glasgow Will Soon be Busy on the Task.

A despatch from London says: Scotland is to have the honor of making the carpets which will cover the floor of Westminster Abbey for the coronation next June, and the looms of a great carpet factory at Glasgow will shortly be busily engaged upon the important task. The floor-covering has from earliest times been a specific feature in the preparations for the stately ceremony, and in the Liber Regalis prepared for Richard II., a copy of which is in the safekeeping of the Deans of Westminster, there is a definite order as to the "Ray cloth or Burrell" to be placed under the "King's feet as he goeth."

At the later coronations the carpet has been of a rich and beautiful character, with as lustrous a surface as possible, and from the quantities needed in the more recent times it is one of the first requirements to be set in hand. The

new carpet will follow very closely upon the lines of that ordered for King Edward's crowning. Then as now, the color was a singularly soft, rich blue. The design was symbolical and embodied the badge and motto of the Order of the Garter and the Tudor rose, with the thistle, shamrock and lotus connected with festoons of bay leaves and ribbons. These were effectively shown in a rather lighter shade of color, and the whole formed an admirable background to the magnificence of the state robes, the ecclesiastical vestments, the crimson of the peeresses' dresses, and the military and diplomatic uniforms.

It is not yet known how much carpeting will be required, as this will depend upon the seating arrangements, which have not been finished. For the last coronation 723 square yards were made.