

WORK OF THE MOUNTED POLICE.

Good Order Maintained Throughout the West.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT.

Several Concessions in the Yukon Cancelled.

White Fish Island Land Sales—Indians Have to Move—P.E.I. Ferry Ques- tion in the Senate—Northwest Land Voted to Railways—Ottawa News.

(Special Despatch to The Globe.)

Ottawa, May 3.—"I am about to report that the new Provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan and the Northwest Territories are, from a police point of view, in a satisfactory condition." Such is the highly satisfactory manner in which Commissioner A. Bowen Perry of the Northwest Mounted Police begins his annual report. "These Provinces begin their career as orderly and peaceably as any in the Dominion, notwithstanding that the great influx of population, drawn from many foreign countries, and rapid development have created conditions which hitherto have not existed in any other portions of Canada. A parallel only is to be found in the opening up of the western States. A marked instance of the administration of justice by the Government of Canada has been the free expenditure of money in bringing criminals to justice. The Government has never tied the hands of the police by refusing to authorize any expenditure of money where there was a reasonable hope of success. Many cases have cost the country thousands, and in one celebrated case upwards of one hundred thousand dollars was expended. It must be a source of gratification to the people of Canada that the new Provinces, which promise so much for the future, should be started on their career on such a solid foundation.

Record of the Force.

"This force has largely completed the work for which it was created, and, no matter what is in store for it in the future, its work cannot be forgotten. Since the inauguration of the Provinces we have continued to carry on our duties as hitherto, pending organization of the new Governments. Even should either Government not desire the assistance of the force in carrying out the administration of justice one or two years must elapse before we can be entirely relieved. There are only two jails in the Province of Saskatchewan and none in Alberta; the new jail at Edmonton being intended for use as a penitentiary. The question of its removal should not be considered altogether from a Provincial standpoint alone. The interests of Canada in the peaceable development of the west should not be forgotten. The work of the past year has been very heavy and varied. The increase of population and extending settlements have added greatly to our ordinary duties, and, further, demands have been made on us this year in opening up the Peace River and Yukon trail, a difficult task. It has taxed our strength to meet all the requirements, but I think I am able to report that the work has been well and thoroughly done."

Prosecutions and Convictions.

Commissioner Perry reports that out of a total of 4,647 criminal prosecutions entered there were 3,767 convictions. Last year there were 3,465 convictions in 4,329 cases. There were actually three cases of murder, the accused in each case being foreigners. Horse and cattle stealing is prevalent in the Northwest owing to difficulty of detection. The strength of the force is 54 officers and 650 non-commissioned officers and constables. There were 25 desertions from the force less than last year, 37 dismissals on account of bad conduct. "In nearly all these cases," the commissioner says, "drunkenness was the cause. No man addicted to the excessive use of intoxicating liquors can be relied on, and the retention of such in a force charged with important duties could not be justified."

White Fish Island Land Sale.

A return was brought down to-day which showed that in 1900 a little over eleven acres of land on Whitefish Island, in St. Mary's River, in front of Sault Ste. Marie were sold for right of way and terminal purposes for \$2,208, or at a rate of \$200 per acre, to the Algoma Central Railway. The island is an Indian reserve, and the aborigines were to remove their dwellings from the land bought by the company to another site on the island, and were to be paid \$300 by the company for the trouble and inconvenience caused them. Subsequently sales of 3.65 acres and 4.37 acres were made to the Ontario, Hudson Bay & Western for \$235 an acre, and the Pacific & Atlantic Companies, respectively. The C.P.R. heard of the applications, and as in their opinion it would place in control of other companies valuable space for building docks and warehouses, wrote to have the sale delayed until they had an opportunity of going into the whole matter with Mr. Clergue. Orders in Council authorizing the sale had, however, been already passed. The chief Indian band in possession wrote protesting against the the sale, but were

told that expropriation of land for railway purposes could not be avoided. The interests of the Indians, however, had been carefully safeguarded. The town of Sault Ste. Marie at a late period also objected to the sale on account of facilities for power development passing into private hands. The Department of Justice stated that the documents did not show that Sault Ste. Marie had any rights in the matter. The three railway companies named applied for patents of the land, but were told they could not be granted until they had provided for the Indians, in accordance with the agreement. This the companies once more undertook to do.

Owen Sound's Protest.

Messrs. Benjamin Allan, President, and Christopher Eaton, Secretary, Owen Sound Board of Trade, filed with the Railway Commission to-day objections to the proposed expropriation of certain streets and other lands in that town by the C.P.R., on the ground that it would be an inconvenience to the public interests, and would probably block and interfere with the entrance to the town of other railways.

In the Senate.

The question of communication between Prince Edward Island and the mainland was brought up in the Senate to-day by Senator Ferguson. He wanted to know why the promised powerful new steamer was not being constructed. Hon. Mr. Scott said he believed it was because Parliament had made no appropriation. The island service was being reasonably well performed by the steamers Stanley and Minto. In addition during the coming winter the ice-breaker Montcalm would be taken from the St. Lawrence route and put on the Northumberland Straits.

The following Commons bills were read a third time:—Respecting the Crawford Bay & St. Mary's Railway, and an act to incorporate the Calgary & Fernie Railway Company.

Land Voted to Railways.

The total number of acres of land within the present limits of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, voted to railway companies is 56,989,600 acres. The area of land in respect of which the time specified by law for earning the same has elapsed, is 13,174,112 acres. The area earned is 24,303,450 acres; there have been selected and patented 4,539,027 acres; earned and selected, but not patented, 8,573,010 acres. This includes an area of 6,793,014 acres on account of the Canadian Pacific main line subsidy, sold back to the Government in 1886. The Canadian Northern Railway Company may yet earn about 6,400,000 acres by constructing its line from Erwood to Hudson Bay. The Canadian Northern Railway has earned a total area of land which has not yet been patented of 2,109,475 acres; the Manitoba & Southeastern Railway, 680,320 acres; the Qu'Appelle & Long Lake & Saskatchewan Railway, 520,691 acres.

Yukon Commissions Cancelled.

To-day notice was sent out by the Department of the Interior cancelling mining concessions in the Yukon in the following cases:—Bronson & Hay, Anderson & Herman, Quartz Creek, Eureka and Scroggie. Sixty days are allowed the concessionaires in which to stand aside. If they do so, and waive all rights, they will receive a certain number of mining claims in return for whatever work has been done. Should this compensation not be accepted in the time named ejection will follow. The reason assigned for cancellation is that the concessionaires have not performed a sufficient amount of work.

Farming at Vermilion.

At Vermilion, five hundred miles north of Edmonton, Superintendent C. Constantine, Northwest Mounted Police, reports the successful raising of 12,000 bushels of good wheat, besides oats and barley. The Roman Catholic mission grew enough wheat to grind about a hundred sacks of flour. The settlement at Prairie River consists of Canadians, Norwegians and Swedes, and the crop was an experiment alone. It proved entirely successful, and the settlers seem perfectly satisfied with the prospects.

The Manitoba Lists.

The special committee on Dominion election laws went further to-day into the condition of the lists in Manitoba in 1904. The list for Springfield, in the riding of Selkirk, was examined. It was found that from the first list there had been 41 erasures with red ink, and Mr. H. A. Gibson, Conservative scrutineer, said eighteen of those whose names had been struck off came and wanted to vote on election day. Of those sixteen were Conservatives, so the presumption was that the Liberals had been notified that they should vote at another place. He had not seen any proclamation announcing the change, but to Mr. E. M. Macdonald, Mr. Gibson admitted that he knew a man had been out putting up proclamations. Mr. Aylesworth and Mr. Macdonald thought that going into details of that matter was not within the scope of the committee. If they did that they would need to hear the other side and they would be involved in endless work. Mr. Aylesworth took the ground that enough had been shown to prove that erasures had been made, and they could amend the law if need be on the evidence already in without going into details of the case, which is already before the courts in Manitoba.

Notes.

In accordance with their plan to hold regular meetings at Ottawa, the Roman Catholic Archbishops of Canada will meet at the palace on May 9th. Among the matters which they may discuss will be the approaching first Plenary Council of Canada.

There is not likely to be any legislation this session in regard to patent medicines. A committee will likely be appointed to take up the advertisement and sale of fraudulent or deleterious medicines, and report as to what enactments are necessary to prevent the same.