

The Daily News
 THE LEADING NEWSPAPER IN NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA
 Published Daily and Weekly by
 THE PRINCE RUPERT PUBLISHING CO. LTD., PRINCE RUPERT, B.C.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES—To Canada, United States and Mexico: Daily, 50c per month, or \$5.00 per year, in advance. Weekly, \$2.00 per year. All Other Countries: Daily, \$8.00 per year. Weekly, \$2.50 per year, strictly in advance.

DAILY EDITION  Friday, Sept. 19, 1913.

STENOGRAPHERS AS HARVEST HANDS.

The News published yesterday an account of the number of hands yet required in the harvesting and threshing of the great harvest of the prairies, and some of the newspapers of the east published stories of an exodus of Calgary stenographers to the harvest fields to help gather in the sheaves. In regard to this the Calgary Herald says:

"We haven't noticed the exodus here, but it is just possible that we are so close to the vortex of things that a few details of the swiftly moving panorama of human events have escaped the home folks. Still we are reluctant to put too much credence in the story. We know our stenographers too well. Ninety-nine per cent. of them are wearing hobble skirts and even Anthony Comstock will admit that hobble skirts and silk hosiery are not proper dress for the harvest fields.

"In the first place the stubble would play havoc with the stockings and in the second place the hobble skirts wouldn't permit of the rapid execution of a flank movement when a shoal of mice darted unsuspected from underneath a stock.

"Then it must not be forgotten that most of our stenographers are the virtual proprietors of the establishments in which they seem to toil. Why should they go out to harvest grain when they can pretty nearly buy a farm every pay day? Following the lead of President Wilson, we are disposed to 'Tut-tut!' the whole story and proclaim it a falsehood."

AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND.

Although New Zealand has declined to become an integral part of the Australian commonwealth, they continue to have

many interests in common. It is not an exceptional instance of the curious parallelism which is apt to occur that in this respect Canada and Australia have had much the same experience, and Newfoundland, like New Zealand, prefers to remain independent, and no doubt there is a certain feeling of pride and satisfaction in appearing at the council board of the imperial conference on terms of parity with the Dominion of Canada, the Commonwealth of Australia and the Union of South Africa. Nor would the rash judgment be ventured that their decision must operate to the disadvantage of the common interest of the Empire.

New Zealand, however, as an Australasian state is by no means unwilling to co-operate with its big brother in the arrangement of matters of joint advantage. The Dominion and the Commonwealth have both old age pension schemes and an agreement was recently reached providing for reciprocity in their administration. The bill embodying the arrangement was introduced in the end of July in the New Zealand legislature, and it practically provides that the requisite residence in any part of Australia will entitle all persons to pensions in that state where they have resided for twelve months before making application. New Zealand's proportion of the cost is one-seventh, irrespective of the length of residence. As this new departure is of a tentative character, the agreement will be revised at the end of five years.

It has been discovered in the port of Prince Rupert, by the ghost of Admiral Nelson, that "the Borden dreadnoughts are being built." A visit to the Johnson shipbuilding yards might or might not verify this statement.

OLD BILL MINER'S NOTORIOUS CAREER IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

STORY OF HIS TRIAL AT KAMLOOPS FOR HOLDING UP CANADIAN PACIFIC TRAIN TOLD BY A PRESENT RESIDENT OF THIS CITY.

Death has freed "Bill" Miner, notorious robber and jail breaker, from his last prison term. His picturesque career, which included clashes with the laws of more than a score of states and several Canadian provinces, recently ended at the Georgia state prison farm.

Miner's criminal career began nearly sixty years ago. He left his home in Jackson County, Ky., before he was 15 years old, and went west. He admitted numerous stage coach robberies and train holdups and was several times imprisoned for robbing banks. Three years ago he was brought to the state prison farm of Georgia for robbing a train near Lula, Georgia.

His Canadian career created a new record in the annals of the west. He was held in prison at New Westminster as an accom-

pany in regard to this trial that a long time resident of this city, and one whose veracity is unquestioned, has a story to tell but does not desire his name to be published in connection with it.

Edwards, as Miner was then known, had been engaged in mining in the vicinity of the Similkameen for some time, and his quiet, genial qualities had won him respect and popularity. The Prince Rupert man knew him well, and says that particularly the women and children of the Similkameen valley liked old George, as he was then known. An instance of this popularity was particularly noticeable at his trial.

When he was arrested no one in the district could be persuaded that the gentle, mild-mannered man could possibly be the desperado who had held up the Can-



OLD BILL MINER'S LAST ARREST

The above picture was taken some time ago, when old Miner escaped from prison in British Columbia

plian in the now famous Bank of Montreal robbery there, when in a daring break for liberty Miner escaped, and though trailed for days by posses and mounted police made his getaway. He was seen, according to reports at that time, in nearly every part of the Dominion at the same time. All trace of him was lost for many months until, becoming daring again he was caught at Lula, Georgia, after a bold train robbery and sent to the prison farm at Milledgeville.

In Canada, so far as known, he only operated twice, the last time holding up the Canadian Pacific express in British Columbia in 1906. That three men could hold up a big transcontinental train, crowded with passengers and manned by a big train crew, seemed incredible, but they did it, completed their robbery and got away. The three robbers, Miner, Louis Colquhoun and Thomas Dunn, held up and robbed the train at Ducks, 260 miles from Vancouver, on May 10, 1906. It was the second train robbery in the history of Canada, and the first had also been Miner's, a robbery committed on a train at Mission, near Vancouver. The three robbers were taken to Kamloops for trial, and it is

adian Pacific express, and one woman went so far as to enjoin her husband that if he were called upon by the jury he should certainly vote for the old man's acquittal.

The man promised and kept his promise. He was chosen on the jury, as it happened, and he served on it. It was a lengthy trial and there were eleven for the conviction of Miner and one against it. They were sent back to the jury room several times, but always with the same result, the one jurymen remaining faithful in the face of all evidence to the promise he had made to his wife.

After this there was a new trial, the first one having cost the province in the neighborhood of \$5,000, and the second jury convicted Miner in two hours. Miner and Dunn got life sentences and Colquhoun twenty-five years.

On the morning of August 9, 1907, Miner, Clark, of Nanaimo, serving three years for forgery; W. J. Woods, of Victoria, a light term for forgery, and A. F. McClusky, of Vancouver, seven years for robbery, were found to have escaped by digging their way out of the jail yard. All were taken except Miner.

WEATHER REPORT.

Furnished by F. W. Dowling, Observer.

For 24 hours ending 5 a. m. September 19, 1913.
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 Highest temperature..... 56.0
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 Rain01

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