

## THE PROVINCE

MONDAY, JULY 20, 1914.

## A SERIOUS MATTER.

It is perhaps easy to be censorious and roundly abuse the authorities for the farcical proceedings against the Hindus on the Komagata Maru on Saturday night, but it is not so easy to board a ship and pacify some \$80 people who do not understand English and who feel they have been cheated and swindled by those same authorities. It is apparently useless to argue with these unwelcome excursionists and try and prove to them that Mr. Gurdit Singh is entirely to blame for their predicament. It is also apparently impossible to convince them that they will have to go back whence they came. They assumed they would be allowed to land in Canada and finding the immigration authorities refuse them that privilege they have taken complete possession of the ship and defy anyone to move them out of the harbor.

These authorities seem to have requested the captain of the Komagata Maru to leave Vancouver and Canadian waters. They were willing to provision the ship if the captain would take them away. The captain seems finally to have confessed that he was no longer in command and that the Hindus had seized his ship. Whereupon acting quite properly the authorities seem to have warned the Hindus to allow the captain to get up steam and added that if they interfered they would be forcibly restrained.

The Hindus refused, whereupon the authorities called in the city police to help and set out on a midnight expedition to the ship. They probably considered there would be no real resistance but they took some rifles with them. They got alongside and were refused admittance. Someone apparently had thought of a hose and accordingly it was played on the Hindus lining the side of the ship. They retaliated with coal, brickbats, wood and various other missiles which poured from their fortress above and very soon beat off the attackers who retired with several casualties and a fortunate escape from real disaster.

It might be suggested that midnight is not well chosen for an adventure of this nature, also that if a hose was to be brought into play it should have been effectively followed by scaling ladders and a quick charge. It is fortunate perhaps the rifles were not used, although as they were taken they might at least have been presented and a volley fired over the heads of the Hindus. But to do this the tug would have had to get out of range of the hand missiles from the ship and reports seem to indicate that the Hindus thoroughly demoralized their opponents. Under the circumstances it was not surprising, but the moral effect will be very bad, especially as nothing has been done since.

The fact seems to be that the authorities never really seriously contemplated resistance. They thought their bluff would not be called and were very surprised when their show of force was promptly met with a demonstration of what the Komagata Maru contains of a loose nature. The authorities do not want to kill anyone, of the excursionists for an entirely mistaken idea, nor do they desire to get killed themselves. But while it is admitted they have an awkward problem to deal with it is self evident that if the law is to be vindicated and Canada not to be made ridiculous some better methods will have to be devised for dealing with problems of this nature.

It is however, as we have said, easy to be censorious and roundly abuse the authorities for the farcical proceedings against the Hindus on the Komagata Maru on Saturday night, but it is not so easy to board a ship and pacify some \$80 people who do not understand English and who feel they have been cheated and swindled by those same authorities. It is apparently useless to argue with these unwelcome excursionists and try and prove to them that Mr. Gurdit Singh is entirely to blame for their predicament. It is also apparently impossible to convince them that they will have to go back whence they came. They assumed they would be allowed to land in Canada and finding the immigration authorities refuse them that privilege they have taken complete possession of the ship and defy anyone to move them out of the harbor.

co-operation between the governments of the Empire for leasing or laying two all-British cables. The commission is obviously a real link of Empire in that it takes up problems concerning the whole of the people, and tries to standardize them and get the fullest value from them. The problems of emigration, freight rates, telegraphy and postal communications are common problems. Through rates of freight for the British Empire may be graded without trespassing on any particular interests. Emigration is a problem common to all the Dominions, and one which grows more important year by year. Telegraphy and news distribution is one of the most important of all questions. A proper and quick distribution of imperial news all over the Empire is essential to understanding. People are bound to be chiefly interested in the news which is given them to read, and many newspapers within the Empire are handicapped by distance and expense from obtaining any news from imperial headquarters except over foreign owned wires. Every effort is made to supply foreign news of all kinds, but naturally when it is relayed over a long series of wires each relay tends to have its own opinion of what is, or is not news. Thus if there is a regular news service established between Canada and Great Britain it will be a great boon to all Canadians, and will please all those residing within her boundaries who come from so many different corners of the earth. Moreover, it will broaden the aspect of life, and render it more interesting.

It is therefore doubly interesting to note that during one of the last sessions of the commission in England, Mr. Godfrey Isaacs, managing director of the Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company, made an interesting proposition.

"We propose," he said, "to offer to supply every newspaper throughout the country with news from Canada daily at a rate of one cent a word, and we propose to make the same offer to the Canadian papers of news from this country."

The present newspaper rate for cable messages from the United Kingdom to Canada is ten cents per word.

This announcement of Mr. Isaacs indicates that his company is practically ready to link up the whole empire by means of wireless. Mr. Isaacs said that he had just been presiding at a meeting of the heads of the departments of the company with a view to the organizing of a press service from the United Kingdom to Canada, and from Canada to the United Kingdom at a halfpenny per word. He thought that there was very little doubt that as stations are developed and constructed in other parts of the Empire the service would be still further developed.

## EMIGRATION.

At a meeting of the Central Emigration Board held in London last month, details were given of a scheme, proposed under the joint auspices of the British Immigration League of Australia and the Central Emigration Board, for assisting emigration to Australia by private enterprise. The chief feature of the scheme was the formation of a company to purchase land in Australia and prepare holdings for settlers on lines suggested by Sir Newton J. Moore, agent-general for Western Australia.

The publication of these proposals evoked a protest from Mr. Jesse Collins, who pointed out "the grave national danger that is involved in ex-

ing and present their policies to the people from the same platform."

When in danger of drowning, "keep your mouth shut" is the advice of a life saving expert. The advice is equally valuable on land or sea.

The Dominion Government has sent out a warning circular concerning "bad eggs." It refers to the product of the hen and not certain people that we all know.

With the probability of a cessation of hostilities in Mexico and Ulster there is a chance for the dove of peace to make a landing without getting its feet wet.

In order to decrease the target area for aeroplanes above and submarines beneath it is stated that the battleships of the future will be considerably smaller in size than the present type.

There were five queens around a table in London the other day. What would they have said in Roarin' Camp? Four queens were generally sufficient for a draw there, observes the Montreal News.

Recent President Huerta of Mexico is making no surreptitious flight from the land where for months his word was the only law. Moving picture machines, press agents and brass bands mark his leisurely exit.

A Boston prophetess predicts that in the future state there will be an interchange of souls between the two sexes. In that event Premier Asquith and Mrs. Pankhurst are liable to change their viewpoint of an extremely strenuous agitation.

The names of present-day contestants for prize ring honors lack the pugacious suggestiveness of the old-time battlers. The London Advertiser says: "Freddie" and "Willie" are the names of the latest contestants for prizefighting honors. Shades of the "Mikes," "Pats," "Bobs," "Jims" and "Spikes" who have made ring history, what's the world coming to! We look for a "Harold" or a "Percy" as the next white hope.

A Husband's Protective Association has been organized in Fort Worth. The members have solemnly pledged themselves not to engage in any household exercises that properly belong to the opposite sex such as washing dishes, sweeping the floor, hanging out the wash or mowing the lawn. It is a daring innovation and its progress will be keenly watched by interested thousands. In militant circles it is asserted that the club will forfeit its charter within thirty days.

Sprinkling the lawn is one evening exercise that is considered a pleasant pastime by all the members of the family. They go about it in different ways and with different motives, but none of them direct the nozzle with a more conscientious sense of duty than the head of the house. A close observer who has made a study of his movements notes: He religiously dampens every square foot of lawn, a cool aroma arising. He sluices off the cement walk, the porch, and flicks a few gallons upon the roof. Father is solemn about it. The thing must be done and he accepts it as he accepts his other duties. But watch him closely and you will see frivolous patterns executed in the air by the gleaming spray. He pretends not to see the strolling lovers and lets splash a few drops against the young man's striped trousers. Go ask him for a turn at the job and he will give a ready reason why it should be left to him.