

THE WEATHER.

Forecasts.

Maritime—Fresh northwesterly winds, fair and moderately cold.

Toronto, Dec. 25.—The weather has been mostly fair today over the Dominion with moderate temperature from Ontario eastward, and quite cold in the west.

Temperatures.

| | Min. | Max. |
|-------------|------|------|
| Vancouver | 22 | 30 |
| Kamloops | 16 | 23 |
| Oakville | 16 | 23 |
| Battleford | 28 | 38 |
| Saskatoon | 28 | 38 |
| Moose Jaw | 16 | 24 |
| Port Arthur | 12 | 4 |
| London | 23 | 32 |
| Toronto | 19 | 26 |
| Kingston | 19 | 26 |
| Ottawa | 10 | 18 |
| Montreal | 8 | 16 |
| St. John | 10 | 24 |
| Halifax | 14 | 33 |

—Below zero.

Around the City

Y. M. C. A.
Regular monthly meeting Ladies' Auxiliary in parlors at 3.30 this afternoon.

The Siege Battery.
Though most of the men of the Siege Battery spent Christmas day at their homes those who stayed on the island were well content. All the members of the battery were well supplied with presents given them by the Khaki Club. At noon the officers took over the guard so that the privates could have their Christmas dinner together. Practically every member of the battery was able to get home during some part of the day.

Two Alarms of Fire.
At 9.30 o'clock Saturday night the fire department were called out by an alarm from box 5 for a fire in an old shed on a wharf at the foot of Union street and owned by the St. John Railway Company. The shed was badly gutted. Sunday morning about 10.30 o'clock an alarm was sent in from box 22 for a slight fire in the basement of Government Railway ticket office on the corner of King and Germain streets. Very little damage was done.

PERSONAL.

Mr. and Mrs. Allan Schofield and family, of Hampton, were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Schofield, Carleton street, for Christmas Day.
Mrs. R. E. Puddington and Miss Annie Puddington were guests of Mr. and Mrs. James F. Robertson, Carleton street, for Christmas Day.
Mr. and Mrs. John Dean Sr., proprietor of the Inch Aron Hotel at Dalhousie are guests for the winter of Rev. J. H. Jenner and Mrs. Jenner at their residence on Prince street, West Side.
Judge Armstrong and Miss Armstrong are the guests of Lieut.-Col. Beverly and Mrs. Armstrong during the holidays.
Mrs. Atwater Smith, of Somerville, N. J., is the guest of her father, Edwin Peters, during the Christmas period.
Mr. and Mrs. Kimball and Miss Lydia Kimball are spending the holidays with Mr. and Mrs. Dods, of Montreal.
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Barbour, of Boston, are visiting Mrs. George Barbour, Hazen street.
The Misses Katherine and Annette Holly, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Holly, are home from Edgell Academy.
Henry F. Morrissey, C. E., of Ottawa, is visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Morrissey, Hazen street.

KINDLY ACT MARKED

METAG MA'S VOYAGE

Soldiers Returning on Big Liner Took Up Purse for Family of Stoker Who Died at Sea.

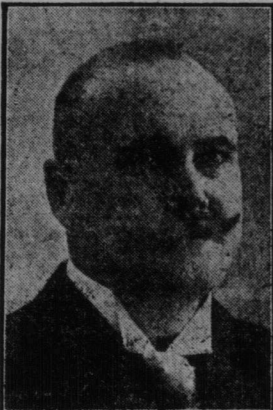
That the heart of the soldier is big as well as strong is evidenced by a little incident of the trip of the Metagama to this port. It was the first trip on the ocean of a British stoker, a married man with a family of seven little ones. The poor fellow took ill during the trip and although he received every medical attention he passed away when the big liner was a few days out from the other side. He was buried at sea. The returned soldiers aboard the boat did another heroic act. They showed that in addition to "doing their bit" they were prepared to "give their bit." They had some money saved from their pay as soldiers of the king and they gave willingly of their dollars towards a fund to be sent to the bereaved widow and family. Over a hundred dollars was raised and it will be forwarded with expressions of genuine sympathy in the loss of the wage-earner, who like the returned men was prepared to do his bit so that the great expeditionary force of the country might be carried to England en route to the firing line, where they would play the part of real heroes in defense of the cause of civilization.

NEW BRUNSWICK'S COLONIZATION SCHEME HIGHLY REGARDED IN OLD COUNTRY, SAYS HON. J. A. MURRAY

Minister of Agriculture Home After Successful Visit to England and Scotland—Proposes That Scheme Be Made Imperial Wide—Met Colonel McLeod and Other Canadian Officers.

People in England Impressed With Great Advantages Offered in the Province of New Brunswick—Big After-the-War Colonization.

Looking at the picture of health and delighted with his two months' trip to the old country the Hon. James A. Murray, minister of agriculture, reached his home in Sussex yesterday. The minister likes a good meal and it was only natural that he was not disappointed that circumstances made it possible for him to reach his home just in time to enjoy his Christmas dinner with his family, including his



HON. J. A. MURRAY.

son, Ralph, a returned hero, who did such gallant work on the firing line. That the scheme of the New Brunswick government for after the war colonization met with the unanimous approval of the British people was the statement made to The Standard by Hon. Mr. Murray last evening.

"Everywhere I went they were anxious to learn about our proposals," said the minister. "No doubt the citizens of New Brunswick are familiar with our proposed scheme. Briefly we propose the establishment of community settlements, each settlement to comprise a hundred to two hundred and fifty families, depending on the size of the area of suitable land that will be available in each locality. It is the intention that each community will radiate from a central farm operated by the government for the purpose of supplying instruction, employment, necessary implements and teams for the new settlers. Then there are a good many details which have already been announced.

"The impression prevails in the old country that the question of colonization after the war should be made a matter of Empire-wide legislation. The people of the old country fully realize the great importance of colonization after the war, and consider that the matter should be taken up in its general phases at the present time and a practical policy outlined. On account of the financial situation

he had very little to say. He did say, however, that there was a crying need for more men, and that if more men had been available in the past summer the Germans would have been further back than they are today. Men, more men, was the particular need at the front today and if the Germans were to be beaten men must be had. There was no lack of munitions now, but there was a lack of men to use them. The men were all cheerful but could not understand why the boys at home did not come to their assistance more rapidly. He said that there was a number of men in St. John who he wanted to have a little private conversation with before he went back to the firing line, and he intends to say a few words to all of them he could come in touch with.

While in England he saw Capt. Pickles and Lieut.-Col. Good, both were looking well.

Capt. Donald S. Fisher.
One of the St. John men on the Metagama was Capt. D. S. Fisher, son of W. Shives Fisher. Capt. Fisher went overseas with the first contingent in the R. C. D. and did good work in France; in the summer of 1915 he was wounded at the battle of Festubert; he returned to the trenches in January of this year and served until August when he was seized with appendicitis and peritonitis and for some weeks his life was despaired of. His mother went to England to nurse him and yesterday accompanied him home. Capt. Fisher though still far from strong is feeling much improved in health but by the time his few months' leave is up he expects to be able to rejoin his unit.

Deaths Last Week.
Fifteen deaths occurred in the city last week according to the Board of Health report, the causes being as follows: Three from premature birth, two from senility and cerebral hemorrhage and one each from gastritis, pneumonia, convulsions, myocarditis, heart failure, suppurative cystitis, dilation of heart and pulmonary tuberculosis.

Asked as to conditions at the front

SUSSEX MAN WON A D.C.M. AT THE FRONT

Corporal Spurgeon H. Keith Was Awarded Coveted Honor for Distinguished Conduct at Ypres.

"His name is Spurgeon H. Keith, D. C. M.," said Garry Brown of the 26th Battalion to The Standard reporter who went around to the discharge depot on his daily hunt for news yesterday afternoon when the reporter accosted a bright looking fellow who evidently had just arrived on the Metagama from the firing line.

"Don't put anything in the paper about me," said Corporal Keith, who is a Sussex man, a son of George Keith, a well known resident of that place.

But the reporter was persistent and Corporal Keith finally became a little more sociable. "Yes, they did give me the D. C. M. and they told me it was for gallant conduct in first aid work and for bombing. It was the work we had at Ypres. I did the best I could, but the bandages ran out and it looked as if the Germans had got us. I happened to see a bunch of bombs. It was the bombs that did the work, not your humble servant. The Germans came across to our trenches and I handed them a few English bombs. I guess I got quite a number of the enemy and those I couldn't get managed to beat it back to their own trenches. Then I was able to get my wounded back in comparative safety. This all happened on June 2nd. They must have picked me out for the next day Fritz got me good and I had to leave the boys and take a bed in a French hospital. I have been there since June 3rd.

"You can just bet I am delighted to get back to Canada, and best of all to good old New Brunswick. There is no place like New Brunswick. The farther I go the more I like this fair province. It looks better to me than ever before and now I am here until they send for me from the great beyond from which they say no weary traveller returns. My brother and I have been running a farm near Calgary for the last five years, and if he is willing I am certainly going to sell out and settle right at home. He is a soldier too, with the signalers at the front and I don't think he will have any strenuous objections to my proposals to sell out."

Corporal Keith will go to his former home in Sussex today. A royal welcome awaits the worthy son of a worthy father in the busy Kings county town.

DAVID WELLS LOSES HIS HOME, LOSS ABOUT \$3,000

Blaze Turns Family Out At Tea Time. Nothing Saved But Clothes on Their Backs

David Wells, Charlotte street extension, will have reason to remember the Christmas of 1916 for last night he lost his house and all its contents by fire. The family were at their tea when the flames were first noticed, and they had gained such headway that they had to leave the house without anything but the clothes on their backs. The neighbors soon arrived on the scene, but it was impossible to save the house, and their efforts were directed toward preventing its spread to the buildings around, and in this they were successful.

The house was a new one having just been completed, and Mr. Wells had no idea how the blaze started but the supposition is that it was from a fire.

The loss will amount to between \$2,500 and \$3,000 and it is understood that the insurance amounted to about \$1,500.

Service First.

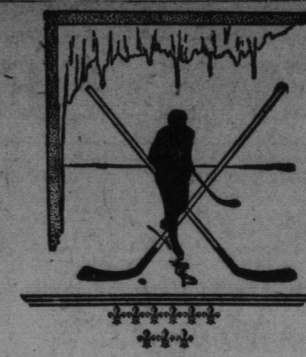
Do you get the kind of attention you desire at the store you have been accustomed to trading at?

Gundry's is open to demonstrate its capabilities. You are welcome to exchange any piece purchased. You may return goods, if so agreed, and receive back your money. You may practically do as you wish in making a square trade, anything but cut the price.—The First Price is the Best Price.

We have said it before, in fact we have dwelt upon the subject—Generally one merchant is equal to another merchant, provided they can both pay their bills. Just occasionally does it fall to some one merchant to pull off a scoop. We are in an unique position in regard to Bracelet Watches and Diamonds. Our offerings are better value than ever before and we are open to demonstrate. Gundry's, 79 King street.

Messrs. Manchester Robertson Allison, Limited beg to announce that all their stores will open at nine o'clock and close at six o'clock daily during January, February and March, 1917.

Miss E. M. Heenan graduate nurse of Newton Hospital, is spending the holidays with her mother, Mrs. H. F. Heenan, Elliott Row.



Hockey Sticks?

Plenty of Them - The Better Kind's at That

With hockey season in full swing, we are prepared to meet every requirement of either club or individual, our stock comprising only the most reliable makes.

| | | | |
|---------------|------|--------------|------|
| Spaldings | 50c. | Indian—Plain | 50c. |
| Indian Groove | 60c. | King | 60c. |
| Built Up Gold | 65c. | XX Heel | 25c. |
| X Heel | 20c. | Boys' Expert | 15c. |
| Boys' Expert | 10c. | Hockey Pucks | |

SPECIAL PRICES TO HOCKEY CLUBS.

Market Square—W. H. THORNE & CO., LTD.—King Street

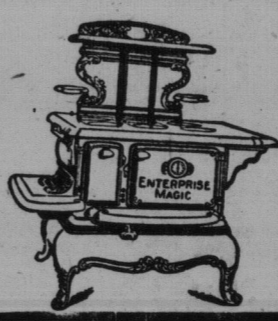
TOYS, DOLLS, FANCY BASKETS

To Be Cleared Out Today

We have a few toys, dolls, etc., that we will sell at clearing prices today, these are all in perfect condition.

Marr Millinery Co., Ltd.

No Practical Feature of Stove Construction



has been overlooked in the MAGIC RANGE

Every part is designed for the comfort and convenience of the user.

The Magic is unsurpassed for giving satisfactory service under all conditions.

If your range is not helping you as it should, the best thing for you to do is to get the Magic.

A PERFECT BAKER .. EASY ON FUEL

Emerson & Fisher Ltd

Stores Open at 9 a. m. Close at 6 p. m.



KING ST. GERMAIN ST. AND MARKET SQUARE

RUGS For Motoring and Driving

HANDSOME HAIR PLUSH RUGS—Double thickness

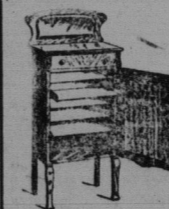
and bound ends; warm, durable, and just the right weight for motoring and driving. Several novel designs and floral effects, mottled figures and stripes in wood shades. All reversible, some with both sides fancy, others with one plain side. Many different patterns - \$3.75 to \$11.25

WOOL RUG—Best imported makes, fringed ends, plain

colors, fancy plaids, and real tartans - \$3.25 to \$16.00

WATERPROOF RUGS—Genuine MacIntosh make in reversible plaids or one side plain rubber, \$5.75 to \$9.75

MEN'S FURNISHING DEPARTMENT



MUSIC CABINET Mahogany Finish \$13.00

Music Cabinets

A cabinet for sheet music is really a necessity in most homes.

Valuable and favorite pieces are easily lost or torn when not kept in a suitable cabinet

We show many attractive designs, mostly in mahogany finish. A nice pattern with dust proof door and shelves at \$10.50 and from that up to \$22.00.

FURNITURE DEPT.—MARKET SQUARE

Manchester Robertson Allison, Limited