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NEWCASTLE, N. B., NOV. 26, 1909.

DREDGE THE RIVER

While the Dominion Government has generously remembered Northumberland County in making up the estimates, we regret very much that no definite sum has been set apart for the dredging of the Miramichi. To the people of Newcastle this is a matter of supreme interest since the Drummond people will be ready to ship their iron ore from this port with the opening of navigation in the spring, and the river is in poor shape for the traffic of the larger freighters. The Drummond people have, we learn on good authority, been in communication with some of the larger steamship companies in re the question of freight rates, and, in consequence of the impediments to navigation at The Flats, and The Horse Shoe, these companies have quoted a rate ten per cent higher than if these places would admit ships to pass out fully loaded.

The larger ocean tramps draw about twenty-five feet of water, and these are the vessels most profitable for the Drummond people to make their shipments in. But there is only twenty-two feet of water on the Horse Shoe Bar, and fully laden vessels can only pass over in safety at high tides. As a result of this obstruction, steamship companies without any exception, have decided that it is worth an advance of ten per cent on the regular freight rate to meet these conditions. If the sum of \$300,000 set apart for the diversion of the I. R. C. into Chatham was expended in dredging the river, an expenditure which would assist every dweller along the Miramichi, we would be in possession of a water channel, second to none in the whole world. The greatest leviathans afloat could then pass in safety up the Miramichi as far as this point. The cost of shipping iron ore would then be reduced to a minimum, and the hope of drawing the smelter here thereby increased. We trust, however, that a liberal amount of the money set apart for dredging generally, will be expended at this important point.

In advocating free speech, the Stratford Herald remarks that when a man ceases his mind by talking boldly he is less likely to resort to action. But yet, if he talks too boldly, the other fellow may act.

Out in California a university graduate is in jail awaiting trial on a charge of robbing a haberdasher's store. The desire for loud neckties and striking hosiery sometimes is uncontrollable.

There is a pie famine in New York. This is a pitiable thing, for it affects the only sort of piety to be found in the place.

There is to be a move in the city council of Montreal to provide that liquor bars be closed at seven o'clock the other nights of the week. Montreal would not be any the worse if the bars were closed all the time.

It looks to us like a good time for the King of Spain to slip away with his family and put in a long visit with his wife's folks.

Lady Cook, who proposes to spend a million on woman's enfranchisement, has been warmly greeted in New York while Mrs. Pankhurst, who seeks the same change by aggressive agitation, has met with decided coldness. Our neighbors are evidently more tolerant of corruption than of violence.

W. C. T. U. SILVER ANNIVERSARY

About one hundred people listened to several very excellent addresses in St. James church last evening, on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Newcastle W. C. T. U. The President, Mrs. James M. Troy, presided very acceptably and gave a fine address, dealing with the history of the local branch and of the whole order, and presenting interesting and encouraging statistics.

The speaker of the evening was American Consul T. Bodkin of Campbellton, who took as his subject, Judas Iscariot. He considered Judas a firm believer in, and devoted follower of the Christ, and pictured him as anxious to make more money out of Christ's enemies, believing all the time that no harm could possibly come to the omnipotent Saviour. Judas has many descendants who inherit all his chief characteristics except the decency to go and hang themselves. His chief descendants are those politicians who, in order to raise money to build sidewalks, sewers, hospitals and town halls, lay out parks, etc., license or protect or tolerate the saloon interests.

Rev. W. J. Dean spoke of the Scott Act in Newcastle being openly violated. Everyone knew of this. Some of the Council would like to have their hands strengthened by the Temperance people of the town.

Rev. S. J. MacArthur and Rev. Dr. Cousins also spoke, and Rev. W. Nicolls pronounced the benediction.

Excellent music was rendered by a large mixed choir, leading features being solos by Mrs. P. Russell and Miss Hattie Gunn.

At the close of the meeting, the whole of the audience were invited to St. James Hall, where the W. C. T. U. ladies generously dispensed cake and coffee, ice cream and other refreshments to their guests.

ELECTION BALLOTS OVER FOUR FEET LONG

Sample of Those Used in Recent New York Elections is an Object of Curiosity at City Hall

An election ballot which is a curiosity to most St. John voters, has been received by Mr. Clarence Ward from a relative in New York City. The ballot is a sample of those used in the recent New York civic election. It is printed on a sheet of paper sixteen inches long and four and one half feet wide and presents a rather formidable appearance.

Eighteen different parties are represented on the ballot and if they were not enough an extra column is provided in which the voter may write the name of any person not on the ballot for whom he wishes to vote.

To pick a ticket out of the number of candidates shown according to their individual qualification for office would be a heavier task than most voters wish to undertake and it is not surprising that so many vote a straight ticket. This is done in a very simple manner by placing a cross under the emblem of the party which heads the list of candidates.—St. John Star.

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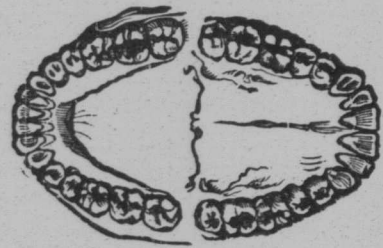
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