

THE WEATHER.

Maritime—(Strong westerly to northwesterly winds, local snow flurries, but generally fair and decidedly cold.

Toronto, Dec. 22.—Light snowfalls or flurries have occurred in nearly all the provinces, but the weather over the Dominion has been for the most part fair and decidedly cold.

Washington, Dec. 22.—Forecast: Northern New England—Fair Wednesday and Thursday. Winds, North Atlantic strong, west, diminishing.

Temperatures.

	Min.	Max.
Vancouver	24	38
Kamloops	6	22
Battleford	14	24
Prince Albert	18	26
Calgary	14	22
Medicine Hat	12	24
Moose Jaw	15	22
Winnipeg	20	24
Port Arthur	14	24
Parry Sound	0	20
London	7	19
Toronto	13	22
Ottawa	4	24
Montreal	4	24
Quebec	4	24
St. John	22	24
Halifax	20	34

—Below zero.

Around the City

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BY-ELECTION

W. B. Tennant, Chairman.
Phone Main 484.
G. Earle Logan, Secretary.
Phone Main 1300.

McMillan's Store.

will be open every evening until Christmas. Largest stock of Christmas Booklets, Patriotic Souvenirs and Calendars in the city. All prices.

Soldiers' Christmas Dinner

All persons counting money for the soldiers' Christmas dinner should send it to Mrs. H. A. Powell, 29 Queen Square, not later than this afternoon.

No Special Business.

There will be a meeting of the Public Utilities Commission in the local government rooms today, but so far as is known there will be no special business before the commissioners.

Mr. Baxter at Red Head.

Attorney-General Baxter paid a visit to Red Head yesterday afternoon and was enthusiastically received by a large number of the electors.

Manitoba's Gift Here

The Head Line steamer Inishowen Head will sail tomorrow for Belfast with a full general cargo among which are 50,000 sacks of flour which is the gift of the Manitoba government to the mother country.

For The Needy.

The members of the North End W. C. T. U. will receive donations to be distributed among the needy, and for this purpose their rooms in the Union Hall will be open on Thursday afternoon between the hours of two and five o'clock, for the purpose of receiving any donations that citizens might wish to offer.

It Was Councillor John T. O'Brien.

In the report of the large and enthusiastic rallies in Lancaster and Simonds in connection with the St. John county-by-election, the name James L. O'Brien appeared as one of the speakers. It was Councillor John T. O'Brien, the popular representative in the municipal council from Fairville who spoke.

Pleasant Social Evening.

An entertainment was held last evening in the schoolroom of Victoria street church, the occasion being a social under the auspices of the Temple of Honor Band. Rev. Dr. Hutchinson was in the chair. He gave a short address, as did George Dewart, R. G. Carson sang two solos. Bandmaster P. W. McNichol was presented with a set of pipes from the band, and Dr. Hutchinson, as its chaplain, was presented with a group of photographs, suitably framed, of the band. At the conclusion of the entertainment coffee, sandwiches and cigars were enjoyed.

Foundry on Fire

About ten o'clock last night a fire was discovered in the corner of the McLean, Holt & Co. foundry off City Road and an alarm was sent in from box 231. The department responded quickly and in a short space of time Chief Blake had three good streams of water playing on the flames. The fire had gained considerable headway before being discovered and had broken out through a few sections of the roof. After almost an hour's work the firemen had the fire all out. The greatest part of the damage was done to the roof of the building and the interior was considerably flooded with water. It was estimated last night that the damage would amount to about \$600 which is covered by insurance.

PERSONAL.

Lieut. Governor Wood arrived in the city last evening from Sackville and is at the Royal. His Honor is here on private business.

Felix Michaud of Buctouche arrived in the city last evening and will attend a meeting of the Public Utility Commission today.

H. V. Dickson of Jubilee who represents Kings county in the Provincial Legislature, is at the Victoria.

Royal. Queen of Ottawa is at the Royal.

P. J. Mahoney of Melrose is at the Royal.

SIMONDS NO. 2.

The Local Government Supporters of Simonds No. 2 will meet on Saturday, at 8 p. m., in Wallace's Hall, Gardner's Creek. Wm. Mawhenny, Chairman.

RECORD CHRISTMAS MAIL BEING HANDLED AT ST. JOHN THIS YEAR

In spite of the War and stories of hard times, St. John people are celebrating Christmas as never before—Christmas shoppers spend money freely.

The spirit of the people of St. John and the Maritime Provinces generally is shown by the way they are going about the ceremony of celebrating Christmas. All over Canada "Business as usual" has been the slogan. "If we are to do our duty, and help the Empire in this crisis we must keep the wheels of business turning as usual," this is the sermon which has been preached by, for and to business men in every city in Canada.

St. John evidently has followed this advice.

One of the best indexes of the general state of business in a community is the activity of the post office just before Christmas. By this test St. John, from a business point of view, is probably the brightest spot on the map of North America.

According to statements of post office officials here the Christmas mail so far this year has been heavier than ever before. Christmas week opened with a rush of mail matter such as post office officials of many years standing had never seen. A greatly increased staff is working at high pressure, and hoping the rush will not continue.

All departments of the post office report heavier business to date than last year.

On Monday the St. John post office handled 600 packages of mail for England, the heaviest English mail ever sent out of here during Christmas week. There has been a general increase in the English and American mail, but the most noticeable increase has been in the local mail. Letter carriers have been overburdened with work and the superintendent of this service said he had never known such heavy deliveries.

Officials of the money order department say they have handled more business this Christmas than last, while the number of packages of registered letters is also larger than usual at Christmas time.

A big business is being done by the parcels post. Three teams are kept busy delivering parcels about the city. Yesterday the lobby of the post office was crowded all day by people posting letters and Christmas gifts. To add to the troubles of gift-handling staff the Montreal mail was about ten hours late and the Halifax mail about nine hours late.

Big Express Business

In spite of the big parcels post business the express companies report that they are doing all the work they can handle. When a reporter called at the Dominion Express Company's new office yesterday, Manager Haycock was trying to answer two telephones at once and the staff was attending busily to a long line of clients.

"You can see we are very busy," said Mr. Haycock. "We have about all the business we can handle. You would not know there was a war in progress, or talk of hard times. Our Christmas business here is as good as it ever was; perhaps a little better."

Christmas Business Good

There was a big crowd of shoppers out yesterday buying Christmas presents and many of the women had children with them, who were busily inspecting the array of gifts in the stores, and advising their mothers as to what they wanted Santa Claus to bring them. It was an ideal day for Christmas shopping, and the stores which cater to the Christmas trade did a rushing business.

Enquiries at a number of stores elicited the information that the people of St. John were spending quite as much money on Christmas gifts this season as ever, and this in view of the many demands which have recently been made upon the generosity and patriotism of the people of the Maritime Provinces, excepting in the extreme east, are good and that collections are as easy as could be desired.

MAY OPEN NEW POST OFFICE IN FIVE MONTHS

L. J. Gaboury here to arrange for equipment of new Building—Will meet wishes of local officials.

L. J. Gaboury of Montreal, chief inspector of post offices in eastern Canada, was in the city yesterday making an inspection of the work on the new post office here, and arranging for the provision of furniture for the new building. While here he had a conference with Postmaster Sears and other local postal officials, and obtained their views in regard to the equipment of the various departments of the new post office. Mr. Gaboury stated that it was the object of his department to meet the wishes of the local postal officials, and that he would carry out their suggestions in so far as possible, and that in future if they were not satisfied they would have to blame themselves and not the head offices of the postal service.

Mr. Gaboury said that in all probability the post office here could be moved into the new building in about five months, which is somewhat earlier than local postal officials expected.

In the new building the postal officials will have much larger quarters than are at present available, and they will be glad to move as the increasing mail business here is taxing to the utmost the capacity of the present post office on Prince William street.

Queen's Rink

On account of the stormy weather Monday night those who have tickets not used will be given an opportunity Wednesday night. Band in attendance.

SIMONDS NO. 3.

The Local Government Supporters of Simonds No. 3, will meet at May, all on Wednesday next at 8 p. m. G. Fred Stephenson, Chairman.

Season Tickets By Phone

Telephone Main 2511 for that season ticket. It will be sent promptly to any address in the city. Queen's Band tonight.

St. John Conservative Club

Hon. J. D. Hazen is expected to be present at the meeting of the St. John Conservative Club in the Market Building on Saturday evening. Mr. Hazen's visit to the club will be of an informal nature, but he may be called upon to make a brief speech to the members of the club and their friends.

FAIRVILLE AND MILFORD ELECTORS.

The Local Government Committee rooms, Temperance Hall, Main street, Fairville, were open last evening, and considerable progress was made on the lists. It was decided to meet on Saturday evening at 8 o'clock.

The Borden Club

The monthly meeting of the executive of the Borden Club was held last evening, when a number of matters of a routine nature were dealt with.

PARK HOTEL, KING SQUARE.

INTERESTING SIDELIGHT ON RECIPROCITY

Present condition of Canadian fishing industry shows fallacy of arguments for reciprocity with U. S.

"As to reciprocity with the United States the situation in the fish business of Canada at the present time is not without its lessons," said a fish merchant on the South Market wharf to a reporter.

"Since this war broke out we have been given an interesting demonstration of the value of the American market, so far as the fish business is concerned, a demonstration which completely refutes the argument of those who insist that the fishing industry of these provinces would be greatly benefited by reciprocity in the matter of fish with the United States."

"What this war has shown is that the market for fish in the United States is of little value compared with the market we have developed in other countries. The war has broken out, and high rates of exchange made foreign export of our fish products impractical. Canadian fish dealers had to face an altogether unprecedented situation. The United States had previously removed the duty on fish without affecting us to any extent, and even when the war broke out, forcing many fish producing countries in Europe which had formerly made considerable shipments of fish to the United States, to abandon fishing operations, we gained nothing from our ability to ship fish to the American market without paying duty. Generally speaking, prices of fish are lower in Canada today than they were before the war broke out, and any demand there may be for our fish from the United States is insignificant."

"Take canned lobsters, which have dropped from \$30 to about \$12 a case. If the United States market was of any importance to us it might be expected to absorb our surplus of canned lobsters at reasonable prices. It has not done so, and it will not do so. As in the case of lobsters, Europe was our biggest customer for fish of all sorts, and with Europe at war our market is demoralized."

BEACONSFIELD.

The Local Government Committee room, 19 Dufferin Row, will be open each evening (Christmas Eve and night excepted), from January 1st, 1915 to December 31st, 1915. Terms cash on acceptance of tender. Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted. A. O. H. Wilson, 208 Chesley street, St. John.

Fishing Privilege For Sale

Tenders will be received up to and including December 31st, 1914, for the Bluff and Veir well-fishing privilege, Strait Shore, from January 1st, 1915 to December 31st, 1915. Terms cash on acceptance of tender. Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted. A. O. H. Wilson, 208 Chesley street, St. John.

Christmas and Patriotic Belts

Red, white, blue, green, lavender and purple. 15 inches long, ten cents each. 10 and 11 inches long, 5 cents each.—Marr Millinery Co.

FREIGHT WEEK FIELD TRAIN TWELVE HOURS

Montreal Express Arrived at Midnight—Collision West of Megantic Threw out Schedule.

The Atlantic express of the C. P. R. due here at noon yesterday did not arrive until midnight. The train was held up west of Megantic on account of a rear end collision between two freight trains. One of the train crew was seriously injured and was brought in to Sherbrooke for treatment.

The accident was said to have occurred yesterday morning. Two freight following one another were trying to make Sherbrooke before the Montreal came along. The head train received orders to take a siding at one of the way stations. The freight following did not know of this and crashed into the rear of the other while it was attempting to take the siding. The bump threw many of the cars and both locomotives off the rails and the train nearly twelve hours to prepare the right of way for the passage of trains.

Only one member of the train crew was said to have been injured and it was not known by passengers, who came in on the express whether or not his injuries were considered fatal. The Montreal express when she pulled into the train shed last evening had to take the outside track. She then pulled through and came back on No. 1 track.

The Boston express last evening was about a half hour late on account of the storm. The Pacific express was only about twenty minutes late from the east and pulled out of St. John practically on time.

Last night the Halifax express was sent out on time and the passenger cars from the Boston were sent east on the Atlantic express soon after midnight.

SOLDIERS TELL OF CAMP LIFE

Salisbury Plains Muddy—Building Huts For The Soldiers.

A letter from O. E. White, who is at Salisbury Plains with the first Canadian Contingent, has been received by his mother. The letter was mailed on December 1st, and Oty says that he has been appointed a staff sergeant at the Divisional Ammunition Park, and has 61 men and a clerk under him. He is in charge of the repair work of the motor equipment and is kept pretty busy. Since he has been on the Plains there have been two deaths and at the time of writing there were twelve men in the hospital. Oty says however, that he is enjoying the best of health, although the accommodations are not what was to be expected.

When the Canadian contingent arrived in England the Imperial government said they were going to erect winter huts for the men to live in during the cold weather. The work of erecting these huts is going along, but owing to the scarcity of skilled workmen the huts are not being built rapidly, although the soldiers are assisting in their erection. Carpenters are wanted but these cannot be obtained, and as a result a large number of the men are obliged to reside in tents.

In another letter received recently from England a Canadian says that he feels the cold in England worse than in Canada. The tents that they are obliged to sleep in are old and there has been a great deal of rain. It is most uncomfortable to try to sleep in the tents with rain dripping through the canvas, while the cold winds blow into the tents, making sleep almost impossible. Another great inconvenience is the mud. Owing to the great amount of rain there is about six inches of sticky mud on the grounds, and accordingly the mud is tracked into the tent floors, while marching through the muddy ground is very hard. A visitor from London who called at the camp has termed the Canadian soldiers "Mud Larks," and the soldiers says "If he had a chance to get into the trenches on the firing line, but where they are being camped awaiting a chance to get to the front mud, rain and cold appears to be hardships."

CHILDREN'S DRESSES

P. A. Dykeman & Co. have on sale a lot of children's dresses marked at special prices for the Christmas trade. Dresses that are worth \$1.00 are on sale at 59 cents; dresses that are worth \$2.00 are on sale at \$1.25. See their handsome display of handkerchiefs done up in dainty boxes and booklets priced 25 cents. Handsome pure linen handkerchiefs on sale at from 15 cents to 75 cents each.

ATTRACTIVE GIFTS IN M.R.A.'S CHRISTMAS SHOW ROOM

A considerable addition has been made to the assortment of gift things in M. R. A.'s Christmas Show Room. Some goods just arrived and now displayed for the first time and at very reasonable prices, consisting of bright and brushed brass in jardinières, fern dishes, trays in all shapes and sizes, umbrellas stands in great variety, flower baskets in four sizes, vases, smokers' sets, tobacco jars, candle sticks, candelabra, combination jardinières and pedestals, also more-que ware with blue and copper background in fern dishes, vases, umbrellas stands, jardinières, trays, tobacco jars, etc.

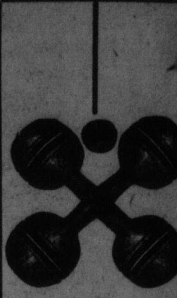
Gifts for the Athletic Lad



Food, healthy exercise is the making of the boy or girl of any age, and presents that make for strong, robust bodies are both practical and sensible.

Here are a few suggestions, but call at our Sporting Department and let us help you make selections:

Dumb Bells, 30 to 80 cents the pair.
Indian Clubs, 50 cents to \$1.35 the pair.
Punching Bags, \$1.95 to \$3.00 each.
Punching Bags, with Platforms, \$11.50 each.
Boxing Gloves, \$2.15, \$2.70, \$3.25, \$4.00, \$4.25, \$4.50, \$4.80, \$5.00, and \$6.50 the pair.
Exercisers, light, \$2.00; heavy, \$2.50 each.



W. H. THORNE & CO., LTD. --- Market Square and King Street
OPEN EVENINGS UNTIL CHRISTMAS

SLATER SHOE STORE to be closed up



BIG SALE NOW ON

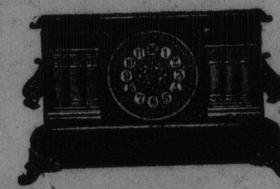
A Good Time for Bargains

The directors of the Slater Shoe Company have decided on closing up their retail stores and our instruction are to close out the stock immediately. With that end in view we are offering stirring bargains in new, clean, up-to-date Slater Shoes.

Holiday season is not generally selected as a time for a sale, but so that people may save some money on their Christmas shopping we are now giving them a chance to obtain gifts at bargain prices.

Slater Shoe Store, King St.

GIFTS THAT ARE USEFUL AND ATTRACTIVE



EIGHT DAY MANTEL CLOCKS

There is nothing around the house that is more useful than a clock. A clock should be attractive as well as a good timekeeper. Ours are both.

Prices \$4.00 to \$22.00

Marble, Onyx, Mahogany and Black Enamel Finish
Dresser or Desk Clocks. Prices 65c. to \$8.25
Watches (Ingersoll) \$1.00 to \$2.25
Wrist Watches \$3.50 to \$9.00

Emerson & Fisher Ltd.

M. R. A. STORES OPEN UNTIL 10 O'CLOCK

CHRISTMAS SALE OF MEN'S AND BOYS' OVERCOATS

Select Gift Garments Now and Save Money

Ladies' Umbrellas for Christmas

An Umbrella is always acceptable as a Christmas Gift, and our assortment this season includes everything that is newest in handle design and material.

Handles of Sterling Silver, Gold, Silver and Ivory, Silver, and Pearl, Silver and Ebony, Natural Wood in plain and Silver Mounted, Gun Metal, Mission Wood, Fancy Horn, etc. Coverings in all silk and silk mixtures, steel rods with guaranteed frames.

Prices, each \$1.10, \$1.25, \$1.35, \$1.60, \$1.90, \$2.00, \$2.25, \$2.60, \$3.00, \$3.25, \$3.50, \$4.00, \$4.25, \$4.50, \$5.00, \$5.75, \$6.00, \$6.60, \$7.00, \$8.50 and so on up to \$20.00.

Children's Umbrellas—19 to 21 inch frames. Each 75c. to \$1.40
SILK DEPARTMENT—SECOND FLOOR.

Gloves Are Always Acceptable Gifts

REYNIER KID GLOVES — Two-dome; black, white and the popular shades. Pair \$1.00, \$1.40, \$1.60.
REYNIER SUEDE GLOVES — Two-dome; black, tan, brown and grey. Pair \$1.50.
PERRIN'S KID GLOVES — Two-dome; black, white and colors. Pair \$1.35.
DENT'S CAPE GLOVES—One-dome; tans. Pair \$1.00, \$1.25, \$1.60.
DENT'S CAPE GLOVES—Grey. Pair \$1.35.
DENT'S CAPE GLOVES—White. Pair \$1.40.
DENT'S CAPE GLOVES—Black. Pair \$1.60.
ENGLISH CAPE GLOVES — One-dome; tan. Pair 90c. to \$1.00.
ENGLISH CAPE GLOVES — Two-dome; tan. Pair \$1.00.

MOCHA GLOVES — One-dome; tan and greys. Pair \$1.15, \$1.25, \$1.60, \$1.75.
MOCHA GLOVES—Silk-lined, two-dome; tans greys. Pair \$1.35, \$1.75.
ANTELOPE GLOVES—One-dome; tans and greys. Pair \$1.15, \$1.25, \$1.60, \$1.75.
ANTELOPE GLOVES — Silk-lined, two-dome; tans and greys. Pair \$1.35, \$1.75.
DOE GLOVES (Washable) — White, one and two button. Price \$1.00, \$1.25, \$1.35.
DOE GLOVES (Washable) — White, long. Pair \$1.35, \$1.75, \$2.25, \$2.75.
EVENING GLOVES—White, long. Pair \$1.75, \$2.25, \$2.75, \$3.00.
MISSIE'S AND CHILDREN'S GLOVES—A complete range of sizes in all makes. Pair 65c., 75c., 80c., \$1.10, \$1.20.

GLOVE DEPT.—FRONT STORE.

GIFTS AT HALF PRICE In Christmas Show Room

This will be a golden opportunity for gift seekers as here is a saving of one half in price and there is still ample time to make good use of these articles where they will be most appreciated. A good assortment of Calendars, Pot Pourri and Lavender Boxes, Perfumed Jars, Sterling Silver in Tinked Boxes, Bonbon Dishes, Trays, etc. Brassware in Candlesticks. Ornaments in China, etc. Christmas Show Room—Second Floor.

Great Savings will also be Afforded in Dressed and Undressed Dolls in Millinery Salon—Second Floor.

Manchester Robertson Allison, Limited