

THE EVENING TIMES-STAR, SAINT JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1926

SAINT JOHN MAN GOT NOTHING FOR INVENTION

Robert Foulis Devised First
Steam Fog Alarm
Ever Used

An interesting sketch taken from the records of the late Clarence Ward in the office of the Dominion Archives, Princess street, deals with Robert Foulis, inventor of the steam fog alarm. It follows:

"Robert Foulis was born in Glasgow, Scotland, in 1796, and when a young man came to Halifax, where he followed the profession of a portrait painter. In 1822 he removed to Saint John and continued his painting. He seems to have been a man of many attainments for we hear of him as a steamboat engineer, portrait painter,

worker in iron, a surveyor and map maker, besides being well informed generally on scientific matters.

"In 1826, Foulis opened an iron foundry in Prince William street, subsequently selling out to Thomas Everett. He then took up steamboat engineering and was employed by J. Ward and Sons to take charge of the new steamboat, St. George. The following complimentary reference to him in that connection is taken from the paper of May 14, 1826: 'On Wednesday last the new steamboat St. George began to assert her mechanical powers to the admiration of all the surrounding spectators, and we feel it our duty to say that much credit is due to Mr. Foulis, the engineer, who put up the complicated yet compact machinery. She sailed for Fredericton this morning and we congratulate the public on having so commodious and superior conveyance to and from the seat of government.'

INVENTS FOG HORN

"The crowning work of Mr. Foulis' life was the invention of the steam fog alarm, the first of which ever erected was on Partridge Island, in Saint John harbor. For this great invention Mr. Foulis received neither emolument nor credit, for unfortunately his business capabilities did not equal his scientific attainments and the honor and profit were eluded away from him. It is

said that one to whom the plans were submitted, applied in his own name for permission to erect a steam whistle on the island, and an American engineer who had heard of it came here and studied the invention.

"On his return to the States he had it patented in his own name and brought the matter to the attention of the American government, by whom it was generally adopted in their coast service under the name of 'Dobell's fog alarm.' As Mr. Foulis had not patented his invention he had no redress.

GOES TO ASSEMBLY

"He then carried his claim to the House of Assembly and a special committee was appointed to look into the matter, with the result that by a resolution of the house Mr. Foulis was declared the inventor of the fog alarm, and a recommendation was made to the British government that the credit and reward might be given to him. This ended the matter. Mr. Foulis never received anything for the invention of an instrument of such great benefit to the mercantile marine of all nations and which is now in such general use for the purpose of giving warning to vessels approaching the coast in thick and foggy weather. Mr. Foulis, like many geniuses whose inventions were of great profit and benefit to others, reaped no reward for his life long work. He died in 1866 a

poor man. His body is interred in the Rural cemetery, and no stone marks his last resting place.

"During the period when the question of building a bridge was still being agitated, the ferry service between Saint John and Carleton was greatly improved. A steam ferryboat, the 'Victoria,' was built and placed on the route in 1840. Her engines were designed by Robert Foulis, the mechanical genius. To Foulis is given the credit of having made the first accurate survey of the Saint John river which is well known in the Crown Land office. He gives the distance from Fredericton to the Grand Falls by the river as 126 miles, 89 chains. The total from the head of the tide at Chapel Bar (about six miles above Fredericton) to the basin below Grand Falls he found to be 175, 8 in. In this distance he enumerated as many as 45 rapids. The height of the Grand Falls he found to be 74 feet perpendicular, and the descent in the gorge below 45 feet, 6 inches; making a total ascent from the head of the tide to the basin above Grand Falls, 296 feet, 6 inches, the only formidable obstruction to navigation below Grand Falls being the 'Medicine Rapids.'

Finest Station For Railway Employes

LONDON, Sept. 25.—Blackwell Mill, Derbyshire, disputes with stations on the Braintree line the claim to being the smallest station in England.

Blackwell Mill, which is on the London Midland and Scottish Railway, three miles from Buxton, has one platform twelve feet long, and not more than four feet wide. It is a board bearing the name of the station.

It has one train a week, no tickets are issued, and no fares are charged. The station, situated amid hills, dales, and deep limestone gorges, serves eight cottages, occupied by railway servants and their families, and every Friday morning an early train stops to take the women folk of this tiny hamlet to Buxton where their market baskets, and about noon they return with their week's supplies.

Sting-Proof Expert Gives Demonstration

LONDON, Sept. 25.—An old man with a white moustache and a quiet smile stood unmoved in the Crystal Palace recently while bees crawled over his shoulders and down the arms of his coat. The scene was the National Exhibition of bees and honey.

"There's a bee crawling over your collar—'he's going down your neck," cried one of the little crowd that had collected round the grame from which the bees escaped.

"That's all right, I've been keeping for 80 years," said the man, and he put up a careless hand and plucked the bee off. "Now watch him sting me," he continued, and he collected round the grame from which the insect on the back of his hand and stimulated it with a finger of the other. "That's his sting," he said, pointing "it's got it well in now." "Does it hurt me," not a bit, he immune."

Social Notes of Interest

His Worship Mayor White has kindly consented to be chairman for the concert to be given by William Heugan, actor singer in the Imperial Theatre on Tuesday night. The concert is being held under the auspices of the Women's Hospital Aid of the city, and its proceeds are to go toward financing maternity work which it is proposed shall be undertaken at the General Public Hospital. Mrs. J. J. Stothart, president of the Hospital Aid, is general convener for the arrangements for the concert, and Mrs. Walter Hall and Mrs. L. W. Mowry are convener of tickets. It is expected that the concert will have very large patronage and invitations are being extended to the heads of various interested organizations to take seats in the boxes.

Mrs. George Lander and Mrs. F. G. Lander, of Sussex, who have been spending a month at Balmoral College, St. Martins, are in the city for a few days.

Among those who came from Sussex to Saint John to attend the Sousa band concert were Mrs. Irvine and Miss Katherine Prescott.

Mr. and Mrs. D. W. Harper, who have spent the summer months at Westfield Beach, are returning to the city on Monday.

Mrs. John E. Sayre was hostess at a delightful but very informal tea at her residence in Robeson on Friday afternoon in honor of her sister, Mrs. Geo. Wood, of Grimsby, Ont. The table, which was attractively centred with sweet peas, was presided over by Mrs. Harry Rankine and Mrs. A. J. Trueman, of Toronto, mother of the hostess.

Mrs. Arthur G. Ross was hostess at a small bridge at her residence, Windward Avenue, Westmount, Wednesday evening in honor of Mrs. Frank L. Ross, Saint John. A profusion of multi-colored sweet peas was used in the decoration of the drawing room and also centred the tea table.

Mrs. Stanley E. Elkin, who has been visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Elkin, in Sydney, C. B., returned to the city early in the week and spent a few days at the Admiral Beatty Hotel. Mrs. Elkin was later joined by her husband, with whom she left yesterday by motor for their home in Montreal.

Mrs. W. D. Foster returned to Saint John on Saturday after a pleasant visit with her sister, Mrs. C. M. Sills, in St. Andrews.

Miss Helen Scovell and Miss Marjorie Knight motored from Saint John on Sunday last and were guests of Miss Kathleen Cockburn, St. Stephen. Miss Cockburn accompanied them on their return trip and is Miss Scovell's guest in Saint John for a few days.

Miss Lorene Evans left yesterday for Montreal to visit Miss Mildred Briggs. While in Montreal Miss Evans will attend the McGill reunion.

Frank Cawley, of Saint John, spent last week-end with his mother, Mrs. Josephine Cawley, in St. Stephen.

Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Cassidy left Chatham yesterday on an auto trip to Fredericton and Saint John.

Mrs. Fred M. Crocker and Mrs. H. W. S. Allingham have returned to Saint John, after spending a week with relatives in Truro and Stewiacke.

Many friends of Miss Hilda Stanley, Misspe, who has been ill at the home of her sister in Paddock street, will be pleased to know that she is able to return home.

St. Clair Sprague, of the King Sales Service, Minneapolis, Minn., is in the city on a short holiday, visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Sprague, Mill street.

Carey W. McFeters, of Sussex, whose condition has been far from satisfactory of late, went into the Saint John infirmary on Tuesday last and was subject to a medical examination. He returned to his home yesterday.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Edwards, 78 Queen street, was the scene of a merry party last evening when about 60 friends and relatives gathered for a social gathering. The party was tendered a novelty shower to their daughter, Miss Helen Edwards, whose marriage will take place in the near future. Miss Katie Fox played the wedding march as little Miss Phyllis Edwards, sister of the prospective bride, wheeled into the room a basket decorated in white with white satin.

streamers and adorned with a miniature bride.

The basket contained many lovely gifts. After the parcels had been opened the streamers were pulled and the bride-elect was showered with confetti. Miss Edwards suitably expressed her appreciation of the good wishes and gifts. A pleasant evening was spent in dancing and music and dainty refreshments were served.

Miss Maude Kierstead, of Manawagonish Road, will leave tonight on the Boston train for a month's vacation to be spent with relatives in Boston and New York.

MUCH-NEEDED RAIN STRIKES YARMOUTH

YARMOUTH, Sept. 24.—Since 11 o'clock this morning Yarmouth has experienced its first real rain storm for several months. All through the afternoon it has fallen in torrents and this evening brooks and streams which have been dried for weeks are again flowing. In many sections the rain is a real God-send for in the rural sections wells have been dry and farmers have been forced to go to much inconvenience to obtain a water supply for their live stock.

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	500 yards Longcloth Finished Household Cottons, 36 inch. Special 18c. a yd.

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Stamped Oyster Linen Centres, 22 inch. Special . . . 45c.
Stamped Cream Aprons, novel design. Special . . . 39c.
Stamped Natural Linen Centres, 18 inch. Special . . . 25c.

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Three styles in smart Persian Leather Hand Bags, popular colors . . . \$1.65
Neck Pearls—Full 25 inch string graduated, indestructible . . . 39c. each

10 Dozen Griffin Lock-Knit Bloomers

A new make, new stitch material, guaranteed not to unravel; Vests to match. Colors, peach, sky, white and helio.
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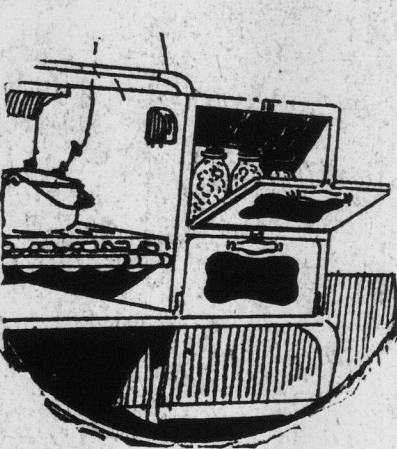
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CONSTRUCTION OF NEW ZEALAND PORT

Construction of new harbor of Glabourne, New Zealand, is progressing, and it is hoped that by July 1, 1927, vessels drawing up to 18 feet of water will be able to enter the port. The work is being carried on under a loan of \$5,000,000, which will cover the cost of harbor facilities for light draft, overseas and the usual coastal vessels.



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