

## Mr. A. C. McKenzie Writes.

Councillor A. C. McKenzie, writing from Brooklyn, Elgin County, N. S., to SEARCHLIGHT, under date of Jan'y 24th, says he has completed planning the stations on the Midland railway, and adds that those stations are the best built ones in the maritime provinces. He says in appointing Mr. John B. McDonald, of Sable Hill, inspector, the committee made no mistake. In Mr. McKenzie's opinion Mr. McDonald knows his "biz."

Mr. McKenzie is grateful to his many friends for mentioning his name for the mayoralty, but adds that at present he could not think of being a candidate, as he has not the time to give the attention that the importance of the office requires of Ward III for the kindnes they have shewn him during the seven years he has held the office of councillor for that Ward, and while he could not agree with all of the opinions of the electors, he always acted in what he thought was for the best interest of a progressive town like Truro. He is pleased to note that the sewerage question has come up in a business way, and hopes it will soon be an accomplished fact. He adds that we should have had it long before this. When we get it we will have permanent streets, and thus away. When we get sewerage we will have many more desirable people locating in Truro, for it is hard to make people believe that natural drainage is sufficient for a town like Truro.

Mr. McKenzie says Truro made no mistake in having the Midland terminate there, as it runs through a fine agricultural country. He does not think there are sixty miles of railway in the country any better located or built.

However, he adds, that the business men of Truro, in order to capture the trade, will have to provide a market for the produce which now goes to Halifax. If they do so, they can reap a rich harvest, as the people along the line from Kentook are looking to Truro.

## Personal.

Miss Gertie Lewis is visiting friends in Kentville.

F. H. Armstrong, general passenger agent D. A. R. was in town last week.

Mrs. Blair, wife of Hon. A. G. Blair, minister of finance, is very ill with pleurisy at Ottawa.

Mr. W. W. Dakin, of Winsbor, was the guest of his brother, Mr. G. B. Dakin, Pleasant street, over Sunday.

METHODIST.—On Friday, February 16th, a tea and entertainment is to be given to the scholars of the Pleasant Street Methodist Sunday School. The committee are hard at work making the necessary arrangements, and do not doubt the affair will be a success.

CAN'T DO WITHOUT HIM.—Mr. R. F. Black is always attentively listened to at a town meeting and what he says is much in fact that would a town meeting be without Mr. Black? There is his hearers, and there is the best interests of Truro always lie nearest his heart.

## The Assessing System.

We were taken Friday night last with what Mayor Stuart said about assessing—that is, that the law should be entirely complied with, and property assessed at its cash value, thus making a reduction of the rate of taxation. He said it would make the assessment court of appeal more useful than it now is, with an assessment valuation of 75 per cent. of the real value. The understanding—not the law—is, that property is assessed at 75 per cent. of its real value. A property may be assessed at 75 per cent. of its real value, and on the 75 per cent. basis a man may feel he has a grievance, but when he goes to the appeal court he is asked if he will sell the property for what it is assessed at. Certainly he will not, because it is only 75 per cent. of the real value, consequently he gets no relief. If the law was complied with, and property assessed at its real value, there would be no grievance real grievance, and when the owner went before the appeal court, he would get relief, because he would then say he would gladly sell the property for what it is assessed at. If the valuation is raised, the rate of taxation will be lowered. Winsbor, N. S., before the fire, assessed at the real value, and had an 80 per cent. rate; we assess at 75 per cent. of the real value, and have a 41.50 rate. One thing is sure—if the assessment valuation is kept down, the assessment rate must be kept up; if the assessment goes up, the rate comes down. We believe the real valuation and the low rate is the better and most honest way. We say honest, because the 75 per cent. assessment causes the assessor to violate his oath of office, as he is sworn to assess at the real value. Mr. H. T. Laurence, assessor for Ward II, called attention to this last fact at Friday night's meeting.

## Stray Shots.

The empire has not yet begun to fight.

The voters' list is the centre of attraction.

These days the average ratepayer is singing: "Is my name written there?"

Johnny, get your promise ready, there's a candidate at the front door.

The candidates are not "absent-minded beggars." They remember all the shortcomings of the other fellows.

Y. M. C. A.—At the men's meeting in the Y. M. C. A. parlour Sunday afternoon, Rev. R. G. Strathe gave an exceedingly interesting talk, his subject being "The Judgment."

"GEORGE" IS TOWN.—Mr. G. H. Laurence, one of the best known and most popular men in Acadia Iron Mines, was at the Victoria Sunday. For many years Mr. Laurence was manager of the Co-operative store at the mines, but it has ceased to do business. "George" is not just sure what will go at now, but hopes to be in business again before long.

## News Notes.

Joubert's nephew is reported in camp at De Aar fighting with the British.

Mr. J. J. Copp, M. P. for Digby, has been re-nominated by the Liberals of the county.

Barbados is anxious to send troops to South Africa, and thus show her loyalty to the empire.

Osmán Digna, the principal General of the late Khalifa Abdinlah, who was recently taken prisoner by the British, has been taken to Suaz.

The remains of John Ruskin were interred at Coniston on Thursday amidst universal signs of sadness, and with a eegonomical typically rural.

James Bailey, probably the tallest man in the world, died last week near Rochester, N. V., aged 75 years. He was known as the Alleghany giant, and measured 7 feet 4 inches in his stockings.

The German naval bill has adopted the new hull built which provides for doubling the present number of battleships, and the construction of six large and seven small additional cruisers.

A London cable says that it understood that the house of commons will be re-elected on Thursday, March 1st. This is in addition to the £8,000,000 already appropriated.

Lord Strathcona has enlarged the number of his horse from 400 to 531, and the government has chartered the steamship Monterey to carry them to South Africa. The steamer is to sail from Halifax the last of the present month.

## The Boers Rob the Dead.

BUT THEY TREAT THE LIVING WOUNDED WITH CONSIDERATION.

The St. James Gazette's correspondent in his mailed account of the Battle of Colenso, dwells on the effect of the Mauser bullet, which he says is, no doubt, a very humane one, and inflicted some wonderful wounds.

"Some of the bullets," he says, took extraordinary courses. A man was shot in the head; the bullet came out of his side, and he is doing well. An officer was shot in the left breast; the bullet came out low down the back, and he was walking about on Sunday and said he felt nothing wrong with him.

The Boers treated our wounded well, and, in fact, did not take them prisoners, as they said they could not be bothered with them. They took the wounded colonels, as they like colonels, and would prefer one with a title, but they rifled their pockets, and went for bread in the haversacks with great care. I don't think they can be getting much bread now.

They also stripped our dead of all clothing, for they have no plumico behind them, and officers' breeches were highly treasured.

The arrangements made by the medical officers were perfect. The wounded were picked up almost at once, and, within twelve hours, they were comfortably settled in hospitals, and being attended by the best nurses, with every comfort that money could procure."