

## SOME SPECIALS:

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**60c.**  
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**S.O. Steele & Sons, Ltd.**

100 WATER STREET.  
Phone 192. Opp. Seamen's Institute.

## Notes Taken at Random

## From An Old Pocket Diary.

(By OBSERVATOR).

"Old events have modern meanings; only that survives Of past history which finds kindred in all hearts and lives."

The following notes are taken at random from an old pocket diary kept by me from the beginning of 1864 to the end of 1899:—

June 27, 1864.—At 7 o'clock p.m. yesterday the sea at St. John's receded for 250 yards beyond where the wreck of H.M.S. Comus lay submerged in five fathoms of water. In about ten or twelve minutes it returned with fearful velocity, bringing in large stones, gravel, etc., filling up the Gut at St. John's, overturning several boats and sinking one. The wreck of the Comus was distinctly discerned, the shot, bolts and guns being plainly visible. The Morning Chronicle, in referring to the startling occurrence, says:—"No doubt, a severe submarine volcanic eruption has taken place somewhere not very remote from our Southern Shore. On the 27th it was remarked by everyone that the sky had a very unusual appearance. It was very sultry, there was a dark leaden smoke, which seemed to envelope everything, and there were loud peals of thunder and vivid flashes of lightning at the same time. Nothing of the kind ever happened there before. Some masters of ships in port say that the sky looked like it did in places where they experienced earthquakes."

August 27, 1864.—The first yacht race sailed on fresh water here, of which I have any record, took place to-day at Windsor Lake, between the yachts of A. W. Harvey and Frederick Wyatt. Harvey won by a considerable margin. One of the local papers immortalized the event by quoting in connection therewith the annexed verses, which it dedicated to Messrs. Harvey & Co.:—

"We're champions of the noble sport of yachting.  
We lead a life that's very, very tough;  
We're fearless, brave, intrepid,  
But we like our weather tepid  
And we'd rather not go sailing when it's rough."

We're out to elevate a sport heroic

Queen's Wharf to Chain Rock and back, and then the boats to be changed and the course rowed over again. The contestants were James Fletcher, at St. J. W. Stewart's, and John Hayward, bookkeeper at the Commercial Bank and son of Judge Hayward of the Supreme Court. Both boats were won by Hayward.

May 28, 1889.—The Telegram last evening published the following as the Speech with which his Excellency the Governor ought to have opened the present session of the Legislature:—

Mr. President and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council.

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Honorable House of Assembly.

On this my first appearance before you as Governor of this island, I had looked forward with anticipation of pleasure to meet you as a Legislature. The treat has been considerably marred by my discovery of the fact that, as a Government, you are all at sixes and sevens among yourselves. You are like the Kilkenny cats, of immortal memory, all fur and pure outside, all fight and faction within.

I was sent here to bolster up the Reid "deal" as far as I can, by giving a number of balls, parties, etc., to those who seem to kick the deal. I am sorry to say I find the average Newfoundland too intelligent to be convinced through his palate into a surrender of his native public rights, and therefore, fear that imperial bounty and imperial gaudy won't bribe the non-political public.

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Honorable House of Assembly.

I will be looking to you for the necessary "supplies," as in this community all fishermen of necessity do. Don't forget my few extra thousand dollars. You have no idea how expensive dinner-parties are. It is much cheaper to entertain the seafarers.

Mr. President and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council.

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Honorable House of Assembly.

You won't find much money in the Chest, but I am thankful to say that the Chest itself has not yet been pawned to any contractor. The wood of which it is composed is worth something; so are the hinges. The lock is gone long ago; it was last seen just before the deadlock took place, about two months ago, between the rival sections of my harmonious Government. I believe Mr. W. has the lock and Mr. M. the key; my true and trusty leader of his Majesty's Opposition will probably bring them together.

You will now proceed to spend that liberal allowance on your "deliberations," which they are not worth, and the quicker you get to the bottom of the bag and close the Session, the sooner the public anxiety will be at rest. That may not be a compliment, but it is a solemn fact.

May 1, 1894.—At the close of the St. John's West Election Trial Case, on the petitioners' side, yesterday, Mr. E. P. Morris, in reply to Mr. Justice Winter, requested that the defence be given a week in which to prepare their case, he (Mr. Morris) being one of the three candidates against whom charges of bribery and corruption were preferred. His Lordship demurred, observing that he thought they should be able to resume on Saturday next, whereupon Mr. Morris replied: "I shall require at least a week; my Lord, in which to visit the outlying localities of the district and there procure the necessary witnesses and evidence. I shall be obliged to visit Broad Cove and spend a day there selecting witnesses. For the same purpose, another day, will have to be spent at the Goulds. Petty Harbor will claim still another day's work; so also will Killbride, Blackhead and Cape Spear, too, will demand a day's attention. Then there will still remain the city itself from which to draw its quota of witnesses and evidence." The Court will remember that it is not alone my colleagues and

I who are on trial here; the fair fame and honor of St. John's West are also at stake. It takes two to consummate an act of bribery—the acceptance by the bribed of the offer of the briber; and when I ask a week for the preparation and arrangement of testimony to rebut those infamous allegations, and vindicate the manhood of St. John's West from the aspersions sought to be cast upon its intelligence, I think, my Lord, that I am not asking too much. It is a plausible piece of bluff—as one of the daily papers calls it—this plea for time, and I presume Judge Winter saw through it, as did everybody else in Court. Anyway, his Lordship, without further demur, assented to Mr. Morris's motion, and the further consideration, therefore, stands adjourned till next Monday.

December 10, 1897.—At 10.30 o'clock this morning the Supreme Court resumed its hearing of the case against the defaulting Bank Directors, and spent the whole forenoon in the direct examination of Mr. Geo. Coen by Mr. D. J. Greene, Q.C. The testimony adduced was with regard to the condition of the customers who had overdrawn accounts in the bank. The questions of Counsel were designed to elicit the fact that the bulk of the accounts which went to make up the \$2,000,000 of overdrafts were worthless and could never realize anything like their face value, while they were counted in as good assets and interest charged upon them and dividends declared out of these alleged profits, just as if the accounts had been bona fide ones in every respect. Mr. Greene had the witness give the names and amounts of the bank's principal debtors and showed that they failed the day the bank collapsed and that most of the accounts had been gradually increasing from year to year. He had the figures for all the directors' firms quoted year after year, the idea apparently being to prove from the condition of the Banks and the steady growth of the overdrafts, that the directors could not but know that these institutions were insolvent when they published their reports, and, by so doing, deceived those interested as to their actual condition. As Mr. Coen's evidence necessitates frequent reference to the books of the banks, and calculations as to interest, and so forth, the examination is not proceeding over-speedily. Feeling against the defaulting directors runs high, shareholders and depositors are greatly excited, and intense indignation is everywhere expressed against the defaulting directors of both the Commercial and Union Banks. The Government, too, comes in for no small share of blame in the matter, and very properly so, as the Attorney General is solicitor for the Commercial Bank and must know that both of these banks have, for some years, been hanging on by their eye-brows, and made no effort to protect the shareholders and depositors.

Mr. President and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council.

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## "School Days"—at the CRESCENT To-day—"School Days"

Wesley Barry  
— in —  
"SCHOOL DAYS"  
7 Big Acts 7

Pat Harrington  
— in —  
Novelty Songs and Dances.

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Big Amateur Contest  
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Names may be left at the Box Office.

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40 inch DRESS MELTONS, Black, Navy, Sax and Green. Great value, only 80c. yard.

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A JOB LINE LADIES' TWEED SUITINGS, 54 inch. 90c. 1.05, 1.70.

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54 inch HEAVY GRADE WOOL DRESS PLAIDS. For Girls' School or Sport Dresses, 1.70 yard

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NAVY DRESS SERGE  
40 inch. 85c. 1.10, 1.15, 1.35  
54 inch. 1.38, 1.70, 2.00 to 4.00.

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54 inch. 1.35 and 1.70.

McCALL'S Latest Dress and Costume Patterns.

BLACK & COLORED CASHMERES  
45c. 47c. and 75c.

A Good Range

Colored Sateens and  
Fancy Linings.

to suit all materials.



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and  
PRESERVING

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SUGAR PLUMS, GREENGAGES, PEARS, BAKEAPPLES, PARTRIDGE BERRIES, for Preserving, and TOMATOES, ONIONS, PICKLING SPICES, GREEN PEPPERS for Pickles and Chutney.

## Corned Beef

in SIX POUND TINS.

Good quality.

1.15 tin

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for preserving.

in TEN POUND TINS.

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## Use Pavowax

for sealing your preserves.

1 Pound pkge. 20c.

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Trimmed and Untrimmed.

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BLACK SHEET IRON.

GALV'D. SHEET IRON.

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1 X CHARCOAL TINPLATE.

1 X X CHARCOAL TINPLATE

BLOCK TIN. SOLDER.

BAR LEAD,

HORSE SHOES,

HORSE SHOE NAILS,

SLIDE SHOES,

BLACK WROUGHT NAILS,

GALV'D. WROUGHT NAILS.

SHEET ZINC

BAR COPPER.

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IS THE  
**BEST MILK MADE**

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