

THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, ST. JOHN, N.B., SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1904.

THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH
is published every Wednesday and Saturday at 110 W. Main, STABLE IN ADVANCE.
By The Telegraph Publishing Company, of St. John, a company incorporated by act of the Legislature of New Brunswick.

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Ordinary commercial advertisements taking the run of the paper, each insertion, \$1.00 per inch.
Advertisements of Wares, For Sale, etc., one cent a word for each insertion.
Notices of Births, Marriages and Deaths 50 cents for each insertion.

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Semi-Weekly Telegraph

ST. JOHN, N. B., DECEMBER 3, 1904.

TO TELEGRAPH READERS

Since the Federal election several subscribers have complained about The Telegraph's course during the campaign, apparently forgetting that this paper, more than a year ago, declared its complete independence from party control. It may be well, therefore, to remind all subscribers that The Telegraph is not controlled by any party, and that it discusses men and measures on their merits, seeking to serve the public interest and that alone. Because The Telegraph opposed the government of the railroad policy, a few old subscribers have described it as "a Tory paper." These gentlemen are utterly mistaken. If a measure appears bad The Telegraph will oppose it, whether it be put forward by Liberals, Conservatives, or Independents. If a measure appears sound and beneficial The Telegraph will support it, no matter what party puts it forward. And it will print a fair report of all the news.

This is a day of independent newspapers. The day of the party-owned journal which prints what it is told to print by the party bosses, and which has no opinion of its own, is passing. The Telegraph opposed the government only in regard to the railroad policy. It is an independent newspaper and will be to the line. This is the sound and progressive policy now adopted by the leading journals of the day, and The Telegraph will stick to it.

This is an old newspaper which has many well-wishers. It is gratifying to be able to announce that these well-wishers are growing in number. That the people want first of all a live newspaper is shown by the continual growth of The Telegraph's circulation. To meet the demands of growing business this company is arranging for the purchase of a new plant and the erection of a large addition to The Telegraph building, after which the size of the paper will be increased to accommodate more news features and advertising. Further details concerning the projected improvements will be published later on.

A ROTTEN SYSTEM

If one or two or three honest, public spirited aldermen were to stand up in the council chamber next week and denounce the city's ring politics which the people of this city have hitherto consented to, what would happen? The aldermen whom they denounced would unite to defeat the accusers of the rotten system at the next civic election; and they could do it. Under the present system of electing aldermen, complete, straightforward, independence in defence of all the taxpayers is practically impossible. Such independence would be much less difficult if the Mayor were a man of aggressive public spirit who did not assist in perpetuating the old evils of the system simply because they have long existed and to interfere would be unpleasant for himself and others. It was never clearer than it is today that a man who desires civic order should only seek it after he has once well all the responsibilities it entails and decided to accept them and all that they imply. The present Mayor and most of the aldermen are simply trading upon the prevailing laxity of interest in civic affairs among those who have the right to vote.

What is the result? The Library contract and the recent force enacted by the safety board with the consent of Mayor White have brought to public attention certain matters typical of the entire regime at City Hall. A lawyer who is also an alderman is forbidden by the ethics of his profession to act for a client who uses the city. The lawyer who sits in the council is in a position to know all about the city's case before the suit comes up. The lawyer, therefore, very properly refuses to act for a client who, for instance, seeks damages from the corporation.

But now, and for years back, since this is "a small community," as the Mayor says, aldermen who vote away the city's money profit directly, or through a partner or business associate, by selling supplies to the city, doing the insurance business, or taking the contracts. These gentlemen have

"the inside track," and they use it, and by using it there is no doubt in the world that they violate the spirit if not the letter of the law.

To urge the fact that this is "a small community" is a defence wholly inadequate. The time has come when this community is large enough to have a Mayor and aldermen who will make it understood that men who represent the city shall not, directly or indirectly, profit by any financial transaction upon which the council passes.

The present system is rotten; and there is no escape from it short of a revision of the scheme of representation. There never will be any guarantee of a wholly square deal at City Hall until an alderman can express his honest convictions, fully and freely, on every transaction that comes up, without knowing that three or four or half-a-dozen of his colleagues, who may be affected, will combine to keep him out of the council after the next election. Meantime the Mayor can take the old and easy course and "stand in" with all hands at the board, or he can use the full power which goes with his position even under the present pernicious system of representation. And he can win a measure of public support by publicly advocating the abolition of the present system and the adoption of another which would make every man at the board independent and free to serve the people.

The Library contract will remain a matter of discussion until the council has dealt with the contractor and, through him, with the sub-contractors. The council has also to pass upon the safety board's inquiry as to the condition of the fire department. The Mayor and the aldermen are confronted with the questions:—
Are Ald. Christie's charges true or false?

If they are true, why did Chief Kerr and Director Wisely fail to report upon or act in regard to conditions gravely affecting the efficiency of the department? The attitude of the Mayor and of each and every alderman in regard to the Library contract and the fire department, and the issues raised in connection with these questions, will be worth watching. Perhaps, after all, we shall discover that this community is not so small as the Mayor thinks it is.

HOLDING THEM UP

The Telegraph is willing to assume that it is simpler for the United States immigration officials to hold up passengers at St. John than at the boundary, ninety miles away by rail. It may be that, occasionally, the comfort of the passengers is consulted as well as the convenience of the inspectors. But if an obnoxious regulation is enforced to the letter, see what results! A foreign official well within our boundaries approaches a government official from St. Pierre who arrives here by the inter-colonial and enters another train, bound for France via New York. The man from St. Pierre is not an immigrant. He is not a criminal. He is in a Canadian city, entitled to the usual protection. He is a man of affairs. Important business calls him abroad. The United States inspector tells him he cannot leave St. John; that he must leave the train, that he must turn back or submit to a full examination, as to his identity, his business, his destination, and other matters wholly personal and private so long as he is on Canadian soil. Probably the astonished traveller is informed that he has been fined two dollars for contemplating entry to the United States, though he is ninety miles from Vancouver. There is delay and misunderstanding, but probably no actual violence, and the stranger submits; not because he believes the detention is legal, but because he cannot afford to lose more time and prefers to make his complaint in another quarter and later on. The traveller in one case may be a Frenchman, as happened yesterday. But another may be an Englishman.

Who or what he is must remain purely his own business until he arrives at the United States boundary, beyond which United States authority is good. No one in St. John has any authority to cause a traveller to miss his train. The French official's time is his own.

The inspectors are supposed to make their inquiries on the train as it approaches Vancouver, or at the boundary itself. The official who cannot distinguish between the possibly objectionable immigrant and the man of business on business bent is a wooden man enforcing regulations which become intolerable unless in intelligent hands. If the inspectors prefer leisure in St. John to constant travel between this city and Vancouver, no one will wonder; but that their preference in this matter is to weigh against decent and respectful treatment of all passengers is most unlikely. Members of parliament from this province should not postpone action on this question until Parliament meets. Now is a good time to investigate. The chance are that the United States government is unaware that ignorance or incompetence is prejudicing an arrangement intended for the benefit of all concerned.

THE WOLVES

Honest spiritualists are, or should be, of all men or women most ready to expose the wolves who live by their wiles and use spiritualism as a cloak to shield them while they profit by the weakness of their neighbors. This, from the Toronto Mail, mentions a common form of fraud:—
"There are unfortunately men and women who prey on the credulity of their fellows, and pose as mediums for unwelcome ends. One such employs a man in each city where a public performance is

given to stand outside the hall or theatre and note who goes in. Among 2,000 people, this scout will be sure to recognize a score or more (for he is selected for his knowledge) and the names and occupations of these, together with any further information he can pick up, are handed to the medium. Suppose one of the number is a stock broker. He is selected to hear the medium call out his name, with some such cryptic message as this: 'You are in doubt about a certain stock. It will turn out well eventually, but will go down first. The high-priced security is a much better investment.' The broker is literally dumb-founded. The words of the clairvoyant come as an answer to his thought. The most casual acquaintance might say as much to him on the street, but no attention is paid to the words. In the presence of the medium, however, he is prepared to some extent to be astounded, and prepared also to accept whatever explanation of a mystery it affords. He may, in fact, become a believer on a spot, and almost all because the scout knew him by sight."

Simple enough; but cunning enough to impose upon people willing to believe that the spirits of those who were intelligent here are ready to communicate from the other world through such wretched specimens of humanity as do business in most of the "spiritualistic parlors" in the large cities where the trade flourishes like a green bay tree.

MORE TROUBLE

Without having any knowledge of the influences tending to keep Postmaster Hanington in his present position, and with no accurate information as to the "pull" exerted by any of the clerks who serve under him, one may still arrive at the conclusion that either the postmaster or one of his subordinates, young Mr. Beverley, will ere long be missing from the stern grey building in Prince William street. There has been much in the post office of late to fix public attention upon small questions affecting the discipline of the institution. A while ago a bickering between Mr. Hanington and one or two clerks over some baskets of trifling value led friends of both parties to fear that the postmaster's official family was not a happy one. The matter was referred to Ottawa, and, speaking of baskets, it was generally suspected that a head or two would drop into some such receptacle, hopped away by the axe of the Knight Mulock. But no one's head left his shoulders, and the public forgot.

There was seeming peace for an interval. The public came and went, and saw nothing. Then a citizen complained that the public was ill-served with respect to ink and pens, and said things displeasing to the postmaster. The citizen said subsequently that he received a lawyer's letter asserting that his utterances were defamatory and generally injurious. The citizen lived on, but it was clear that he had had a close shave. Again there was seeming peace.

But yesterday came more trouble. The young man of the basket incident, and the postmaster, again agreed to disagree; and if one may credit common report some of the subsequent conversation was of a most lamentable nature.

These are comparatively trifling circumstances, but they come at the end of a long story of post office amenities, and they raise important questions. One is: Is not the post office too small to contain both Mr. Hanington and one or two of his subordinates? Another is: Why shall not the department speedily ascertain who is right and who is wrong, and apply the usual and efficacious remedy? If the incident of yesterday involves an investigation of management of the St. John post office from roof to cellar, so much the better.

SOME EVILS AND OTHERS

Mayor White, in his inaugural address, advanced several strong reasons against the present plan of electing aldermen, and said further:

"There are other evils in this connection of which I will not speak at the present time."

The evils of which the Mayor then omitted to speak should have been given a name. No doubt he will name them. He might say with truth, for instance, that today nearly every appropriation asked for by the aldermen from any section of the city is passed, regardless of the justice of the claims made. It is passed because other aldermen know that if they oppose it, even if the voters in their own wards uphold them, they will be marked for slaughter in the wards represented by the men who asked for the appropriation. This is one of the evils. It saps the independence of the council and robs the taxpayer of the protection to which he is entitled. Had the Mayor dwelt upon this feature of the system he would have added greatly to the strength of the indictment he framed against it. As we have his indictment was strong even if it lacked the essential fighting quality. It may be that he could not say more with good grace at the beginning of his term. If so, the same restrictions are not active today, and he may at any time reinforce what he said last Spring. What he said then is of live interest in view of recent occurrences proving how necessary it is that the plan of civic representation be changed. Here are his words:

"The present way of securing representation in Council leaves much to be desired. It was introduced in 1894, on the petition of a number of gentlemen styling themselves the 'Tax Reduction Association,' and many of the old abuses were to be swept away thereby. It is for the public to say to what extent this result has been obtained. For myself, I believe, that so far from good having been accomplished, actual harm has been done. A fundamental principle of representation is that their representative shall be personally known to and chosen by the represented. This principle is violated, for every alderman, I would ask, knows

nothing about all the candidates at an election, and in the absence of knowledge, how can the vote be intelligently cast? There are evils in this connection of which I will not speak at the present time. Steps should be taken to repeal this law and either to return to the old and well tried way, or, as I would prefer, establish a division of the city into electoral districts with the number of representatives from each district based upon population, that of the least being the unit of measurement. A slight increase in the size of the Council would result, but owing to the rapidly increasing public business this would be an advantage rather than otherwise. A word more in this connection. The life of a Common Council—one year—is too short. It is thought that on the eve of an election, in any government, the same calm and judicious consideration of public questions may not be given that would be so given at another time; and the City Council is now always in the eye of an election. There is almost as much danger in being too near the elections as too far away. A two year term would add stability without unduly increasing independence."

There is enough in the foregoing extract to damn the system if the voters will but consider it. But a free discussion of the "other evils," to which reference is made, some of which have been made in evidence recently, may be necessary to give the reform movement the required momentum. If certain of the present aldermen unite to block the change which the Mayor suggested it will be necessary for the people to beat them at their own game.

AS A BUSINESS PROPOSITION

Humanitarian motives aside, it is natural to think a community which spends money to prevent and to cure diseases would be more interested in the means by which the most formidable of the maladies by which it is menaced. But the community does nothing of the sort. In Ottawa last year there were 1,137 deaths, of which consumption caused 108—twice as many as were caused by scarlet fever and diphtheria combined, and the last named were the most deadly contagious diseases after consumption. The statistics inspire the following in the Ottawa Journal:—

"It is almost an absurd condition that a costly and splendidly equipped isolation hospital, such as we have in Ottawa, should be constructed and equipped to combat such contagious diseases as diphtheria and scarlet fever, from which nine deaths occurred during the past year, while we leave ourselves absolutely without such precautions against such a contagious disease as consumption, to which were due 108 deaths."

It will be said, perhaps, that in St. John the number of deaths from scarlet fever and diphtheria are more numerous than in Ottawa. But the mortality here due to consumption is three or four times as great as that caused by the other two diseases named. Yet the community is not even interested to make an organized campaign against tuberculosis. The official attitude, as yet, is that of the last generation. There must be a change soon.

A SUGGESTION

As the merry war at the post office continues the public is apt to jump at conclusions unjust to the parties concerned. To show that the many art is in high favor by officials in high places it may be pointed out that President Roosevelt recently summoned "Prof." Mike Donovan to the White House and began to take instruction in the art of self-defence, which art implies ability to give as well as to receive. And, for the lieutenant, whether he was entirely knocked out and unconscious or not, he was certainly not a very good hard blow landed by the president on the lieutenant's jaw.

Lieutenants interested showed the marks of punishment at next day, but they were slight, and not very painful or serious.

What the President might have done to a junior postal clerk who had provoked him or excited his ire can scarcely be imagined without a shudder.

ST. ANDREW AND POLITICS

Saint Andrew has been variously described, but we have yet to hear anyone say what his politics were or that today he would be a Grit or a Tory. We have no means of ascertaining that he would be for or against Donaldson, who was recently canonized in some quarters. For these reasons, and because the societies of Saint Andrew are admirable organizations, it is to be deplored that a wedge was inserted in the Fredericton society on Saint Andrew's night and vigorously thumped on the big end by one or two of the orators. Such incidents have occurred before, but they are uncommon, and they are regrettable.

Lord Donaldson is a sterling soldier, but he was also, in a way, a political issue in a hot campaign which has not yet been forgotten, and to introduce the Donaldson question "over the wine and the wine" smacks of bad judgment and worse taste. It is true that those of the present at the Fredericton banquet some may have agreed heartily with the speaker, as some did. But the introduction of a ques-

tion so foreign to the spirit of the occasion could not but leave a bad taste in the mouths of many, and to do that is to transgress the canons of after dinner speaking. There is much room for argument over the Dundas question—but so also is there over the tariff, religion, and other controversial matters which a tactful man would naturally avoid on Saint Andrew's night.

WHAT'S THE USE?

The argument for reciprocity made by Mr. Eugene Foss before the Canadian Club of Boston, was based upon the fact that the United States actually requires a good deal of Canadian produce. Canada long ago realized that she required a good deal of American produce, and our tariff has always been framed with the satisfying of that requirement in view. Mr. Foss should confine his efforts to attempting to convince the United States Congress of the advisability of its following a similar procedure. In that way both countries would get all the reciprocity good for either of them—Montreal Gazette.

Mr. Foss will, perhaps, learn some thing from the address made before the Home Market Club last evening by Vice-President-Elect Fairbanks. Mr. Fairbanks plainly states the Republican idea of the sort of reciprocity that is desired by his party—the party returned to power by an unparalleled vote of popular confidence. Mr. Fairbanks says, in essence, that the United States is willing to take but not to give. "Stand pat," is another way of putting it. Nothing else was to be expected. As far as Canada is concerned nothing else was greatly desired. It is now our neighbors' move.

NOTE AND COMMENT

Where formerly stood the peaceful post-office there now seems to be only a prolonged breach of the peace.

The Fredericton Gleaser's ailment is not diphtheria after all. The affection is above the throat—in fact one had almost said it was in the brain region.

Japan's sacrifices at Port Arthur stagger belief. They prove, also, that Russia selected a terrific antagonist whom she can never decisively defeat.

Oxford University has accepted Mr. Alfred Bell's offer to found a professorship of colonial history, in order to promote a greater interest in, and more knowledge of, the colonies. It is needed.

The Skeckville Post comes to hand in a new form. Formerly it was a four page paper. Now it has eight pages. Growing business called for the change. The improvement is great. The Telegraph offers congratulations.

The Canadian Manufacturers' Association complains that the Grand Trunk is discriminating against St. John, as compared with Portland and Boston. But we had always supposed that the Grand Trunk was wildly in favor of Canadian ports!

The Fredericton Gleaser grows a trifle hysterical over the diphtheria question. In its next lucid interval the Gleaser will agree that the existence and spread of diphtheria should not be encouraged in any way. The same thing, by the way, is true of the foot-and-mouth disease.

Archbishop Howley, of St. John's (Nfld.), who is on his way to Rome, says Confederation is not dead in Newfoundland. He ardently favors it. The people, in the recent election, the Archbishop thinks, voted against Mr. Morine rather than against Confederation.

Mr. Baxter is to speak on civic franchises and assessment this evening. Perhaps he will make it clear that St. John should take steps to recover the franchise held by the St. John Street Railway, and frame an assessment law that would not be a bad joke on most of the taxpayers.

The winter port season at Portland (Me.) begins today, and much freight is expected from Montreal. And now there is a story about a plan by United States officials to obtain control of the Grand Trunk and its offspring, the Grand Trunk Pacific. Doubtless they would be willing to lease and run the Intercolonial too.

Senator Lodge's brother-in-law is to represent the United States on the board of inquiry which will investigate the North Sea outrages. Senator Lodge's anti-British tendencies, it is true, may not influence his relative by marriage. Yet any one of a dozen other United States representatives would have filled the bill.

The Fredericton Herald maintains that we should vote first and survey afterwards to ascertain whether interested politicians and railroad backers had guessed right about the practicability of the route. It is a plan that business men seldom follow. But it satisfies the party organs. They are bound to "stand for" anything and everything.

You see, if an alderman should feel like getting up in next week's council meeting to urge that there be a real sure-enough investigation of the fire department there are several considerations to restrain him. One is that two or three of his colleagues might combine to defeat him next spring.

St. John, N. B., Dec. 3, 1904.

Overcoats and Suits

An inspection of our OVERCOATS, ULSTERS, REEFERS and SUITS, and the prices at which they are marked, will easily convince anyone of the advantages of buying at this store.

Men's Overcoats at \$3.95, 5.00, 6.00, 7.00, 8.00, 8.75, 10.00 to 15.00
Boys' Overcoats at \$2.00, 3.86, 4.50, 5.50, 6.00 to 10.00
Men's Suits, - - - \$3.95 to 15.00 Boys' Suits, - - - 75c to \$7.50
Men's Reefers, - - - 4.25 to 6.00 Boys' Reefers, - - - 75c to 3.50
Men's D. B. Ulsters at \$4.75, 6.00 and 8.50

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Easily Laid and Fireproof

Write for a Sample

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TWIN DOLL FREE

This lovely pair of dolls, after a full year's trial, is now being offered to the public at a special price. They are made of fine porcelain, and are dressed in the latest fashion. They are a perfect likeness of the original dolls, and are a most valuable addition to any collection. They are now being offered to the public at a special price of \$1.00 each, or \$2.00 for the pair. They are a perfect likeness of the original dolls, and are a most valuable addition to any collection. They are now being offered to the public at a special price of \$1.00 each, or \$2.00 for the pair.

Cinderella
Alice in Wonderland

Yet it is very likely that some men will be independent enough to say that the question cannot be pigeon-holed now.

The safety board, of course, has decided not to "star things up," and to "avoid making trouble," and all that. But the Mayor and Council are superior to the safety board, and it is to be hoped, superior to its hole-in-the-corner policy.

Perhaps the magistrate will rule that there shall be no fighting in the post office during business hours. A citizen who asked for a letter and received what is commonly styled "a punch in the eye" would feel grievously wronged. The aldermen have not yet discussed the question, favouring an effective inquiry. The aldermen can scarcely decide to keep the facts "among the boys," for most of the facts are known. Proper official action alone is lacking. The lack should not exist after next Monday.

A radical step in connection with wireless telegraphy has been taken by the United States government, according to the Boston Globe:

It appears from an official "Notice to Mariners" just published by the authorities at Washington, that the government has placed "at the service of the public generally and of maritime interests in particular," the facilities of the naval coastwise wireless telegraph stations, including the one on Nantuxet shoal lightship, for communicating with ships at sea "where not in communication with private wireless telegraph stations." It is understood that it is not the purpose of the government to enter into a competitive service with existing land companies or to try and obtain from private telegraph companies commercial and other business done by them. The purpose of the government is to enable its wireless telegraph system to be of the largest benefit to the people, and with that object in view any person may send over the government wireless telegraph system a message to be transmitted to a ship at sea, or vice versa.

How suspicious some folks are! Mrs. Florence Maybrick, since her release from an English prison, has been living with friends in New York state. Her husband died suddenly from heart disease the other day. The authorities declined to issue a burial certificate until a coroner had been called in.

Earl Grey is to receive a royal salute at Halifax, and, if Halifax will foot the bill, its streets are to be lined with troops as a special honor. Halifax should certainly go ahead and make the reception a memorable one—always provided there is nothing to prevent it.

Suffered Intense Pain Around The Heart For Four Years. Was Very Dizzy.

Four Boxes of Milburn's Heart and Nerve Pills Effectuated a Complete Cure.

They are a specific for all troubles arising from a weak condition of the heart or from the nervous system, for troubles such as Palpitation, Nervousness, Sleeplessness, Nervous Pain, or Dizziness, Shortness of Breath, Stomachic Distress, Headache, Clammy Hands or Feet, Brain Faintness, we would strongly advise the early use of Milburn's Heart and Nerve Pills, as this remedy, taken in time, has been the means of saving many a life, and restoring strength to those who were weak, nervous, health-shattered invalids.

Mrs. E. E. Milburn, Humberstone, Ont., writes:—"Allow me to tell you of the great results I have derived from Milburn's Heart and Nerve Pills. For four years I suffered intense pain around the heart, and was very dizzy. After using four boxes of Milburn's Heart and Nerve Pills, I was completely cured. For four years I suffered intense pain around the heart, and was very dizzy. After using four boxes of Milburn's Heart and Nerve Pills, I was completely cured. For four years I suffered intense pain around the heart, and was very dizzy. After using four boxes of Milburn's Heart and Nerve Pills, I was completely cured."

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