

THE WEATHER

Toronto, Dec. 20.—An area of high pressure extends from Northern Alberta across the Great Lakes to the Atlantic, and the weather is fine over the greater part of the Dominion. It is moderately cold from Ontario eastward, with zero temperatures prevail in the West. A disturbance now over the southwest states will probably move toward the Great Lakes.

Table with weather forecasts for various locations: St. John, Prince Rupert, Victoria, Kamloops, Calgary, Edmonton, Medicine Hat, Saskatoon, Regina, Winnipeg, White River, Toronto, Ottawa, Quebec, Montreal, Halifax.

Maritime—Fresh west and north-west winds, fair and rather cold.

Northern New England—Fair Tuesday; Wednesday snow, not much change in temperature; moderate west and north-west winds.

AROUND THE CITY

MAKING AN INSPECTION. J. P. Doherty of the C. G. M. M., was in the city yesterday on an inspection trip and left last night for Halifax.

FREE EMPLOYMENT BUREAU. There was opened yesterday at the St. Vincent de Paul Society building, Waterloo street, a free employment bureau, in an effort to provide work for many now out of a job.

ROTARY CLUB LUNCHEON. The Rotary Club was addressed by Rev. J. A. MacKellan yesterday at the weekly luncheon. A large number were present and next meeting it is hoped to have every member present.

SHOPPING CROWDS. Merry shopping crowds thronged the city stores last night and trade was reported lively throughout the evening's opening hours. All stores are to remain open evening this week for the benefit of Christmas shoppers.

"MAGGIE MILLER" OFF THE ROUTE. The Millidgeville ferry closed its season yesterday. This is a very late run for this boat, her record time for quitting being made some years ago when she was running until December 23rd.

MANITOBA BORROWINGS. Winnipeg, Dec. 20.—Debentures issued by the province of Manitoba during the fiscal year of 1920 amount to \$15,195,000, it was announced at the parliament buildings. All are short term debentures. The majority expire within a period of five years.

OPPORTUNITY FOR BOYS. Captain Tedford, marine superintendent at Montreal for the Canadian Government Merchant Marine, Ltd., advises the president of the Navy League at St. John that his corporation is prepared to place a couple of deck boys on each of its ships. One of the right type who would like to take up this work should consult Captain Monks of the C. G. M. M. at this port.

RATHER SKEPTICAL. The city detective department are rather skeptical as to two alleged attempted burglaries on German street. The break said to have been attempted on Col. Sturdee's residence at the corner of German and Duke streets, was by means of a pantry window facing right in the street. The pane was not cut out but deliberately broken.

UNCOMPLIMENTARY REMARKS. An automobile and public hack became entangled at the foot of King street about 9.20 last night. Each driver passed a few uncomplimentary remarks about the botched work of the other in navigating a vehicle over the city streets. Neither of the drivers or vehicles suffered any damage.

JUDGMENT RESERVED. Before His Honor Judge Armstrong yesterday morning, D. Mullin, E. C. applied for a respite in the matter of Steve Procopuck, now serving sentence in Dorchester after having been tried on a charge of breaking and stealing from A. Gilmore, King street. W. M. Ryan appeared for the Crown. Counsel for the prisoner claimed both misdirection and non-direction in connection with the case at trial hearing. The Honor will deliver judgment later.

Navy League Send Welcome To Navy

The following telegram has been sent by the president of the New Brunswick division of the Navy League to Hon. C. C. Ballantyne, minister of naval service, who is in Halifax awaiting the arrival of the ships of Canada's new navy.

St. John, N. B., Dec. 20, 1920. Hon. Charles C. Ballantyne, Minister of Naval Service, Halifax, N. S.: New Brunswick division Navy League of Canada heartily welcomes advance guard of Canada's new navy.

Accepting the British navy as their exemplar, may it be theirs to live up to the glorious traditions of that navy, to lift high the royal banner of Britain, to defend to the uttermost Canada's interests on sea and shore and to loyally serve as the interpreters of British Canadian thought and ideals in this corner of the empire. God save the king. God bless Canada's navy.

R. B. ARMSTRONG, President New Brunswick Division.

Do Your Xmas Mailing Early

Never in the History of St. John Has There Been Such Heavy Mails.

"Do your Christmas mailing early" is the motto the local post office authorities would have citizens adopt this year. Officials state that never in the history of the St. John Post Office has there been such heavy mails as at the present time. Though the Christmas letters are always heavy, they have started to arrive earlier and in larger quantities this year than ever before, and the staff are kept working day and night to try and make an impression on the oceans of letters and parcels that keep streaming in for delivery from all parts of the world.

Heavy mails arrived yesterday on the French mail, and the Victorian from Liverpool, as well as a heavy unassorted mail from the United States.

Overseas Mail. The Victorian brought 6,000 bags of mail matter, eleven carloads, 20 bags of which was parcel post for local distribution.

More Christmas mail is expected on the Empress of France, due to arrive here Thursday.

The Canaqueet, which docked here Sunday, brought the largest letter and parcel mail that has ever been received from the West Indies, numbering over 100 bags.

Busy Staff. In addition to sorting incoming mail, the postal staff are kept busy assorting the African mail, which leaves by the steamer Mannon, this week, and the French mail, which leaves by the steamer Bennis sailing for Bordeaux, France in a few days.

St. John is the distributing centre for all Canadian mail destined for France or Africa, and the friendships formed by our boys overseas, has resulted in heavy mails to and from France.

Cancelling Stamps. Yesterday six men and an automatic machine were kept busy cancelling the stamps on a deluge of letters which flowed into the post office all day. In the evening it was found that their labors had but begun, and more men were put on as a night shift.

Carriers and Collectors are having their work cut out for them, too. On their first round yesterday the collectors gathered in more mail than they would usually get in a whole day.

Twelve men on foot have been put on the routes in addition to the four teams engaged in collecting.

The Montreal and Boston offices have advised the local authorities that the Christmas mails there are not as heavy as usual.

As this is far from the case in St. John, citizens will be well advised to see that all Xmas parcels and cards are mailed promptly to ensure a quick delivery and avoid the congestion apt to result as Xmas approaches.

Good Roads Assn. Officials Here

Messrs. Squires and McNamee Making Preliminary Arrangements.

The Canadian Good Roads Association Convention will meet in Halifax on April 12, 13, 14, of next year, providing if all arrangements can be completed, and there is every assurance that the association members along with others interested in this important movement will be there on those dates.

Among the arrivals in the city yesterday were: President Squire and G. A. McNamee, of the above named touch all day with T. P. Regan, the touch all day with T. P. Regan, the vice president of the New Brunswick Automobile Association, who is also a director of the Canadian Good Roads Association, as well as being an official who attended conventions in representation of the N. B. A. A. on a number of times. The principal object of the visit of Messrs. Squire and McNamee to the Maritime Provinces was to make arrangements whereby the hundreds of delegates could give the Eastern Provinces a chance for the convention, which has always been held in Quebec, Ontario, or in the west.

Halifax is already making extensive preparations for the opening of the delegates next spring. Hotel accommodation is assured. The new Technical school with its committee rooms will be used, and a good programme will be provided.

The principal business of Messrs. Squire and McNamee to New Brunswick at the present time is to make preliminary arrangements for a large delegation for all interested in good roads to journey to Halifax in the spring to the convention.

Speaking of good roads, Mr. McNamee last evening informed the Standard that the Quebec Association last year spent \$10,000 in tourist literature with the result that they received replies from twenty-eight States and 25,000 people entered Quebec province in automobiles, leaving a great amount of money to all kinds of trades.

Good roads is the principal feature of bringing tourists and there are over one million automobiles within a day's run to New Brunswick. All that is wanted is some inducement and this tourist travel will come to the Maritime Provinces and leave a great deal of money. The representatives left last night to interview the Provincial Minister of Public Works regarding the coming convention.

While in St. John the representatives were shown attention by T. P. Regan, president, and J. M. Robertson, secretary of the New Brunswick Automobile Association.

Robbing The Steamer Imports

Agents Report Considerable Freight is Stolen—Value of Goods Runs to Big Figures.

Local agents of steamship lines using this port report that more or less pilfering of freight, unloaded from ships at West Side sheds, is taking place daily.

Value of Goods. The value of goods taken and carried away has been known to run into hundreds of dollars some days. While on other days it has not been so extensive, but there is scarcely a day that the pilfering has not gone on to some degree.

Last season the loss of goods from the sheds reached huge proportions, it is said, and the settlement for the losses but big gaps in the freight receipts. Agents say the real lifting occurs when a cargo of whiskey arrives. It is then that all who pass through the sheds feel they have a right to help themselves and are not especially interested with officers or others in charge of shipments.

Police Staff. The C. P. R. has rushed an extra staff of policemen here this season in an effort to afford better protection to property, but, despite that, the taking and carrying away goes on. Much of the goods taken is said to be dropped to motor boats waiting at a convenient spot near the wharf, and then scooped to a suitable place where the plunder is distributed amongst the gang.

Harbor Patrol. The harbor patrol boat is again being actuated for the city. Many shippers are of the opinion, if such a boat were in commission, it would have a restraining influence upon those who prow the waters by night seeking to lift from boats and wharves that to which they are not entitled.

Evening Was Greatly Enjoyed. Santa Claus Gave Among Presents a Gold Locket to Chief Clerk.

The employees of the Imperial Oil Co. enjoyed a pleasant Xmas entertainment and dance in the company's new office on Broad street last evening. A large tree was loaded down with gifts, and when Santa Claus appeared, during the latter part of the evening every employee was fittingly or misfittingly remembered. As Santa was somewhat rushed in selecting his gifts, and some very funny incidents featured his distribution of them.

He made no mistake when he came to the Chief Clerk, William Garbutt, however, who was presented with a solid gold locket. Mr. Garbutt has been transferred as head clerk to the company's office in Hamilton, and the locket was presented as a token of his fellow-employees' respect.

The popular official thanked his fellows for their kind gift in a neat speech. At the beginning of the evening, Irving Appleby rendered a pleasing vocal solo. "Trust and Master Norman Magnusson sang several popular songs. Both were warmly applauded. Later in the evening Master Magnusson recited "Seeing Things."

The dance programme included some eighteen numbers. The dances were fittingly entitled the "Premier" one step, "Polaris" fox trot, and "Jolly McTavish" waltz proved very popular.

Refreshments were served. The chaperones were: Mrs. John Reid and Mrs. I. G. O'Neil. The reception committee, Miss E. McAlley and Miss G. Bustin.

Takes Exception Regarding Report

Commercial Club Secretary Points Out There Was No Request for Secret Session.

When Mayor Schepheid announced at the common council meeting yesterday that a delegation from the Commercial Club asked to be heard in the Mayor's office on Wednesday afternoon next, Commissioner Thorpe is reported to have said he was opposed to private sessions. Commissioners Frink and Bullock concurred. The Mayor then fixed Thursday morning for the hearing in committee.

Last evening H. R. McLellan, secretary of the Commercial Club took exception to the remarks of Commissioner Thorpe on private sessions. Mr. McLellan explained that at the last general meeting of the Commercial Club when the civic board was discussed the Mayor suggested that the club send a committee to the City Hall in regards securing information as to how the budget was made.

Yesterday morning Mr. McLellan said he called on the Mayor and asked how the committee from the Commercial Club would meet the commissioners, and the Mayor decided that three o'clock in his office on Wednesday afternoon would be the time.

Continuing Mr. McLellan informed the Standard that the Mayor was not trying to arrange any secret meetings nor was the Commercial Club. So far as he (Secretary McLellan) knew the Commercial Club will court all publicity possible in connection with the civic government programme, acts or results.

Mr. McLellan said it was rather amusing to hear any outcry against a meeting, even if the Mayor decided to hold it in his office, as it could be as public there as if it was held in the committee room.

CLIFTON HOUSE, ALL MEALS.

Luxury Tax Removed Business Increases

Everybody Happy—Benefit to Trade Exceeds All Expectations—Retailers Satisfied.

The abolition of the Luxury Tax has given a stimulus to trade that all merchants hoped for, but the wide range of benefit has exceeded their fondest expectation. Monday was the first day of trade without the handicap imposed by the luxury tax and, if the comments of the retailers are to be relied upon, it was surely some day.

Everybody Happy. There was a different atmosphere about trade. The clerks were happier, the customers satisfied in that they felt they were not being "touched" and all trade took on a more cheerful swing from the standpoint of the merchant. Business was greatly facilitated. No time was lost by clerks having to scan the schedule of luxuries and figure out what each purchaser had to contribute to the maintenance of the Government. Easily a third more customers were attended to than if the tax had been in force.

Country Folks Pleased. Merchants all agreed, when questioned by the Standard that there was a greater trade from the country districts yesterday than has been enjoyed for some months. Out of town visitors frankly told the merchants it was the removal of the tax that had encouraged them to come to the city and do some Christmas shopping.

Retailers Satisfied. D. J. Brown, of Macaulay Bros., was most enthusiastic over the results of the first day's operation with the tax abolition. "There was a different spirit," he said "in all departments. Clerks were more cheerful. Patrons of the store took a greater interest and it all worked to the mutual advantage of merchant and purchaser. It has already proven a great boon to trade."

A. Nell McLean, President of the Retail Merchants' Association was no less enthusiastic than Mr. Brown in his favorable comments on the day's trade. He cites several incidents of customers from Sussex who didn't hesitate to say it was the abolition of the tax that brought them to the city to do some shopping.

It is the belief of the merchants that business will take on greater speed today, as the public become better acquainted with the fact that the luxury tax is a dead issue and no longer a brake on business.

ARRANGING XMAS BOXES. Tomorrow will be a busy day among the various charities. Patrons of the and officers of the Sunday schools will gather at their respective school rooms to arrange the Christmas boxes to be sent out. The work of distribution will take place on Friday.

CHRISTMAS TURKEYS. Traders are of the opinion that turkey for the Christmas dinner will be several dollars more in Carleton and Victoria Counties brings the information there are no turkeys in that section all having been bought "on the hoof" by Americans.

Miss Margaret Hanson, in charge of the music in the Public Schools of Hpluton, Maine, is spending the holidays with her parents, 66 Pitt street.

BEAUTIFUL SERGE DRESSES AT VERY GREAT REDUCTIONS. The Feature Event of Christmas Week at F. A. Dykeman's. This is without doubt one of the most remarkable sales they have ever advertised—the newest and most stylish dresses of the season going for a mere fraction of their real value.

Regular \$52.50 for \$37.50; regular \$40.00 for \$27.50; regular \$26 for \$18.90, etc. All wool Botany Serges in navy blue, brown and wool jerseys, in several colors, prettily beaded or "Zib" embroidered, and the new style accordion pleated skirts, etc. Every dress a wonderful bargain. See these in their windows.

EMERSON & FISHER'S store will be open every evening up to 10 o'clock from now until Christmas. They still have a few Art Metal Electric Table Lamps to clear at 20 per cent. discount.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR MEN. Last Christmas shirts neckties and mufflers many shirts were purchased here for gifts. Looking over our sales it is surprising how many included one or more shirts for his stocking. Our stock nearly all new, having come in within the last two weeks. Dress shirts, soft and stiff fronts in the correct modes; handsome effects in silk and soft front costume in late designs. Prices \$2 to \$11.—Gilmour's, 68 King St.

WARNING

A man pretending to be a collector for the New Brunswick Telephone Company has been endeavoring to collect telephone accounts in the City. He has been described as dressed in a gray overcoat and hat, of fair complexion and about twenty-three years of age. Subscribers are warned not to pay telephone accounts to any unauthorized persons and are requested to communicate with the telephone company manager's office, Main 3400, at once if doubtful of any person seeking to collect their account.

SEAMEN'S INSTITUTE. Victorian Concert Party Tuesday night, eight o'clock, assisted by local talent. Admission 20 cents. Reserved 25.

McMILLAN'S STORE will be open every evening until Christmas.

McMILLAN'S GORGEOUS DISPLAY Christmas Cards, Tapes and Seals are now on view. All orders.

Advertisement for Xmas Special. Till Xmas Eve Only We Offer A \$4.35 Set of "Wear-Ever" Saucepans (1, 2 and 2 1/2 Qts.) FOR ONLY \$2.19. An Ideal Gift for the Housewife. W. H. THORNE & CO., LTD. Store Hours from 8.30 a. m. OPEN EVERY NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS TILL 10 O'CLOCK.

Advertisement for Automobile Skates. Amongst the dozen models in the C. C. M. Automobile line are styles and sizes for Ladies and Men, Girls and Boys, at prices to suit all purses. Special designs for Hockey, for Pleasure Skating, for Racing and Figure Skating. EMERSON & FISHER, - 25 Germain Street.

Advertisement for Furniture Offers Many Gift Suggestions. Our Stores Will Be Open Every Evening Christmas Week. Until Ten p.m. See Special Christmas Ad. Page Seven. Furniture Store, Market Square.

Advertisement for Do Your BEST This Christmas. Make Someone LASTINGLY happy. Here's how you may Give Dad a Soft Hat, Stetsons and Knox, fully guaranteed, cost \$7.00 Now Mother would appreciate a Frock. Serge, Silk, Tricolette, \$15.00, \$19.00, \$21.00, \$26.50, \$30.00, \$34.00. Then there are Silk Plush Hats, Gloves, Scarves, Fur. Half Price Now. Page 7 Tells Lots More. D. Magee's Sons, Limited—Saint John, N.B.