

## THE ST. JOHN EVENING TIMES

ST. JOHN, N. B., JANUARY 4, 1905.

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## THE FERRY TARIFF.

It was like shaking hands with an old friend for the aldermen yesterday to discuss the miserable character of the ferry service.

They had the same experience last winter, and the winter before. The service has been as inadequate, the toll houses as unfit for use, and the odor in the cabins as offensive every winter since the winter port business began.

There is no more occasion for alarmistic surprise now than in former years. The public is not asked to endure more this winter than it endured a year ago. There is less money now in the civic chest than there was a year ago. And a new steamer is in course of construction.

No one will question the need of improvement in the service. But what is done must be done with full knowledge of the changed conditions that will exist when the new boats are put on the route. This is not a good time of year to carry on extensive improvements, and it would be folly to spend much money on the old ferries, which will soon be superseded.

But this is a good time to discuss the whole question of the ferry service, and consider what course will ensure the best service when the new boats are ready for the route. Of course it will not do to depend entirely on even a new boat, since an accident might occur at any time that would take her off for a few days. There is room for much discussion, but so far as the expenditure of money at the present time is concerned, only enough expense should be incurred to provide a temporary improvement pending the completion of the new boat.

This view will commend itself to the taxpayers of the city, even those who suffer present discomfort in crossing by the ferry.

## EXPENSIVE LIGHT.

At the board of works meeting yesterday, the director reported that the street railway was charging by metre for electric light in the east side ferry house and the price was too high. Gas was to be used in future and would be installed in a few days.

The Times has been told of an establishment where, since the meter was put in, although much less light was used, the cost per month for electric light was more than doubled. If the company made money before, it must be rolling up profits now at an enormous rate.

## STREETS OF ST. JOHN.

The city council of St. John spends in the neighborhood of \$1,000 per month on the streets each year. The street account is over \$50,000 behind. The following statement in an article by John A. Bowes in the December issue of the New Brunswick Magazine is worthy of the attention of the council and the taxpayers of St. John. Mr. Bowes says:

But one more table is necessary to show just how the tax payer is affected by the street expenditures. The first column gives the actual returns of the chamberlain from taxes collected, the second the total expenditures of the department including interest and the repayment of special loans, and the third column the amount the account was overdrawn at the end of the year.

Year	Assessed	Total	Dr. Balance
1880	\$23,759	\$41,291	\$17,532
1881	24,229	42,977	18,748
1882	24,964	45,968	21,004
1883	25,106	47,207	22,101
1884	25,217	48,259	23,042
1885	25,282	48,758	23,476
1886	25,284	48,758	23,476
1887	25,284	48,758	23,476
1888	25,284	48,758	23,476
1889	25,284	48,758	23,476
1890	25,284	48,758	23,476
1891	25,284	48,758	23,476
1892	25,284	48,758	23,476
1893	25,284	48,758	23,476
1894	25,284	48,758	23,476
1895	25,284	48,758	23,476
1896	25,284	48,758	23,476
1897	25,284	48,758	23,476
1898	25,284	48,758	23,476
1899	25,284	48,758	23,476
1900	25,284	48,758	23,476
1901	25,284	48,758	23,476
1902	25,284	48,758	23,476
1903	25,284	48,758	23,476
1904	25,284	48,758	23,476

The figures which are given above show the amount which the tax payer has contributed directly towards the maintenance and improvement of the streets. There has been but two issues of bonds for street purposes since Union-One for the construction of the bridge on Adelaide street amounting to the sum of \$7,000. In addition to these must be added a proportion of the \$60,000 expended on the west side and the \$25,000 which the paving of the highway to Indian town cost. In 1889 the corporation borrowed \$30,000 for street making to be repaid in six years out of the assessment for street purposes, and in 1890 the street department was given authority to borrow a further sum of \$50,000 which was taken advantage of in the succeeding years. This also is the direct charge on the street assessment. In addition to the amount borrowed in this way the street account benefited by nearly \$12,000 from the transfer made from the general revenue and water maintenance account. At the beginning of that year the account was in debt \$57,049 and by borrowing and this contribution the indebtedness was reduced to \$15,465. But these borrowings have a tail to them which reduces the amount that can be expended each year out of assessment. At the present time it takes about

\$5,000 annually to pay the interest and wipe out a percentage of the loans.

After the clean up in 1901 it would naturally be supposed that the aldermen would endeavour to live within the appropriation, particularly as each year they were assessing for a larger sum, which in the present year amounts to \$60,000 or \$10,000 more than the preceding year. But the expenditures have gone on apparently without any reference to the income. In 1902 the over expenditure of the department amounted to \$42,848 an increase of \$27,500 on the preceding year. In 1903 the over expenditure of this department had reached \$50,883, and if one may judge from the debates of the aldermen it will be \$10,000 more than the appropriation this year, or back to a worse condition than 1901, with no opportunity to make another double financial shuffle.

Such management of so important a department calls for the strongest possible condemnation. If the aldermen intend to spend \$60,000 on the streets in a year, why do they not place that amount in the estimates? We have in St. John this year the highest rate ever charged the rate payers, and still the over expenditure goes on until at the close of the year instead of there being money enough in the treasury to carry on the public services until another assessment is levied the city will be compelled to borrow money for this purpose. It would be had enough if the money were well expended but the methods employed are both wasteful and extravagant and instead of permanent improvements the people get the merest patch work, which has to be done over every few years.

## WESTERN SENATORS.

Discussing the proposal to increase the number of senators from the west, the Ottawa correspondent of the Toronto Globe says:

In the opinion of the Government, the time has now arrived when a fourth division, consisting of Manitoba, the Territories and British Columbia, should be created, with representation in the upper House of twenty-four. As the Senate already contains eleven members from the west, it would need thirteen more Senators to make up the required number. The appointment of thirteen more Senators would not be made immediately but would take place from time to time, until the proper quota had been reached. A glance at the census returns will show that the west is entitled to more general representation in the Senate. The Maritime Provinces, with an aggregate population of 893,958, have twenty-four Senators, whereas the west, with a population of 645,517, is represented by only eleven. Furthermore, the population of the west has gained at the rate of nearly 100,000 yearly in arrivals from outside, to say nothing of the natural increase.

Bouquets do not often fall about the heads of the aldermen. The Times, therefore, hasten to offer its congratulations with regard to the new front-proof warehouse. The council called for tenders for its construction and decided that the contractors wanted too much. The work was done without tender, and cost \$1,000 less than the lowest tender. If now they will show that there is nothing wrong with the new warehouse on the McLeod wharf it will relieve them from another source of criticism.

A bill from the recorder was referred to a committee by the board of works yesterday. Some months ago a fierce demand was made on the chamberlain to tell the aldermen how much the recorder got in a year from the city. Perhaps the question is about to be asked once more.

And still the question of mooring posts at Sand Point is not settled.

## AGAIN.

Methods there are more roses yet to blow.

Though now the clouds hang drear it seems in pain.

I plucked them once, rich in their crimson glow.

And shall again.

My way was through a summer garden fair and lush.

In June, and the larks sweet strain.

Banished far each passing sting of care.

And shall again.

I have not lost my hopes of days to be.

And sigh me not for golden years awane.

I, too, once dwelt in fair, sweet Arcady.

And shall again.

## ST. STEPHEN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL.

There was a good attendance last night, at the Christmas entertainment of St. Stephen's Sunday school. The programme consisted of recitations, piano solos, as well as a number of gramophone selections. The Christmas tree was then unloaded, and candy and fruit were presented to the scholars. There were also given to the children. This was followed by the election of officers with the following results:—Douglas M. McArthur was elected superintendent of the Sunday school, Wm. Paton, clerk, assistant, and Thomas Graham secretary-treasurer. Geo. Farren, Ernest Seely, D. McArthur, Jr., and each year out of assessment. At the present time it takes about

## CRITICAL YEAR IN WORLD'S HISTORY.

Speculations Concerning the Events of 1905—Russia's Fate in the Balance—Otherwise the Outlook For Peace is Hopeful—King Edward's Statesmanship.

London, Jan. 3.—The crisis in the world's history, which the year now closed has developed so rapidly, is in the opinion of the most careful observers, approaching its climax. Its effects will influence the destinies of nations throughout the century and beyond.

No one denies the momentous importance of the situation upon which the new year dawns. No one doubts that 1905 will witness sufficient progress in the solution of the problem of European and Asiatic destinies to indicate the trend of development during many succeeding decades. In a word, we are entering upon the most critical year of modern human history.

There are those who believe that Japan's comet-like appearance in the drama will be followed by a sudden vanishing. There are those who believe, on the other hand, that what she has accomplished in the disruption of the Russian empire and the remaking of the map of Europe and Asia, those who share the latter opinion are increasing in numbers daily, among statesmen, as well as general observers, throughout Europe. Their thoughts are anxiously devoted to the grave problem of whether such a national tragedy can be enacted without destroying the world's general peace. It can be happily said that the general view is a hopeful one. Much encouragement is found in the successful solution of the two serious war crises of the last year.

## UNCLE SAM WANTS WHEAT.

Drawback of Duty to be Allowed on Canadian Wheat.

Winnipeg, Man., Jan. 2.—The unexpected announcement from Washington, that the United States government has decided that the duty on Canadian wheat imported for export flour should be reduced to 10 cents, has been met with much interest by the Canadian wheat growers.

The demand for millable wheat across the line has been such that wheat prices there were higher than in Canada so much so, that this year especially saw an epidemic of wheat smuggling across the line by Canadian farmers to secure the higher prices, followed in several cases by detection and conviction.

Some idea of the difference in price may be gathered from the quotations which appeared at auction yesterday in the market reports, when at Winnipeg May options were quoted at \$1.08, and at Minneapolis at \$1.16. No. 1 Northern likewise sold in Winnipeg at 97c. and in Minneapolis at \$1.15. Some allowance must, of course, be made for transportation, but this leaves still a handsome additional profit for the Canadian farmers.

Despite the heavy duty imposed on imported wheat of 25 per cent., American millers imported large consignments of wheat from the Canadian West this year, Duluth and Minneapolis taking several hundred thousand bushels, while some went to Chicago. It was pronounced of excellent quality and greatly pleased the millers who, fully aware of the value of continued importation, pressed the drawback question. The importation of Canadian wheat will, of course, be fought by Northwestern farmers, who will suffer to some extent by open competition with Canada's western wheat growers. The American millers agitated for the drawback will claim of the tariff at allowing a rebate on imported materials, provided that in the finished article for export the proportion to the imported raw material is ascertainable. This, of course, is impossible when the open competition with Canada's western wheat growers. The American millers agitated for the drawback will claim of the tariff at allowing a rebate on imported materials, provided that in the finished article for export the proportion to the imported raw material is ascertainable. This, of course, is impossible when the open competition with Canada's western wheat growers. The American millers agitated for the drawback will claim of the tariff at allowing a rebate on imported materials, provided that in the finished article for export the proportion to the imported raw material is ascertainable. This, of course, is impossible when the open competition with Canada's western wheat growers.

Fuddy—Seems to me Sweller's a great man to be in the poultry business. If you'll tell me when a chicken becomes a hen.

Duddy—Of course not. Don't you know it never does at his market.

Greene—Of course you consider gambling debts debts of honor?

Gray—That depends. When they are due me, I certainly think they are debts of honor.

Supremacy—What do you think of the new boy?

Bookkeeper—I think he's a wonder. Why he has already begun to be on his good behavior in preparation for next Christmas.

Mrs. Cuddle—You were a good while unlocking the door last night. Henry, I'm afraid you were not quite sober.

Mr. Cuddle—As sober as a judge, Marjorie. I was all right, but that keyhole wouldn't keep still long enough for me to insert the key. Guess I'll have to have the locksmith come and look at it.

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## PRESENTS FOR YOUR FRIENDS.

Wonderfully Beautiful.

Is the line of Christmas Goods I am showing this year. The stock includes the Choicest and Best and Newest Styles in

Watches, Chains, Necklets, Pendants, Lockets, Charms, Bracelets, Brooches, Rings, Links, Buttons, Bangles, Scarf Pins, &c.

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Real Silver and Japanese

Ebony Manicure Toilet

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Don't forget that you can assist the doctor greatly in getting the best results from his prescriptions by having them filled properly. You make sure of this in bringing them here. We can afford you absolute security both as to quality of drugs and accuracy of compounding.

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