

THE WEATHER.

Forecast.
Maritime—Winds shifting to north and northwest, gradually decreasing, clearing and cold.

Washington, Mar. 22.—Forecast: Northern New England—Snow Thursday; Friday fair; northeast to north gales.

Toronto, March 22.—The disturbance which was over Kansas last night is now off the coast of Connecticut, while pressure is still highest to the north of the Great Lakes. Snow has fallen locally in southern Ontario, and is now falling in the Maritime Provinces, accompanied by gales.

Temperatures.

	Min.	Max.
Dawson	9	10
Prince Rupert	38	44
Kamloops	38	43
Edmonton	28	34
Medicine Hat	32	36
Battleford	16	22
Prince Albert	8	22
Moore Jaw	8	20
Fort Arthur	6	20
Parry Sound	12	26
Toronto	24	41
Kingston	14	22
Ottawa	10	24
Montreal	6	18
Quebec	6	18
St. John	6	28
Halifax	18	42

—Below zero.

STRANGE TALES CONCERNING BURNING OF STMR. VICTORIA

The Standard Learns That at Least One Company Holding Insurance on Her Will Not Pay Without Legal Action—Private Investigation Said to Have Developed Peculiar Evidence.

On Friday morning February 4th, at 3.30 o'clock, the steamship Victoria which had been laid up for the winter months at the Cushing wharf in Millford, was discovered to be on fire from stem to stern. Four hours after the superstructure had burned off, what was left of the hull plunged to the bottom amid a cloud of smoke and steam, leaving nothing above the surface of the water but the funnel. The vessel was owned by E. C. Atkinson of Fredericton and was insured for \$12,000; of this amount \$5,000 was held by Lloyds in England, and the remaining \$7,000 by St. John agents. The steamer was said to be worth about \$20,000.

At the time the ship was burned it was stated that the owner had been on board the day before and left for the capital that night. There seemed to be no person at the time who could give any cause for the starting of the fire and there was no night watchman on board. The day watchman was Captain Daniel Mitchell of Main street and his credit was saying that he left the steamer on the afternoon before the fire at four o'clock. He had a fire on in the galley stove during the day, but when he left the stove was cold and there was no fire in any part of the ship. The cause of the fire at the time was a mystery and there were some who hinted that, perhaps, it was a case of incendiaryism.

It was learned yesterday by The Standard that, so far, no insurance has been paid over to the owner, or at least the five thousand dollars held by a local agent has not been paid. The insurance agents, though not making any statements for publication, appear to have suspicion that all was not exactly right in regard to the fire.

A prominent insurance man, directly connected with the company which holds the \$5,000 on the ship, speaking to The Standard yesterday said: "The insurance has not been paid over as far as we are concerned, and if we are sued for the amount we will fight the case to the bitter end."

When asked if there would be a charge laid against any person for burning the steamer, or if there would be an investigation into the ship's destruction, the insurance man smiled and remarked, "No, there is no charge laid, or no inquiry to be held so far as we are concerned."

While there is to be no charge laid against any person or persons for the burning of the steamer, and so far as the insurance company is concerned there is to be no inquiry into the matter, this does not say that a private inquiry has not been made, and to such effect that the insurance company is satisfied they are not obliged to pay over the money.

The steamer had not been destroyed very long before those interested in the insurance company were looking into the matter. Just who were working on the case could not be learned. It is stated, however, that information has been gleaned which leads the investigators to believe that the destruction of the Victoria was not a mere accident.

On the date of the fire the Globe published an item to the effect that the Victoria was said to have not been a paying proposition, while on the St. John and Fredericton route, the last season was counted as her best on the route and still no dividends were paid.

Mr. Atkinson, of Fredericton, also, according to the Globe, is said to have bought practically all of the Victoria stock last fall, and had arranged to transfer it to an outside syndicate, said to be American.

It has also been rumored that on the day before the fire a quantity of furnishings had been removed from the steamer. It is further stated that there is good reason to believe that a person has been offered a fairly large sum of money to fire the ship, but just how true this rumor is can only be proven by those who have been investigating the fire telling all they know of the affair.

It could not be learned yesterday whether the owner had yet made application for his insurance, but there is one thing certain and that is if he has made application to the local agent the money has not been paid and will not be without a fight, and the agent believes he has a good reason for such a course.

The fire was first discovered by the watchman and others at the Partition Pulp and Paper Company mill at Union Point, and at that time, 3.50 o'clock in the morning, the steamer's superstructure was all ablaze, with no chance of saving the ship from total destruction.

The hull of the Victoria was built in the McDougall shipyard in Courtenay Bay, in 1897, and the steamer is said to have cost \$17,000. She was 191 feet in length, thirty feet beam, seven feet nine inches depth; had a gross tonnage of 1,902, net 631. She had accommodation for one thousand people, but was only equipped for carrying 600. She was propelled with paddle wheels, by a fifty-three horse power engine, and steamed seventeen knots when first in service. The machinery was rebuilt by the James Fleming concern on Pond street, and had been taken from an American steamer, The St. Lawrence, which was brought here during the civil war.

At the time the Victoria was destroyed by fire she was said to be worth about \$20,000, or about \$5,000 more than she was insured for.

H. C. Harrison and Frank Clements are said to have been the last local persons to hold stock in the steamer.

Captain C. W. Starkey was the steamer's first commander, and Captain Harvey Weston, the last one.

THIRTEEN MEN ON HONOR ROLL YESTERDAY

Recruiting Takes Another Encouraging Jump.

Capt. (Rev.) G. M. Campbell and Capt. Dr. G. G. Corbett Speakers at Last Night's Meeting.

ROLL OF HONOR.

- A. B. Vernon, Pittsville, Mass.
 - George S. Uihman, St. John.
 - Robert Corey, Havelock, N. B.
 - Eugene Clark, St. John.
 - Fred Peck, Forest City, Kings Co., N. B.
 - Donald Boone, Forest City, Kings Co., N. B.
 - Nelson Hooper, Eastport, Me.
 - John Guidy, Rexton.
 - W. Murphy, Adelaide, Australia.
 - G. E. Westherbe, Antigonish, N. S.
 - Charles E. Ross, St. John.
 - Edward Clark, Rothesay.
 - A. H. Gleason, St. John.
- The clock stood at 9:45 last night. What will it be tonight?

Capt. Sanford occupied the chair last night at the recruiting meeting in the Germain street rooms. The speakers were Rev. Capt. Campbell and Capt. (Dr.) G. G. Corbett. H. V. MacKinnon and Dr. J. H. Barton acted as accompanists. R. G. Carson and John T. Kelley sang and Pte. Lavigne of the 104th contributed some whistling and harmonica solos which were much enjoyed.

Capt. Rev. G. M. Campbell was the first speaker called on. He referred to a telegram which had been read at the meeting the night before in regard to peace. He did not know what the feeling of the audience might be, but he, personally, was not a peace man. He did not believe that under present conditions it was any use to talk of peace. It was useless to gray for peace until the principles for which this right was being waged were vindicated. A crime had been committed by the Hun and until the punishment that crime merited had been meted out there could be no thought of peace. It was an insult to the memories of the men who had fought and died, and to the men who were now fighting for liberty, and the right of the small nations to work out their own destinies unhindered, men who were fighting in the cause of justice and truth, to talk of peace until it had been made impossible for any nation to again plunge the world into such a conflict as the present. He believed that this was the crucial hour in the great struggle and if the cause of truth and justice was to win it was up to the men of Canada to get busy and don the khaki. He urged the young men of St. John to rally to the nation's aid in this hour of dire need and thus make it possible for the meteor flag of England to face for another thousand years the battle and the breeze.

Capt. Corbett was the second speaker of the evening. He had a message for the men between 18 and 45, one for the men over 45 and one for the ladies. His message to the young men was to come over and help the boys now in the trenches, to the older men and ladies it was that they must take the places of the men who went to fight, and keep things going in the home.

The Standard the other day, Private J. R. W. Scott, it will be remembered, arrived in St. John on the 17th day of December last along with eleven others, all suffering from mental trouble brought on by shock and German gas. On the 18th day of December he wrote a letter to his mother in England. On the 22nd, while he with five others were being brought across the bridge at the Falls to be sent to their homes, his cap was blown off by the wind. In his efforts to recover it he went over the railing and plunged to his death in the waters below. The body has not been recovered, and never will be, and the lonely mother in England has been waiting and watching ever since for some further word from her boy.

Imperial's Matinee Souvenir Today. Handsome calendar souvenir portraits of Francis X. Bushman will be given to lady patrons at the Imperial's matinee today. "Pennington's Choice" packed the house yesterday both afternoon and evening. Most people were attracted because of the fame of the story and the personnel of its leading players, Francis X. Bushman, Beverly Bayne and James J. Jeffries, the ex-champion. The story appeared as a serial in the well-known magazine "The Women's World," and was therefore quite familiar to many. Further than this, it being a Canadian story localized in the Quebec lumber woods and introducing some splendid athletic encounters between Jeffries and Mr. Bushman, also a budget of startling surprises in which Miss Bayne and her large supporting company took part, the production as a whole, made a profound hit.

Wanted—Boy to assist chef at the Royal Hotel.

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Uptown, Friday, gamee brooch. Reward offered for its return. Call at Standard office.

Around the City

Tonight's Meeting.
Don't forget the meeting tonight at Germain street recruiting rooms. The speakers will be Capt. F. P. May and W. S. Fisher. Both have been at the front. Capt. May will speak from the military standpoint, and Mr. Fisher from the standpoint of the civilian, and give his impressions of the fighting line.

Alarm of Fire.
The fire department were called out yesterday afternoon about four o'clock by an alarm from box 152, for a fire which started from a stove in a watchman's shanty near the ruins of the government railway elevator off Mill street. The shanty was quite badly gutted.

Officers on Inspection Trip.
Brigadier McLean accompanied by Major Steehan is now on an inspection trip through the province. Tuesday they were at Campbellton, Barrington and Dalhousie. Yesterday they were at Chatham and Newcastle inspecting the different companies of the 132nd, stationed in those places. Lieut. Col. Mersereau accompanied them on their tour. Today they will be in Moncton and will inspect the 14th and the 165th at that place.

Rev. B. H. Nobles III.
Rev. B. H. Nobles, pastor of the Victoria street Baptist church, is very ill, and grave doubts are entertained for his recovery. The news of his serious illness will come as a shock to most of his friends, for while not in the enjoyment of the best of health for some time, he had been able to be around and attend to his pastoral duties.

Police Court.
In the police court yesterday afternoon there was a further hearing into the case in which a barber is charged with having liquor for sale on his premises without a license. Two soldiers were called and gave evidence that they had been drinking liquor in the shop. The case was adjourned until next Wednesday afternoon for judgment. Wm. Mason, the Austrian, who resides on Main street, was fined \$100 for having liquor for sale in his house without a license. A Russian who was in the case was found guilty of supplying a soldier in uniform with liquor last Sunday and he was fined \$50. Both fines were paid.

Men of 140th Entertained.
The B. Y. P. U. of the Charlottetown street United Baptist church paid a visit to the 140th Battalion last night, and a very pleasant evening was spent by all present. A splendid program was provided and refreshments were served. The following took part in the entertainment: Misses Earle, Brown, Pierce, Brindley and Coude, and Mr. Bonk. Mrs. P. West acted as accompanist. The soldiers taking part were Sergt. Key, Corp. Markham, Lance Corporal West, Lance Corporal Gaudet, Sergt. Gerlie, Corporal Pitt, Sergt. Major Palmer and Lance Corporal Logan. The committee in charge were Mrs. W. Lynch, Mrs. B. Treartha, Mrs. William McLeod, Mrs. H. Blythe, Miss Alice Furlerton and Miss Ella Clark. Those serving were Miss Grace Kierstead, Miss Laura Carlson, Mrs. Charles Adams and Miss S. Tullis. A guessing contest in charge of Miss N. E. Lynch was won by Lance Corporal Albert Whittle.

NEW MUSICAL COMEDY AT THE OPERA HOUSE TODAY.
The Feldman and Christie Musical Company at the Opera House change the programme today and offer for the first time here, the two act musical comedy, "The Elopers," with all new songs, dances and features. There will be a matinee today, tomorrow and Saturday.

Have you looked at the small diamond solitaire rings offered at Gundry's, 79 King street. Even those at \$10.00 make a wonderfully effective show. Genuine finely cut brilliants in heavy 14 kt. mounts. Others at \$16.00, \$20.00, \$25.00 and up.

TWO MORE CASES WHERE LETTERS DIDN'T "ARRIVE"

Someone Has Edward Connelly's Three Dollars and Hiram Friars' Puzzle Charts

Yesterday The Standard received a letter from Edward Connelly, Martins Head, St. John county. Mr. Connelly writes: "I sent you in January three dollars, amount of renewal subscription for The Daily Standard. I cannot tell by the wrapper on my paper if you received it or not. Kindly let me know by letter or by making the date on the wrapper so that I can send it again. The money was mailed at Sussex."

The Standard has not received Mr. Connelly's letter.

On Saturday last there was mailed from this office to Mr. Hiram Friars, of Sussex, an envelope containing puzzle charts. Under date of March 22nd Mr. Friars writes The Standard inquiring why his charts have not been sent. They were sent all right.

MOTHER STILL WAITS FOR NEWS FROM SON

Pathetic Situation in Connection With Death of Private J. R. W. Scott.

The sad case of Private J. R. W. Scott who enlisted in the Army Service Corps in Vancouver and went to France with the first contingent, has been recalled by a letter received by The Standard the other day. Private J. R. W. Scott, it will be remembered, arrived in St. John on the 17th day of December last along with eleven others, all suffering from mental trouble brought on by shock and German gas. On the 18th day of December he wrote a letter to his mother in England. On the 22nd, while he with five others were being brought across the bridge at the Falls to be sent to their homes, his cap was blown off by the wind. In his efforts to recover it he went over the railing and plunged to his death in the waters below. The body has not been recovered, and never will be, and the lonely mother in England has been waiting and watching ever since for some further word from her boy.

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Sugar Shipments.
Agents for the Acadia Sugar Refinery, Halifax, say the report that the Atlantic Railway has secured the first contract with the British government since the war, is incorrect, as the Acadia Company sent three very large shipments to England last year.

Went Toy Exhibit Here.
The Board of Trade have sent a request to Sir George E. Foster, minister of trade and commerce, to send the toy exhibit which is to be shown in Toronto next week, with the idea of creating an interest in the manufacture of toys in Canada, to St. John.

"The Paint for Wear and Weather"

When you start out to buy Paint, always keep in mind that MARTIN-SENOUR 100 p. c. PURE PAINT, by its absolute purity and correct proportions of all ingredients, its uniformity of composition, and thorough incorporation of materials by modern machinery, produces a paint that works easiest, spreads farthest, hides best, giving an even film of finest texture and highest gloss, that retains its newness longer and outlasts in wear any other Prepared Paint, or hand-mixed Lead and Oil Paint.

THAT is why IT PAYS to USE MARTIN-SENOUR 100 p. c. PURE PAINT—"The Paint for Wear and Weather."

PAINT DEPARTMENT,
FIRST FLOOR, UPPER MARKET SQUARE STORE.

Market Square—W. H. THORNE & CO., LTD.—King Street

New Arrivals in Untrimmed Hats At Marr's

Another new supply of Untrimmed Hats, rushed through by express, have just been opened this morning and now await your inspection.

This particular line we regard as the best of our special importations, ultra stylish models and elegance of finish predominating the entire display.

These charming new arrivals come in all fashionable colors and in black.

SEE THEM WHILE THE RANGE IS FULLY COMPLETE

Marr Millinery Company, Limited

The Housewife's "Silent Friend"

All housekeepers are quick to appreciate the reliability, convenience and all round perfect service given by the

ROYAL GRAND RANGE

You will be surprised to find how much quicker cooking is with a range that does not need so much looking after and that is equipped with every modern labor-saving convenience.

You have to see this stove to appreciate its many fine points.

THE STOVE STORE OF QUALITY

Emerson & Fisher Ltd.

Manchester Robertson Allison, Limited

Business Hours Are Daily from 9 a. m. to 6 p. m.

Great Sale of Curtains

Savings Ranging from Twenty to Fifty Per Cent COMMENCING THIS MORNING

With the task of spring cleaning so near at hand, and when new curtains will be needed, this sale should be welcomed by most housewives who are on the side of economy. These are oddsments of curtains that have accumulated, some slightly soiled, others in good condition, and all offered at from one-fifth to one-half less than regular prices.

SCOTCH NET CURTAINS, white only, a large variety of patterns, three to six pairs of a kind, three and three and a half yards long. Sale prices, per pair 50c. to \$2.75

IRISH POINT CURTAINS, white and cream, two to six pairs of a pattern, two and a half and three yards long. Sale prices, per pair \$3.50 to \$6.00

SCRIM, VOILE and MARQUISETTE CURTAINS, white, cream and ecru, some with narrow edging, others with insertions, a few with lace and insertion, two and a half yards long. Sale prices, per pair 75c. to \$2.75

ALSO ODD PAIRS OF SCOTCH NET, IRISH POINT AND SCRIM CURTAINS. If you have single windows about the house, here is a chance to secure fine curtains slightly soiled at practically your own prices.

NO APPROVAL. NO APPROVAL.

CURTAIN DEPARTMENT—SECOND FLOOR.

NEW SPRING HAND BAGS

We are just in receipt of a fine assortment of the new season's Hand Bags, comprising the latest effects in Leather, Moire, Mesh, etc., and affording an exceptionally fine range of choice and splendid values.

BLACK LEATHER HAND BAGS—In various makes with gilt, nickel or gun metal frames. Each \$1.00 to \$6.50.

FANCY LEATHER HAND BAGS—Assorted colors and shapes. Each \$1.50 to \$8.00

LARGE LEATHER SHOPPING BAGS—For carrying parcels, and especially suitable for suburbanites, in three sizes. Each \$3.25, \$3.75, \$4.35

MOIRE SILK BAGS—Assorted sizes. Each \$1.50 to \$6.00

GILT OR SILVER MESH BAGS. Each \$1.50 to \$10.00

PURSES AND CARD CASES. Each 35c. to \$5.00

HAND BAG DEPARTMENT—MAIN STORE.

Manchester Robertson Allison, Limited