

THE WEATHER

Toronto, Dec. 20.—A shallow low area is centered over Ontario tonight while pressure is highest over the Plains states and lowest over the Pacific coast states. Light snow has fallen in the Lake Superior district but weather has been mostly fair in Eastern Canada and has not decidedly cold in the West.

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AROUND THE CITY

FAIRVILLE GARB RUNNING. The regular service on the Fairville route was resumed yesterday by the New Brunswick Power Co. and the residents of that suburb have a twenty-minute service now.

JOBS FOR SOME MEN. Mayor Schofield said yesterday that there was room for a few more men on the city waste-collecting operations at Musquash. Application should be made to J. A. Brooks, the mayor's clerk.

STEAMER CALEUR IN. The steamer Calaur arrived in port yesterday morning from Bermuda with six cabin passengers and eight Chinese. There were no St. John passengers. The cargo consisted of 100 tons of molasses for St. John, Montreal and Quebec, and 500 tons of sugar for Montreal. The officers report a rough voyage.

MANY AFTER WORK. A great many applications for work on the excavating gang who are removing city and water main city property, King Street East, have been received by the Commissioner of Safety, who stated yesterday that a crew of fifteen are now at work. There has been no attention to the excavated material, and it is probable that city crews will be put to work hauling the waste to dumping areas.

MAY BRING EXPERT. H. D. Sullivan, president of the St. John Hardware Clerks' Association, said yesterday that the executive board is considering bringing down a by-law expert, who will compare conditions here with those in various cities using hydro-electric current. The Hardware Clerks' Association has been very active in securing much valuable data, showing that with the proper method of distribution, the consumer should receive a very substantial reduction in lighting and power charges.

Mr. Sullivan said that the expense of a survey would be borne partly by the association and partly by citizens who were demanding a big reduction in light and power rates.

DECORATED FOR CHRISTMAS. The city market has taken on a gala appearance in honor of the Christmas season and long rows of flags and bunting overhead, joining below to festoons of evergreens and holly, give the bustling a festive air. The Christmas rush, however, has not yet started. There was a fair supply of food of all kinds yesterday morning and it is expected that today will see a large amount come in from the country. Prices were high, turkeys being at one and one-half and ranging at 70c. Chicken sold at 40c to 50c, and towl at 30c. Game and ducks were also high, one dealer selling one and 65c to 60c, appearing to be the average price. A larger supply is expected to bring the prices down.

CONFERENCE ON Hydro-Electric. Proposition Put Forth by the City to Purchase Musquash Plant from the Gov't.

Yesterday afternoon was spent by the members of the City Council in discussing hydro matters. At 3.30 the members of the Council met in a session and talked over the situation and at 5.30 they met the representatives of the New Brunswick Power Commission, E. A. Smith and C. G. Foss, W. G. Chase, general manager of the Canada Lock Joint Pipe Co., was also present.

The matter of price for the power and distribution was some over, but no definite conclusion was reached. A proposition for the city to buy the Musquash plant outright from the Government was put forward, but the members of the commission could not commit themselves on this phase of the subject without going back to the Government.

A further conference will be held this afternoon at which representatives of the New Brunswick Power Co. and other interested bodies will be present.

Closing Day In Public Schools

Before Departing for Two Weeks' Holidays Special Programmes Have Been Arranged for Today.

Today is one of the days looked forward to by the pupils of the schools with joyful anticipation for they are not to lose from their school duties for two whole weeks for the Christmas holidays. In most of the schools programmes appropriate to the season have been prepared and the food parents are invited to attend the closings. Following are some of the programmes to be given today:

Alexandra School. One of the features of the closing exercises at the Alexandra School will be the four part singing by the pupils of grade 8. The pupils of this school made rapid progress in their studies and today have a treat in store for them. With the exception of three numbers, the opening chorus and songs by grades 7 and 8, the programme will be given by the pupils in grades 1, 2, 3.

The programme is as follows: Chorus, "O Come to the Feast of the Kings," in royal David's city, the school recitation, "Letter from Santa Claus," Ruel Parks; "Mother Goose Children's Christmas," grades 1 and 2; recitation, "O Come to the Feast of the Kings," Alfred Howard; four part song, "Holy Night," grade 3 pupils; drill, "Little Candles," grades 1 and 2; recitation, "The Goblins will get you if you don't watch out," Orlin Brown; song, "Joy to the World," girls of grade 7 and 8; drama, "Characters from Dickens Christmas Carols," grades 1, 2, 3; "Jolly sewing circle," girls of grade 7 and 8; recitation, "Santa Claus," Macdonald; song, "Snowflakes," Marion Munro; Flag salutation; National Anthem.

King Edward School. The King Edward School closing exercises will be held this morning. The programme is as follows: Chorus—O Come to the Feast of the Kings—Dance in Royal David's City, School. Bible Story and Christmas Carol, by Violet Lasher. Recitation—The Christmas Star, by 20 pupils from Grade III. Recitation—All He Wants, Percy Mitchell. Recitation—Merry Christmas, by Eric Bonson, Ronie Goding, Mildred Pike and Loyd Woodley. Chorus—Wandering Night, 4 girls from Grades IV and V. Recitation—A Good Boy, Neilson Lewis. Chorus—The First Nowell, school. Recitation—The Fir Tree, Alex. Winchester. Drill—14 girls from Grade VI and VII. Recitation—Santa Claus, Russell Fleet. Drill—Singing, Albert Punter and Alfred Vincent. Recitation—The Open Letter, Rae Reid. Drill and Chorus—Good King Wenceslas, Boys Grade VII and VIII. Recitation—The Lookout-Man, Leonard Robeva. Solo—Night of Nights, Norman Macdunn. Chorus—It Came Upon the Midnight Clear, school. Salutation of Flag, school. National Anthem.

High School. The Christmas closing exercises of the High School will take place at eleven o'clock this morning. In the presence of Chief Justice H. A. McKeown, chairman of the school board, who is immediately followed by the Hon. Le lieutenant-Governor Pugsley will preside. The following is the programme: High School Orchestra. Recitation—Horace Hodley, X. Carol. "A Tropical Christmas," Elizabeth Norton, XI. Solo—Helen Baxter, X. Orchestra. Presentation of medals and prizes: Corporation gold medal—Highest marks in Grade XI, John Bond, Presented by His Worship Mayor Schofield. Governor-General's silver medal—Highest marks in Grade X, Harriet Roberts, Presented by Murray MacLaren, M. P. Second prize, Elizabeth Norton. Alvin's gold medal—Highest marks in Grade IX, Sue Coleman. Presented by Miss Grace Boney. Second prize, Margaret Stevens. Parker silver medal—Highest marks in mathematics, XI, John Bond, Presented by His Honor Lieutenant-Governor Pugsley. Bill's gold medal—English essay, George Ware. Presented by Rev. H. A. Coffy. Fortnightly club prize—Highest marks in English, XII, Greta Clayton. Presented by J. M. Trautman, Esq. French club prize—Highest marks in French, XI, John Bond. Presented by W. Frank Hatheway, Esq. Chairman McKeown's gold medal—Highest marks in Grade VIII, Frances O'Hara. Presented by Teague J. D. V. Lewis.

CIVIC MILK PLANT TO BE ESTABLISHED? That there is a movement on foot to have the city install a civic milk plant for the pasteurization of all milk sold in St. John, is an assertion contained in a letter received by Commissioner Bullock, from the Pacific Dairies, Ltd. The commissioner of public lands said he had no information in the matter, but the Pacific Dairies, Ltd., stated in the letter that they were interested in good authority. The company wrote that they had yet to hear of a civic plant of this kind proving a financial success, and said they had an up-to-date plant for handling and pasteurization of milk. The company added that they are prepared to sell milk at cost, plus a fair margin of profit for handling and pasteurization.

The Unemployed And Dependents

Registration to Date Shows 1,232 Men Unemployed, With 2,973 Persons Depending on Them.

The number of persons affected by the present unemployment in the city, according to the figures furnished by Rev. St. B. Thomas, secretary of the committee in charge of the registration, would populate a good sized town and it is believed that all who are out of work did not register at this time.

Up to last night no less than 1,232 cases had registered at the various business and churches, and these had depending on them 2,973 persons, a total of 4,205.

The committee will present their report at a special meeting of the Executive Committee to be held this morning at the Y. Y. C. The committee have several recommendations to make and among others they will suggest the passing along of the information obtained by the City Council and action by that body to relieve the situation.

The total number of unemployed registered at the G. W. V. A. rooms up till last evening was 60. Of these, 254 are married men and 125 single. There are 664 persons depending for a living on the married men, and the single men have 51 dependents.

City Council Held A Short Session. Business Transacted Was Largely Routine—May Flood Stetson Pond for Skaters.

Owing to the afternoon being given over to the discussion of hydro matters the regular meeting of the City Council was held yesterday morning at eleven o'clock.

The committee of the whole reported that they had before them a recommendation from F. W. Logan suggesting the making of a skating rink on Stetson Pond at the North End, and recommended that they refer the matter to the commissioners of public safety and water and sewerage with power to act. The committee submitted a by-law entitled "A law to further amend a law, entitled 'A law to provide for the granting of business licenses and relating to persons not being Free Citizens, doing business in the City of Saint John,'" and recommended that they give the necessary readings and then passed and adopted.

The report was adopted. The by-law regarding the amending of the business license law was read for the second time. An application from Leonard J. Coffey, painter, aged 28, for a position as city constable, was referred to the Mayor. Mr. Coffey submitted the names of James Izard, baker, and J. P. McBay, merchant, as bondsmen. An application was received from Harry Brin for a grant toward "Brimley Stocking Fund." The total received to date was \$461.66 and \$460 was expended. It would be required in order to supply every poor child in the city with a filled stocking. Commissioner Bullock and Commissioner Thomson said that while in sympathy with the object, they thought it would not be wise to open the door for all applicants of this kind. The communication was received and filed. On motion of Commissioner Frink it was decided to grant permission to Leo Gilbert to erect an electric sign at the corner of Princess and Charlotte streets on his signing the usual agreement.

PERSONALS. S. A. M. Skinnell left for Toronto on the C. P. R. express yesterday afternoon. Mr. and Mrs. Beverly F. Vincent, of 2148 avenue, left Monday evening for Hamilton, Pa., to spend the winter with their daughter, Mrs. Walter Vincent. Rev. C. J. McLaughlin, of Debec, is expected at the Royal. Captain L. A. Demers, Dominion Wreck Commissioner, was in the city Monday en route to Halifax. He left on the late train Monday evening. Samuel J. Maxwell, retired railway mail clerk, left Saturday to spend the winter months with his daughter in Hamilton, Ont. Charles J. McCarthy, for many years a C. P. R. employe, Moncton, is visiting relatives in his native city. Moncton Transcript: Will Abrams, Moncton, who for some period underwent treatment in the Royal Victoria Hospital at Montreal, has so far recovered as to be able to leave the institution. He is, however, still under a physician's care, and will not return home for Christmas.

XMAS STOCKINGS FOR THE SOLDIERS. The ladies of the Hospital Committee of the Red Cross are busy yesterday afternoon filling the Christmas stockings to be sent to the boys who have to spend the festive season in institutions. The stockings for River Glade were packed last Friday and sent forward by Mrs. Anglin. Donations for the work have been received from the following: Moncton, Mittown, Woodstock, Centerville, Rothney, St. Stephen, each sending one well filled stocking; Newcastleton, and Riverview three, Cash donations: Mrs. Anglin, \$20; Mrs. J. J. Jones, \$20; Lancaster Juniors, \$20; Hillsboro, Women's Institute, \$20; Salisbury, \$20; Berchester, \$12; Minto, \$10; Fredericton contributed a box of goods which was sent to River Glade. Netherwood School sent 20 socks and Barnoville Red Cross donated \$2.50.

Regular Meeting of The W. C. T. U.

Money Voted for Pledge Cards for Sailors and to the Associated Charities.

The regular meeting of the W. C. T. U. was held yesterday afternoon, at 7.30, at the home of Mrs. M. J. Moore, 130th Street and Mrs. W. H. Humphrey led in prayer. Money was voted for pledge cards for sailors and these will be looked after by Mrs. Seymour. The annual amount was voted to the Associated Charities and the dues of the representatives on the board ordered paid.

Mrs. Seymour reported on a needy case and a sum of money was voted her to provide the necessary relief, and money was voted to several members to care for needy cases. The matter of sending flowers to the "shut ins" at Christmas was referred to, and a sum of money was referred to for this purpose. It was decided not to meet until Jan. 3, which will be a Dominion Day of Prayer.

Alexander Ross To Act As Expert

As Advisor in Hydro-Electric Matter, Mayor Schofield Has Secured One of Best on Continent.

In engaging the services of Robert Alexander Ross to act as expert advisor in the hydro-electric matter, His Worship Mayor Schofield secured one of the outstanding electrical engineers of the continent, and one who had given service to the city on a former occasion. His report at that time was considered in a saving to the city of considerable money in its lighting bill.

Mr. Ross was born in the city of Woodstock where he has had a hardware store. After graduation he was for three years with the Canadian General Electric at Sherbrooke. In 1893 he accepted a position with the Royal Electric Co. at Montreal as chief mechanical and electrical engineer, and had charge of all their shops.

Since 1896 he has been in practice as a consulting engineer and among his clients who he has had a hand in designing and erecting are the Westcoast Power & Electric Co., in British Columbia; the C. P. R. Angus shops; the Westmount Electric Plant and the West India Electric at Jamaica. He has been called in consultation by the Hydro-Electric Commission of Toronto, the C. P. R., the Hydro of Toronto and many others. His work outside of Canada has taken him to China, India, Great Britain, Russia, Finland, Scotland, Australia, Jamaica and the United States.

He was one of the members of the commission appointed by the Government of Quebec to carry on the affairs of the city of Montreal, and did excellent work as a member of that body. Some ten or eleven years ago he was brought to St. John when the city council of that day had a dispute with the Power Company about the rates charged for street lights, and as a result of his report the price of lights was reduced from \$1.10 per lamp on the West Side and \$5 on both sides to a flat rate of \$75 on both sides of the harbor. Mr. Ross was president of the Engineering Institute of Canada for the year 1920.

Come and See SANTA CLAUS at THORNE'S This Afternoon at 4.30

The jolly old chap will be right on time, all ready to give the kiddies an hour of real joy in showing them how to get the very most fun from the hundreds of new and ingenious playthings in our gorgeous, glittering Toy Department where you'll find TRAINS. Just like real ones, with locomotive, tender, baggage and first class cars, nicely finished, strong and durable; with oval and circular tracks. Clockwork trains from \$3.75 to \$12.00 each complete. Electric trains, with track, complete, \$14.00 to \$21.00. Near natural tunnels \$1.35 and \$2.00 each. Bridges, \$2.50 and \$3.25 each. Stations, like real ones you've seen, \$4.00 each.

Practical and Useful Gifts. It is the tendency nowadays to give presents that serve some useful purpose. Christmas gifts that are only pretty are not as popular as gifts that are serviceable as well.

Trinity Church Choir Banquetted. Were Guests of Member of Congregation—Over Forty Members Enjoyed the Hospitality Extended.

Make Her Christmas a Happy One. She will appreciate one of these new gowns more than anything else you could give her, and as they are moderately priced, you will appreciate the value yourself.

