

ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1900.

BRIGHT BREEZY BITS

Items of Interest Gathered from All Over the City and Country.

STALLED UP LIKE CATTLE

Emigrants at Sand Point are Not Treated as Humans.

A visitor to Sand Point when one of the big steamers with emigrants aboard arrives will witness a scene quite out of the ordinary in more than one respect. It is the disembarkation of the foreigners and their families and the manner in which they are cared for until forwarded to their various destinations.

It seems as though each year the temporary accommodations for these poor creatures are becoming more limited and less habitable. There was a time when they were housed in a large room in No. 1 shed but this has been taken away from that use, and the present shelter is a veritable box stall built between Nos. 1 and 3 sheds, a place which in size should only accommodate fifty, but which often has to give protection to five times as many.

The stench and squalor of the place when a hundred or so of the emigrants congregate is unbearable, no heed being paid to ventilation, while one stove does the duty as heater in chief. Here the unfortunate Russian and German Jews, Romanians, Galicians, etc., are heaped together in a homogeneous mass, women with babes and toddling children as well. When the shanty becomes packed so as it is impossible to move about, the overflow huddle about the cold sheds and wharves. Sometimes a colonist car is on the siding, if so this is utilized, but it soon becomes as bad off as the shed.

To distribute railway tickets, shuffle baggage and sort out the emigrants is not the work of an hour or so, but rather a whole day. Very few if any of the foreigners can speak English and it is just here that the service of the local Jewish Relief Society have been found invaluable by the immigration officials.

Delegates from this society attend every emigrant boat and converse with the newcomers as to their destination, the money requirements before being allowed across the border, tickets etc. Many cases are found in which emigrants have as funds to go forward. These are held over and cared for by the Jewish organization and relatives in the States communicated with. Often times whole families have been sustained for weeks in this city until the money arrives for their forwarding. No charge is made by the society.

It is really a wonder the S. P. C. A. does not take a hand in trying to impress upon the transportation lines the need of proper and humane accommodation for the thousands of helpless men, women and children, who are wholly in their care during their tedious journeying from the other side of the Atlantic to New York and other parts. The avariciousness of these big wealthy companies in herding these people together and getting their passage money, seems to have blotted out from their consciences altogether the fact that these people, as well, have to live, and a semblance of Christian usage would only be human.

A steamer which arrived in port early in the week brought a lot of emigrants. They were indeed a sorry looking crowd, and told their new found friends of the hardships they had to endure in coming across the ocean. The treatment they received at the hands of some of the ships' officers, they asserted, was indeed harsh, in one instance in particular. The Jewish foreigners were greatly incensed.

St. John is Proud of It.

The Royal Kennebecensis Yacht Club has closed another successful year, which is a source of gratification not only to the members of that organization, but to the pure-sport loving public as well. The institution and gradual development of the R. K. Y. C. has proved that there is in St. John enough enthusiastic citizens to keep alive and active such a club, and it stands today the foremost in Canada, this side of Montreal. Everything the R. K. Y. C. has undertaken, whether in the line of sport, entertainment or social functions, has been largely successful, owing to the united efforts of its members and the wise counsel of its officials. Mr. Edgar Fairweather retires from the commodoreship of the club this year, giving way to Mr. Fred S. Hoare.

It is not flattering to say the yacht club has prospered under Mr. Fairweather's presidency, as it might not have done under others, and his efforts at all times to further the interests of the organization, finding time and funds to the object, has

marked him as one of the buttresses of the Club. Among the other officers Secretary F. Herbert J. Ryel has also been indefatigable.

Vaccinating School Children.

It's an interesting sight to drop into any of the vaccinating stations these days, particularly in the afternoon when the school children are sent to be made proof against small pox. Especially at the offices of the Board of Health in Ritchie's Building, on Princess street, do the younger ones congregate. On Monday afternoon last the schools were given one session and Drs. Mott and Scammel found they had all they could attend to to keep up with the fast increasing numbers of applicants, all of whom were children ranging in age from three to twelve years. In a short time the big rooms of the Board of Health were full of chattering little ones with their bare arms exposed and either waiting for the blood to dry where they had been vaccinated, or ready for the physician to call them. Each child was scratched in three spots and the serum or vaccine applied from a hair-like glass tube which is broken off at one end and the liquid blown out. There was no crying or fear among even the smallest candidate, which greatly facilitated the labors of the overworked doctors.

She Was Not Pretty, But —

There is somewhat of a moral in the experience of two Pagaley building lawyers, who a few days ago advertised for typewriters and stenographers. Each was a young man and both had come to the conclusion that a member of the gentler sex as an office helper was quite necessary, in fact their increasing business warranted such a move. Next day two typists applied for the positions. One was a pretty miss, a really beautiful young lady, very amiable apparently and not indifferent as to style. The other was severely plain, nor did she make any particular pretension as to dress or "gushability." A conference between the young lawyers ensued and kept on ensuing for some little while. Each seemingly wanted to hire the prettier one and consequently the most of pleas and arguments were used by them to persuade the other to surrender. Finally the matter was peacefully settled and the young ladies were escorted to their positions, but row the young lawyer with the pretty, typewriter is uprooting his hair, while the other is in high glee. One typist was a thoroughly experienced hand and a trained office worker as well, while the other has a very amateur idea as to how the duties assigned her should be attended to.

Another Boer Boycotted.

If the Boers of St. John continue to unmask themselves and boldly speak forth their hatred for the flag that spares their unworthy carcasses, why it would be of interest for some enterprising citizen to take a census of them and post the list about town so that the general public may know who to trust, and who is to be wary of. One of the latest Boers is a liquor dealer having his ale shop on Haymarket Square. This man has been declaiming for Kruger's men ever since the war broke out but now he almost wishes he had been a mute, for lo! his business to a great extent has taken wings. Not content with entertaining his own opinions he started to braven them forth into the ears of his many railroading customers, men on the I. C. R., both transient and prominent workers. These fellows are true blue loyal and a few days ago decided to abandon their accustomed liquor shop and its Boerish proprietor on account of its anti British atmosphere.

The Boot and Shoe Men Kicked.

Commercial travellers as a general rule are a pretty independent lot of fellows and unlike very much to have their general routine of life interrupted as they claim they endure enough hardships without petty botherings of an additional nature. Up in Chatham last week a party of drummers arrived on the train from a smallpox infected locality. Provincial Secretary Twissie was at the depot at the time and

suggested that each of the men should be examined so as to find out whether they were vaccinated or not. Every traveller, but one gave his word of honor that the necessary scratching had been done to his arm, and that single exception became quite angry and refused blankly to undergo the operation. Arguments were of no avail but later in the day the Provincial Secretary accompanied by a physician went to the gentleman's hotel and insisted upon his being vaccinated. The operation was performed. Thus it is seen there are at times some little kicks against the vigilance of the health officers, but the necessity of promptness and caution in matters pertaining to the checking of the impending epidemic is made very clear and enforced.

Mock Bench of Promises Told.

A pretty good story comes from Albert, Albert county, in which a party or St. John knights of the grip figure prominently. It appears fully half a dozen of these travellers representing groceries, hardware paints, stationery, millinery, etc. met at the principal hotel, about which house one of the village characters, an old man named Thompson, spends a good deal of his time. Though far advanced toward his three score and ten mark the old fellow is constantly telling the commercial men of his love affairs, in which he seems ever entangled. Each drummer is taken into confidence in turn and finally everybody knows the story. Last week the visitors formed a mock court and served the old masher with a suit for damages amounting to five thousand dollars in the name of one of his many "girls." Breach of promise was the accusation. A St. John hardware merchant presided as judge, a tea and grocery specialist pleaded the old man's case and a bookstore man prosecuted. There was a jury and other officials, besides a large audience in the office of the hotel. The seriousness of the mock lawyers and judge began to impress the defendant who became frightened, and after an hour and a half of exposing the facts of the case, the defendant was acquitted by the deliberate jury. The farce was admirably carried out and replete with funny situations, serving as humorous comment for the native born for several days.

TRAINING BOER'S HORSES.

How they are taught to Stand Still Where Their Riders Leave Them.

An Englishman now in Baltimore who spent several years among the Boers in South Africa says that the Boer force was stronger in numbers than it seemed to be, because every man in the army was mounted and detachments could move from one point to another in an incredibly short time.

He was asked whether the Boers kept their horses in the trenches with them, and this question led to an explanation. "Every Boer warrior has a horse," said he, "and their horses are so trained that they will stand where they are left until their master's return. I have seen them training their horses in this trick and their method is effective, though heroic."

"A Boer will take a young horse, a two year old or perhaps a yearling, and attach a halter to him. From the halter hangs a rope and at the end of the rope is suspended an iron ball, which hangs about the animal's knees."

"The horse is then turned loose in a large lot. He immediately begins to prance around and the iron ball keeps striking against his knees. The horse is driven wild and the ball keeps on getting in its work. The beast may struggle against the annoyance and pain for four or five hours, but he finally drops from exhaustion."

"Often it takes three or four weeks to nurse the horse, with his cut bruised and bleeding knees, back into condition, but when he is fit to ride he is the horse the Boer wants. All the Boer has to do when he dismounts is throw the ball over the horse's head. The horse feels the rein hanging from his chin and he remembers the previous experience with an iron ball. He will stand stock still

as long as that rein hangs from the bit and he will not move, not even if shells are bursting around him and if the crash of artillery is but a few feet away.

THE BELL-BOTS' CHARGE.

Humanity Destroyed to get Even for Real and Fancied Grievances.

It is the disposition of all people and especially of Americans to 'get even.' Let anyone sustain a real or even fancied grievance and his brain at once becomes active in forming some scheme through which he can satisfy his desire for getting even. The degree of his vengeance is usually measured by the extent of his own injury or the inconvenience which he has suffered. Boys are particularly sensitive and when they have to go to work at an early age their lives are filled with grievances and their brains are busy forming plans for future vengeance and satisfaction. Here is the scheme of a bright hotel bell-boy whose life has evidently not been satisfactory to himself.

"Some day when I have accumulated a stake I am going to have some fun," said the bellboy.

"What are you going to do?" a bystander asked.

"I am simply going to some big hotel in a big city and live for a day," and the boy paused to let the remark soak in. "I am going to a big hotel with three big grips and I am going to make the bellboy carry all of them up to the room for me. I won't carry even the smallest one. Then, as soon as I am in my room I am going to have some ice water. I will not ring for ice water, but for a bellboy, and after he has climbed to the fifth story—the bellboys are not permitted to use the elevator, you know, and I shall not take a room lower than the fifth floor—when he has climbed up there, I will tell him I want some ice water."

"I will drink all the ice water I can and pour the rest in a cuspidor. Then I will ring for more ice water. After that I shall order a cocktail served in my room. I don't drink, but there must be a variety in my scheme. Then I will decide to take a Turkish bath, and will call a boy to carry my grip down to the bathroom. When I return I will ring for more ice water."

"I will insist on having the same bell-boy serve me all the time and I'll keep him chasing around until he will curse me at every step. Then when I get ready to leave an he is happy to think he shall never see my cursed face again, I will give him a dollar. You know I couldn't think of putting a boy to all that trouble without rewarding him, because I have been through the mill myself. What I have just described happens to a bellboy every day of his life—all except getting the dollar when it is over."

Have You Seen Any of It?

Manufacturing jewelers in this country who produce gold-plated goods have been requested by the directors of the United States mint to assist him in locating \$300,000,000 in gold that has disappeared from circulation during the last 20 years, or since the date of the resumption of specie payment in 1879. The \$300,000,000 has disappeared entirely, and the treasury officials cannot account for its disappearance unless it has been taken out of circulation by manufacturing jewelers, by dentists, makers of gold leaf and for the manufacture of other things in which gold is used. No doubt some of the metal has been hoarded away, but a larger part of it has been used in the industrial arts, making an immense sum not accounted for.

The manufacturers have been asked by the mint officials to supply a statement of the value of gold used during the year. They have also been asked for the value of all United States coin used and the commercial value of stamped mint bars or assay office bars, private bars, foreign coin, old plate, jewelry, native grains, nuggets and wire or rolled plate they have used.

The forms distributed are to be considered as confidential. The mint authorities say that no one need fear making returns, as the law regarding the mutilation of coin refers only to such mutilation as fraudulent tampering with coin. Melting of coin or total destruction of coin is not considered a violation.

ENGLAND'S ARMY IN SOUTH AFRICA

Indicating That Its Actual Strength Was Overstated by Mr. Wyndham.

The statement made by Mr. Wyndham, the Under Secretary of State for War, in the British House of Commons that the British forces in South Africa comprised 142,000 unmounted and 37,800 mounted men, with 452 guns, of which 36 are siege and 38 are naval guns, seems susceptible of considerable modification when analyzed. On Jan. 20 the total force of regular troops actually in South Africa and on their way there from India and England was 15 regiments of cavalry, 9 batteries of horse artillery, 44 field batteries, 2 mountain batteries and 83 battalions of infantry. Putting these different organizations at their full strength, they would work out as follows:

The 15 regiments of cavalry at 500 horses each, which is more than some of those in the field have, gives 7,500 effectives.

The nine batteries of horse artillery with 130 men and 80 horses each, give 1,170 men and 720 horses.

The 44 field batteries with the same compliments of men and horses give 7,720 men and 3,520 horses.

The two mountain batteries with 100 men and 70 horses, or mules, each give 200 men and 140 horses or mules.

The 83 battalions of infantry, reckoning them at their full war strength, would give 83,000 men, but it is doubtful if the average effective of the whole number can be reckoned at more than 850 each. This would reduce the total to 70,500 men.

The entire strength, then, of the regular forces would be by the above analysis 87,140 men and 11,880 horses. To the number of horses, however, should be added those of the mounted infantry actually in the field. What the number of these may be cannot be stated with certainty, as no definite report of their number has appeared in any account of the forces in the field. From the fragmentary accounts of the forces engaged on different occasions, they cannot be estimated at much more than 6,000. This would bring the number up to 17,880.

The total of the colonial contingents does not come up to more than 5,000 men, with perhaps 3,000 horses, and the local Natal and Cape Colony corps, though officially put at 20,000, are from the accounts published, not much more than half that number, probably 12,000 men with say, 10,000 horses. Then there are the naval brigades numbering about 1,000 men altogether, their guns being moved about by country oxen.

This would bring the fighting force up to about 105,140 men and 27,880 horses. The rest of the men and horses of the 180,000 men and 37,800 horses of which Mr. Wyndham spoke are still in the air, the eighth division, the 10,000 yeomanry and the 15,000 volunteers and a militia being only in process of organization and a large part not even yet enrolled.

Then out of the force of regulars given there are a full squadron of cavalry, one mountain battery, and the strength of more than three effective battalions of infantry prisoners of Bloemfontein and Pretoria. Drafts to fill up the vacancies caused by death, disablement and disease are on their way out from England or being got ready. None of the English papers as yet at hand has published a clear, tabulated statement of the various corps and organizations actually in the field in South Africa; and it is quite certain that the statement of the Under Secretary of State for War errs by overestimate rather than by underestimate.

Deadly Shell of To-day.

The ordinary shell which was manufactured 30 years ago only broke into from 20 to 25 pieces when it burst. At the present time it bursts into 240, while a shrapnel shell, which only used to scatter 37 missiles, now scatters 340. A present day bomb, when charged with peroxide, breaks up into 1,200 pieces, and it is estimated that it would effectively kill anyone standing within 220 yards of the explosion.

Gen. Buller and Mrs. Kruger.

Before the present war in South Africa Gen. Buller was on terms of warm personal friendship with Mrs. Kruger, and until a year ago they were wont to exchange cards of good wishes every Christmas, their friendship dated from 20 years ago, when Buller had a regiment of Boers under his command in the war against the Zulus.