

THE HERALD

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Feast of the Nativity.

Christmas is the most joyous Feast in the ecclesiastical calendar; because it commemorates the nativity of our dear Lord, a miracle of love and condescension on the part of Almighty God, bringing to man freedom from the thralldom of sin and the slavery of Satan. The Feast of the nativity commemorates the beginning of our divine Lord's mortal life, the pledge of man's redemption and opening of the hitherto closed gates of Heaven, accomplished by the awful tragedy of Calvary thirty-three years later. These are in brief the great truths upon which rests the history and around which cluster all the beautiful ceremonies, customs and practices of Christmas. It is altogether supererogatory to dwell at any length on the condition of things in this world on the occasion of the first Christmas or to refer to the special attractions that surround the celebration of Christmas in many lands. These are known to all Christians, they have formed the perennial theme of literary men and women down through the ages of the Christian era, and have been among the most fruitful sources of the poet's inspiration. They are truths known to all well instructed Christians. Above all Christmas is a religious festival it is the anniversary of the very foundation of the Christian religion. It is also, and in consequence of its religious character, a time of joy and festivity. It is a time of special exultation for the young; of family reunions; of giving to those who have not. These elementary facts about Christmas are known to all; but like all other good and holy practices, it is possible that the true and genuine Christmas idea does not permeate all the actions performed at this season and ostensibly intended to be in line with the letter and spirit of the great Christian festival celebrated. Like every other good custom, it is not unlikely that abuses creep in to the working out of this celebration. Those who have to spare of this world's goods are expected to share some portion of their superfluous luxury with their less fortunate neighbors, and no doubt this is very generally done. On the other hand, those who are not so fortunate or who are under legal or conscientious obligations to their fellowmen who claim their first attention are not, and cannot reasonably be, expected to be very lavish in their gifts at this or any other time. We must be just before we are generous, and where ever the claims of justice are paramount the law of generous giving does not bind. Surely the best, most appropriate and most Christian manner of celebrating Christmas is by all conscientiously discharging the duties and claims of justice and charity in accordance with their means and stations in life. In this way they cannot help enjoying in its true sense what we sincerely wish all our friends, A Merry Christmas.

Our friends would do us the greatest possible favor by sending their subscriptions during the next week. We beg of them not to place upon us the duty of calling on them. This we would be most happy to do, indeed, did time and circumstances permit. But as matters are this is a burden involving much time, inconvenience and expense that we feel sure our subscribers do not want us to assume. We shall esteem ourselves under a great obligation to them if they relieve our mind to this point by remitting now.

THE Grit workers in Queen's County seem to have taken counsel with Mr. Fielding regarding the nomination of candidates for the Federal election, as the call has been sounded and the convention to select the candidates is set down for tomorrow, the 24th, inst. We notice that no Postmaster has yet been appointed for Charlottetown, but it is quite possible that has been taken into account in connection with the convention to be held tomorrow. Perhaps some one has been guaranteed the Postmastership in order to ensure the unobstructed nomination of some one else. The appointment will not be made until after the election, for fear of losing the support of still another party. This is the conservative and honorable way in which our Grit Government deals with the requirements of the public service!

THE Minister of Finance, Hon. Mr. Fielding, whose visit to this Province we referred to last week, left for the Mainland, via Summerside on Thursday morning last. He and a number of his political friends paid a flying visit to the western part of the Island on Wednesday, going all the way to Tignish. They returned to Summerside the same night, and it was doubtless expected by the Grits that the Minister would remain there during Thursday to attend their convention for Prince County, which was held on that date. But Mr. Fielding gave them the slip and started for the New Brunswick shore by the Stanley at 7 o'clock in the morning. Our Grit friends must have felt this as a slight; as a cold crack indeed. But Mr. Fielding thought his visit was as cold as ice and his political friends and admirers must have experienced an extremely chilly feeling while in his presence. No doubt, numbers of the Grit rank and file came to the convention in the hope of seeing and hearing this Leader of their party whom they had admired at a distance; but this pleasure was denied them; the Minister cleared out and left them to soothe their wounded feelings and overcome their disappointment as best they could. Surely the Finance Minister's visit to this Province was well calculated to freeze the germs of hope and dry up the elements of enthusiasm among our Grit friends.

The Liberals of Prince County met in conclave at Summerside on Thursday last for the purpose of choosing a candidate to contest the County for the House of Commons, in opposition to Mr. Lefurgey, the Conservative Member. The convention had no doubt been timed to correspond with the visit to this Province of Hon. Mr. Fielding, and we may be sure increased interest was expected to attach to the meeting in consequence of the presence there of the Minister of Finance. Any hopes that may have been entertained in this direction were doomed to disappointment, as the Finance Minister left Summerside early on that morning for New Brunswick. Mr. Fielding's conduct, while on the Island, would seem to indicate that his admiration for his Grit friends here does not border on ecstasy. To treat them with civility seems to be as far as he has any desire to go. However our western Grit friends must have felt over their disappointment at the absence of Mr. Fielding, they mustered sufficient courage to proceed to the choice of a candidate for the County. Mr. J. H. Bell ex. M. P. and Mr. B. D. McLellan, ex. M. P. were no doubt regarded by many as possible candidates, but both these gentlemen seem to have waived their claims in favor of Hon. James W. Richards who was nominated by Mr. Bell and seconded by Mr. McLellan. No other name was put, before the convention and the nomination of Mr. Richards was made unanimous. Speeches were made by the mover and seconder of the nomination, by the candidate, Senator Yeo and others and the work was done. The electors of Prince county

shall have to decide at the next election between Mr. Lefurgey the young and talented member from Summerside, the friend and supporter of Mr. Borden and his policy of economy and adequate protection for Canadian industries, and Mr. Richards the endorser of the extravagance and mal administration of the Laurier Government, and the supporter of a \$140,000,000 transcontinental railway that has not been asked for by the people of any part of the Dominion. Which of these gentlemen will they return to Parliament?

Grand Trunk Pacific Affairs.

Since the Grand Trunk Pacific Company has not been able to put up the five million deposit in cash or government bonds as required by the contract, the Grand Trunk Company has deposited with the government certain bonds of its own. There are several weak points in this substitute. In the first place the railway men who make the deposit have no power to dispose of the bonds in this way. Consent of the shareholders must be obtained, and it is open to them to refuse ratification if the conditions do not appear to be promising. In the second place the government has no power to accept this deposit, since it does not meet the conditions of the contract and of the act passed last session. Further, it is not certain what the value of the bonds would be as security.

The affair of the five millions has led to a reopening of the discussion of this whole railway measure in government circles. "A man whose name is well known in Threadneedle and Lombard streets," tells the Montreal Star that the whole scheme will have to be reorganized or dropped altogether. He is of the opinion that there is no business in the absurd scheme for the construction of a railway over the "stretch of hundreds of miles of no man's land in the eastern section and especially north of Lake Superior." His statement ends with the announcement, as coming from one in touch with the London money market, that there is something in the wind and that the original scheme will be considerably modified.

The political department of the St. John Gazette is understood to be controlled by Attorney General Papeley, who has just returned from Ottawa. Yesterday the Gazette expressed the opinion that the promoters would fail to make the deposit required, and intimated that the financiers connected with the company in England would hold off hoping to secure modification. At the same time the Gazette expressed "the most implicit confidence that the government will insist upon all the conditions of the contract being 'carried out,' and contends that if any default is made the government 'should declare the whole matter off.' This does not indicate any great enthusiasm on the part of the attorney general for the Cox railway scheme.

But the organ of the attorney general, like Mr. Borden, has an alternative scheme. It is set forth in the words following: Fortunately the country is not depending for a new transcontinental line upon the Grand Trunk Pacific. There is the MacKenzie & Mann system, which has already been liberally aided by the government, and of which about thirteen hundred miles of railway have already been built. Should the Grand Trunk Pacific people not come to time promptly with their deposit we think it would be wisdom for the government to drop all negotiations with them, and by giving assistance to the Canadian Northern, or what is known as the MacKenzie & Mann system, have this line pushed through to Edmonton, and thence to the Pacific, with all possible speed.

It will be remembered that at the last session of parliament application for a charter for the construction of a line of railway across the province was made by a number of politicians and others, who were supposed to be acting for MacKenzie & Mann. It is perhaps safe to say that certain provincial charters and subsidies might have a connection with this proposition. The attorney general would perhaps have opportunity while on his recent tour, to consult with a member of the firm of MacKenzie & Mann.

Chilblains. Mrs. J. B. Rusk, Ruskvic, Ont., says: "I have used Hagyard's Yellow Oil for chilblains, and found it most effectual. It relieves the irritation at most immediately and a few applications made a complete cure."

Chamberlain Misrepresented.

(Cor. Montreal Star.)

London, Dec. 17.—A quite mistaken interpretation is being put today upon Mr. Chamberlain's half playful utterance last night: "Send me an ambassador to the colonies, with full powers and I am willing to risk my reputation on being able not merely to satisfy the colonies that we have something to give them which is worth their acceptance, but also to secure from the colonies an equal measure in return." Mr. Chamberlain's opponents suggest that Chamberlain intends to make an early crusade in the colonies in order to overawe colonial hesitancy and frighten the British electorate into acceptance of his programme under pain of the disruption of the empire. Nothing is further from the truth. Mr. Chamberlain's intentions remain as before. He first seeks a mandate from the British electorate, and will then, if the colonial desire is expressed, go with the greatest pleasure to Canada and Australasia to discuss and if necessary to negotiate. The most significant Canadian feature of Mr. Chamberlain's speech was his reading of Mr. Fielding's letter, in which Mr. Fielding regretted that the question entered into British party politics, and repudiated the idea that the colonial minister's suggestions at the last colonial conference, were not cordially received by both the great political parties in Canada. Mr. Fielding, by holding the idea that British and colonial public men are incompetent to put the project into practical form so soon as public approval is secured.

Mansfield Changed to St. Charles.

At a meeting of the inhabitants of Mansfield, Lot 56 on Monday evening Dec 14th, held in the school house the following resolution was unanimously passed. Resolved that the place bearing the name of Mansfield and also Grosbeak be hereafter known as St. Charles and further that notification to that effect be sent the Island Newspapers and the Education office, and also that the Post office Department be asked to change the Post office name to St. Charles.

Stole Over \$20,000

W. H. McKewen, secretary of the board of regents, California State University at Berkeley, confessed on Wednesday last to President Benj. L. Wheeler that he was a defaulter to the amount of \$20,000 and possibly more. Most of the money was lost on the race track. Mr. McKewen has been suspended by President Wheeler and placed under arrest by the local authorities. Secretary McKewen's arrest followed the discovery that he had attempted to pay a racing debt with a check made out to him personally by Mrs. Phoebe Hearst.

A Well-known Contractor Dead.

Last Wednesday afternoon James K. McDonald, the well-known contractor died very suddenly at the residence of his wife, Mrs. Robert Watt, Glass Bay, C. B. Mr. McDonald was a native of Pictou Co., and was seventy-one years of age. He has had many large contracts in railroading and other works throughout Canada. He leaves a family, one of whom is Stanley McDonald, who is now completing his course in medicine in Dalhousie. Mr. McDonald was one of the largest contractors in the Maritime Provinces, and was well known in Charlottetown, in consequence of his connection with the Water Works contract, and several other large contracts. He was the contractor for the Prince of Wales College, the P. E. Island Hospital, the Stamer Block, F. Perkins' large building and many others.

\$80,000,000 Estate.

In order to carefully guard the rights of the possible issue of an eight-year old boy, Judge Livingston W. Cleveland, in the probate court at New Haven, Conn., on Wednesday last reserved his decision on the petition of parties interested in the estate of the late millionaire Henry B. Plant, asking the court to declare New York, instead of New Haven, to have been the place of Mr. Plant's legal residence at the time of his death in New York in 1899. By the terms of Mr. Plant's will the major portion of his estate, which amounted at his death to \$17,000,000, was to be kept intact for several decades and be given in full to the unborn child of his infant grandson, Henry Bradley Plant, its value by that time being estimated at \$80,000,000. It is said that one of the results of the granting of the petition and the transfer of the administration to New York will be the vesting of the provision being the estate to the unborn child of the grandson of New York, discontingentizing such bequests in perpetuity, while Connecticut laws sanction them, and that the distribution of the estate be permitted.

A Handsome Souvenir.

The magnanimous treatment that was extended by the Grand Trunk to the delegates to the Fifth Congress of the Chambers of Commerce of the Empire, during their visit to Canada last August, has still further been accentuated by the forwarding of New York, delegates throughout the British Empire, to their home addresses, one of the delegates that has never been used by any railway. The souvenir is in the shape of a book, and includes a series of reproductions from direct photographs taken during the trip through Ontario and Quebec. The reproductions are in half-tone and printed in the color process, on the finest enamel coated paper that could be secured, the descriptive matter being simply in the form of views, and each page is embellished with a vignette symbolical of each individual district and appearing in the bottom left hand corner. There are twenty-four pictures in all in the book which, in addition to a view of the splendid train that was tendered by the Grand Trunk to the delegates, shows scenes along the line between Montreal and Niagara Falls, Niagara Falls and Windsor Sarnia to Muskoka, some beautiful reproductions of the scenes in the "Highlands of Ontario," and a very comprehensive set of group pictures that were taken of the party during their trip. The book is bound in dark green silk, with a beautiful title

page stamped in red and gold showing the coat of arms of the Dominion of Canada, and is bound in a cover of green silk, with the same coat of arms edges. This souvenir will be greatly appreciated by the delegates, and will not only bring back pleasant memories of their trip through Canada, but will be an additional factor in bringing before the British Empire the great resources and the magnificent regions in Canada through which the Grand Trunk passes.

LOCAL AND OTHER ITEMS

OTTAWA arrives of the 21st at sea.—The Government is negotiating for the purchase of Greenland and the admission of Newfoundland into the Dominion.

The London Express claims that it has authority for saying that the torpedo officers under restriction at Portsmouth and Devonport were severely ordered to hold themselves in readiness for immediate mobilization, and have been appointed to various ships. The Express connects these orders with the situation in the far East and declares that the Admiralty is apprehensive.

The centennial celebration of the Feast of the Nativity will open in this city with Mr. Light Mass in St. Dunstan's Cathedral. It will be a solemn Pontifical Mass, with his Lordship Bishop McLeod as Celebrant. The assistant priest will be Rev. Dr. Curran, with Rev. Dr. Monaghan and Rev. Father Campbell as deacons of honor, and Rev. Mr. McLellan and Rev. Father McPherson as deacon and subdeacon of office. The sermon will be preached by Rev. Dr. Morrison.

A LARGE and appreciative audience attended the lecture of Rev. John A. McDonald, of Miscouche, in the B. I. S. Hall in this city on Wednesday evening the 16th inst. The subject of the lecture was "Ions and its Founder." The Rev. lecturer a few years ago, visited far famed Iona, the home of St. Columba, or St. Columbkille, as he is perhaps more generally known. In graphic language the Rev. lecturer described the island of Iona, and the ancient monastery established by St. Columba and his companions after arrival from Ireland. From this famous shrine of religion and learning, St. Columba and his companions went forth and accomplished such wonders in the evangelization of Scotland. Here religion and science flourished long before many other nations had awakened from barbarism and entered on the path of civilization. Before St. Columba came to Scotland he is said to have founded as many as thirty-seven monasteries, and these in addition to those founded in Scotland brought the number of his foundations up to about one hundred. Ions became a famous burial place, and over fifty kings are there interred. They were kings of Scotland, Ireland, Norway and France. According to prophecy the mortal remains of St. Columbkille were laid to rest in Ireland, beside those of St. Patrick and St. Bridget. The lecture was most learned and interesting and intensely enjoyed by all present. A vote of thanks was moved by Mr. James Paton, and seconded by Mr. W. L. Cotton and tendered to the Rev. Lecturer to which he suitably responded.

DIED

In this city, on Dec. 20th, Ann Connor, aged 58 years, May her soul rest in peace. At S. Tereza on Nov. 6th, and 7th, of diphtheria, Elizabeth aged 18, and Ambrose, aged 15, beloved children of Peter Goodwin, leaving beside a loving father three brothers and three sisters to mourn. May their souls rest in peace. In New York Dec. 17th, John A. King son of the late John King aged 31 years. May his soul rest in peace.

The Prices.

Table listing various goods and their prices: Butter (fresh) 0.32 to 0.34, Butter (salt) 0.18 to 0.23, Beans (per bush) 0.00 to 0.40, Cabbages 0.03 to 0.05, Calf skins 0.06 to 0.00, Carrots (per bush) 0.00 to 0.50, Ducks 0.09 to 0.10, Eggs, per doz. 0.19 to 0.22, Flour (per sack) 0.08 to 0.09, Hides 0.20 to 0.25, Hay, per 100 lbs. 0.06 to 0.00, Lettuce (per bunch) 0.00 to 0.05, Mutton, per lb. 0.05 to 0.06, Onions (per sack) 2.50 to 3.00, Potatoes (buyers price) 0.22 to 0.24, Pork 0.05 to 0.04, Raddish (per bunch) 0.00 to 0.00, Sheep pelts 0.40 to 0.50, Turkeys (per lb.) 0.10 to 0.12, Geese per lb. 0.10 to 0.10, Milk cans 0.00 to 0.30, White oak 0.00 to 0.30, Pressed hay 0.00 to 0.50, Straw 5.50 to 6.00.

The Christmas Dinner.

In spite of the fact that the word dyspepsia means literally bad cook, it will not be fair for many to lay the blame on the cook if they begin the Christmas Dinner with little appetite and end it with distress or nausea. It may not be fair for us to do that—let us hope so for the sake of the cook! The disease dyspepsia, indicates a bad stomach, that is a weak stomach, rather than a bad cook, and for a weak stomach there is nothing else equal to Hood's Sarsaparilla. It gives stomach vigor and tone, cures dyspepsia, creates appetite, and makes eating the pleasure it should be.

In SUITS -- AND -- Overcoats! Illustration of a man in a suit and a woman in a dress.

We can give you the best value to be had in this city. That's what we say and that's what we mean.

The remarkable increase in our Clothing Business proves it. Every day satisfied men leave our store taking with them a "Perfection Brand" Suit or Overcoat, or perhaps both, at prices that will increase business without an argument. We've forged a leadership for low prices, and we're clinching it faster every day.

We do not expect the whole trade of every man in this community. We believe in live and let live; but we do think that our HIGH QUALITY and LOW PRICES should secure for us the "Lion's Share."

In Men's Furnishings Illustration of various men's clothing items like hats, shoes, and accessories.

We have everything of the best in the different qualities at prices to suit every purse.

Good warm Underwear, handsome Ties, Gloves, Sox, Shirts. In fact everything a man wears, except the boots.

Why not buy your Hat or Cap here?

You certainly can do no better—we doubt if you can do as good. See the latest shapes in stock at prices that will tempt you to buy.

Nothing too good for the rising generation.

See our good, stylish, serviceable Suits and Overcoats

They are sure to please the young fellows, as well as their parents—and the prices! Well, just come in and see what we can do for you. You are sure to be a customer ever after.

We wish all our customers and friends a right merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

SENTNER, TRAINOR & CO. PERFECTION CLOTHIERS. Pownall Street and Sunnyside, Charlottetown.