

CITY IS IN WHIRL AS LAST MINUTE SHOPPING DONE

CROWDS OUT IN LIGHT SNOWFALL.

Stores Busy—Santa Claus in Rush For Clean-up by Midnight.

In order to live up to the tradition concerning the stillness that must exist in every home tonight, that stillness unbroken even by the stirring of a mouse, St. John will have to have a terrific reaction. It surely will have to do some wonderful cleaning down for the rush and bustle about the city this forenoon looked and sounded as if the pre-holiday record for gift sales and Christmas arrangements was going to be smashed to smithereens.

Good Day for Finish.

Overcast, quiet and with a gentle, timely snowfall good old Mother Nature sets her stage with surprising appropriateness for the spirited events that lead up to the glorious climax of tomorrow. A better day for cleaning the state of gift-buying could not be wished for—a mild winter day for getting about on those mysterious little backstreet errands, so wonderful in worth while. St. John's composite Santa Claus never was busier. Every store was crowded with eager shoppers. At midday it looked like a clean-up. Flitting about in an automobile, stopping here and there to dash through a store a Times-Star reporter plied poor old St. Nicholas. Truly he would have to be a saint to stand the jostle and excitement of it all. Every delivery vehicle was piled high, clerks still wore their smiles, though tired out; the turkey-trot reached its disquiet whizz pitched in various financial gears according to the whim of the dealer or the size of his stock. And so on in the forenoon, at the lunch hour and as the Times-Star was being tucked away for the press.

Merry Christmas Everybody

Marr Millinery Co. Limited

Here is Another **FUR COAT SNAP!**

9 Beautiful Electric Seal 45 and 47 inch

COATS

To be sold at **\$110**

F. S. THOMAS

539 to 545 Main St.

NEW FRENCH CHINA

7866 Greek Key Design, with Gold Lacing and Full Gold Handles.

Your opportunity to start on something that is beautiful and different.

W. H. HAYWARD CO. Limited, 85-93 Princess St.

FREE

To Hustling Boys

Five Pairs

—OF—

ALFRED JOHNSON'S SKATES

Every school-boy between 12 and 18 years of age should enter

SPORTING LIFE

subscription contest. Just think of it. Five pairs of the famous Alfred Johnson Skates to the five boys turning in the largest number of subscriptions to Sporting Life.

Apply at

SPORTING LIFE OFFICE

Room 1, Dominion Bank Building
Prince William Street

LOCAL NEWS

HOME FOR BURIAL.

The body of Frank E. Williams was brought to this morning on the Montreal train and was removed to the home, Germain street. The funeral will be held Friday afternoon.

FOR THE ORPHANS.

The Sunshine Club of which Miss Helen G. Tracy is secretary, and which meets once a week and contributes 10 cents per member a week to the N. B. Protestant Orphan Home, has given \$9.25 for the children's Christmas cheer.

HOME FOR HOLIDAY.

Thomas C. Nickson has arrived home from Newfoundland to spend Christmas with his family at their home in Paradise row and is being heartily welcomed by his friends. Mr. Nickson has been engaged in the large paper mill operations in the Ancient Colony.

ALL BY HIMSELF.

Only one man was taken into custody yesterday by local police. He was charged with drunkenness and, after sobering up, made a deposit of \$8, which he forfeited by his non-appearance in the police court this morning.

THEY'RE MISSING TODAY.

Whether it is that they have taken a Christmas holiday or that they have been lost in the shuffle due to the heavy work in the post office and express service these days, the fact is that our friends, Matt and Jeff, have not reached St. John to bid their friends the season's compliments.

HERE FRIDAY FOR HIM.

Chief of Police Smith has received word from Halifax saying that a Christmas man was taken into custody on Tuesday night by local police and held for the provincial police of Nova Scotia.

CONTRIBUTION FROM DETROIT.

There came in The Times-Star mail this morning a check from J. P. Carritte, Detroit, for \$20 to be divided between The Times-Star Empty Stocking Fund and the Globe's Goodfellows Fund. His wishes in this regard were complied with and the thoughtful contribution of this former prominent St. John resident will help in bringing Christmas cheer to needy ones.

CHRISTMAS AT COUNTY HOSPITAL.

The St. John County Hospital has taken on a real Christmas appearance, and Mrs. C. A. Clark is expected to visit the institution tonight. First there will be singing of Christmas carols, and then the gifts which have been placed on the trees in each ward will be distributed. Tomorrow the usual Christmas dinner will be served.

WILL APPEAL CASE.

A. W. Smith, a milk producer from Colbrook, said today that he would appeal a decision of Magistrate Henderson in the police court yesterday afternoon. He was charged, after refusing to give Inspector Tilley of the Board of Health a bottle of milk. He had had refused on the ground that the inspector had no container to take a sample. Magistrate Henderson, he said, said a fine of \$10 to allow the case to be appealed.

ARE GIVEN FREEDOM.

The spirit of Christmas was evident at police headquarters this morning when Magistrate Henderson arrived here on foot into the jail, and seeing a couple of "old timers" still in custody serving terms for drunkenness, he ordered their release. He had given an opportunity to spend Christmas with their families. He admonished them to be cautious in their celebration and not be in the dock on Friday morning.

SAY HE WAS STOWAWAY.

Frederick Field, aged 20, who says he is a native of Ontario, was given in charge yesterday by Captain Smith, of the S. S. Canadian Seigneur, as being a stowaway from Swansea. A representative of the local office of the C. G. M. M. was in court this morning and informed Magistrate Henderson that they had no desire to prosecute. The man was ordered turned over to the immigration authorities.

FUNERALS.

The funeral of Mrs. George Harned was held this afternoon from her late residence, 70 Water street, West St. John. Services were conducted by Rev. W. A. Robbins and Rev. F. T. Bertram. Interment was made in Cedar Hill. Among the floral tributes were: Broken circle, H. Garson and staff; ex-rays from Mr. and Mrs. D. McLean, Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Harned, Mr. and Mrs. F. Brownell, Ludlow street Baptist Sunday school, Mr. and Mrs. Philip Lee, Mr. and Mrs. John Harned, Mr. and Mrs. E. Watson, Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Harned, J. B. Moore, the Baptist League, Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Chase, the Ludlow street church, and a pillow from the family.

PREPARE FOR CONTESTS.

During this week Charlie Gorman, international skating champion, has been practising in the Arena getting into condition for his campaign against the premier skaters in America. He has been showing a great burst of speed and is gradually rounding into shape. The members of the St. John senior hockey team have also been practising every night at the Arena and they are gradually getting their wind strengthened, their combination plays perfected and their eye on the puck.

J. DONAHUE INJURED.

James Donahue of Church Avenue, Fairville, a C. P. R. trucker in No. 3 shed, Sand Point, had three fingers of his left hand crushed yesterday afternoon. He sustained the injury when his hand became jammed in a door of one of the box cars. He had the injury attended to at the Emergency Hospital and later left for his home.

Papers Will Not Be Issued Tomorrow

Tomorrow, being Christmas Day, neither The Telegraph-Journal nor The Evening Times-Star will be issued. The publishers extend to all the readers of both papers their best wishes for a Merry Christmas.

RADIO CALL IS OUT FOR MISSING VESSEL WELL KNOWN HERE

SCHOONER FIELDWOOD 2 WEEKS OVERDUE.

Captain is Ezra Forsythe, Who Has Sailed Frequently Out of St. John.

K—Radio Call—P12
An appeal for information regarding the whereabouts of the British schooner Fieldwood was sent out to ships at last night by radio station at Philadelphia at the request of the British Consul. The schooner, which is well known at the port of St. John, has not been heard from for more than two weeks and some fears are entertained for her safety. She is commanded by Captain Ezra Forsythe, who has commanded vessels out of this port for more than 20 years.

Was From Parrsboro.
The Fieldwood, a three-masted vessel, sailed from Parrsboro, N. S., on November 22 for Philadelphia with a full cargo of laths. She was last heard from on Dec. 7 at Vineyard Haven, her progress having been delayed by storms. She was expected in Philadelphia about Dec. 15, but her non-arrival of the ship, relatives of members of the crew telegraphed to the consul at Philadelphia which had chartered the vessel. The British Consul, on learning of the situation, decided to enlist the aid of radio.

Well Known Here.
A despatch to The Times-Star says that the Fieldwood is commanded by Captain Arthur Forsythe, but a prominent local shipping man said this morning that this must be a mistake as Captain Ezra Forsythe is the man in charge of the vessel.

Shipping men believe the schooner may have been blown out of the regular path of coastwise shipping after leaving Vineyard Haven. They point out that the vessel's full cargo of laths would tend to keep her aloft even though she had met with mishap. Further word of the schooner is being awaited eagerly.

SEES ST. JOHN IS MAKING PROGRESS

J. R. Nelson of Fairville Comes Home From Calgary For Christmas Holidays.

J. Royden Nelson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Stewart Nelson, Fairville, who has returned home for the Christmas holidays from Calgary, Alta., where he has been doing chartered accountant's work for the last few years, is being warmly welcomed by his friends. Previous to going west, Mr. Nelson was employed in the Fairville branch of the Bank of Nova Scotia as cashier. His duties there he ably filled until, on the advice of his doctor, he removed to a drier climate. His friends will be glad to know he has fully regained his strength and will have his final examinations in chartered accountancy next year.

This is Mr. Nelson's first visit home in four years, and he finds things somewhat changed. He believes the city has made excellent progress in the building line in the short time he has been away. Although he thinks a great deal of his native city, he is a strong booster for the spirit of optimism that is so characteristic of the west. Having been engaged in audit work for many years, he has been able to secure a fairly accurate estimate of business conditions throughout the west and believes that one of the big needs there is manufacturing industries. Everything now depends on the farmers and their crops.

Mr. Nelson will return to Calgary the first of the New Year.

BANK CLEARINGS.

St. John bank clearings this week were \$1,967,969; last year \$2,398,657; in 1922 \$2,516,663. Halifax clearings were \$2,469,292. The Montreal figures were \$815,698.

As Hiram Sees It

"Hiram," said The Times reporter to Mr. Hiram Hornbeam, "have you any fault to find with any person today?"

"I hev," said Hiram. "Who is he?" asked the reporter.

"Old Hiram Hornbeam," was the prompt reply.

"You amaze me," said the reporter.

"Well, you wouldn't expect me to be settin' in judgment on anybody else the day afore Christmas—would you?" demanded Hiram.

"I suppose not," said the reporter. "When I stop to think—I guess you are right. But what is the matter with Hiram Hornbeam?"

"Oh," said Hiram, "he's an ornery old cuss that ain't no better than I orto be. I wish he had a million dollars."

"What for?" asked the reporter.

"To dry the eyes of a lot of kids tomorrow," said Hiram, "an' make 'em shiver. Yes, I'd like to be a Sandy Claus with a million dollars. I'd give every poor kid in Nook Brunswick a hunk of punkin pie an' a pair o' boots."

FLASHLIGHTS

A Gift for All the Family

Here's a convenience for every month in the year that a man, woman or boy can use to advantage.

Our assortment includes all styles and sizes from 95c. to \$5.00

There are so many practical gift things to select from here that you will find just the gift you know will be most appreciated.

PHONE Main 2540 **McAVITY'S** 11-17 King Street

Yuletide is the Year's 13th Month

A month of just five amazing shopping days. Five shopping days left for the old year 1924 to clean house and make room for the New Year 1925.

A whole month's work to do in five days. And we make this Five Wonderful Days for wise shoppers, with big special offerings for each day.

FRIDAY STARTS OFF WITH

Yuletide Sale of Women's Cosy Coats

Suedines, Velours, in Grey, Reindeer, Copen, Black. Enlarged fur collars of Beaver, Viska, or Coney. Coats are fully lined and interlined and at this big reduction your Christmas money will be exceptionally well spent.

REGULAR \$30 to \$35 Coats **\$22.85**

Girls' Coats at Marked Reductions

Regular \$7.50 to \$9.50 6 only, sizes 3 to 6 yrs., 12 and 14 **\$5.85**

Regular \$15, \$16.50 Heavy full lined and some fur trimmed, 6 only, sizes 9 to 14 yrs. **\$11.85**

Women's Shop—3rd Floor

SCOVIL BROS., LTD. Oak Hall King St.

A. ERNEST EVERETT THE HOUSE FURNISHER

91 CHARLOTTE STREET

M GOOD-NATURED MAGEE SERVICE

Makes Last Shopping Hours Easy

An Unusual Christmas Store Since 1859

IF YOU'RE CHOOSING GIFTS FOR A MAN

OR IF YOU DESIRE GIFTS FOR A WOMAN

Gift Prices

A Winter Coat \$23.50 to \$43.00
A Necktie or Two 75c to \$1.50
A Velour Hat \$6.50 and \$9.00
A Warm Muffler, Woolen or Silk \$1.50 to \$4.00
Socks, Silk or Woolen 75c to \$1.50
An Umbrella, Silk \$4.50 to \$10.50
Gloves—Topsilks—Pajamas—Handkerchiefs \$1.00 to \$13.50

Buy it where he'd Buy it himself

Any gift from here Is doubly welcome.

D. MAGEE'S SONS, LTD., 63 King St.

Since 1859 St. John, N. B.

GIFTS FOR MEN WHO SMOKE

No gift more acceptable than Pipes, Cigarettes, Tobaccos or Smokers' Accessories.

Louis Green's Cigar Store, 89 Charlotte St. Opp. "Admiral Beatty"