

THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 1904.

**THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH.**  
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**Semi-Weekly Telegraph**

ST. JOHN, N. B., JANUARY 6, 1904.

**A NEW YEAR.**

The industries are that 1904 will be a  
year of progress and development in  
Canada, in which the maritime provinces  
will have at least a modest share. It ap-  
pears to be safe to grant that we shall  
have the general elections early in  
the year, but whatever effect the result  
may have on government policy, it is cer-  
tainly a fact that the government will  
continue to go forward. No government and no party can  
expect the general of a country occupying  
the position in the world and possessing  
the resources and advantages of the Do-  
minion of Canada.

The first question that the public will  
ask is whether the far east case is  
a serious shadow on the opening days  
of the new year, and the issue is a  
matter of grave anxiety. A war between  
Russia and Japan would be almost certain  
to involve our powers to some extent,  
and the general interruption of the world's  
commerce. It may be, however,  
that the dispute will be settled  
in a satisfactory manner.

1904 will witness a continuance  
of Chamberlain's propaganda, and  
another forward step on the  
closer trade relations between the  
Empire of the British empire, and  
to the true of other portions  
of Britain; but the present field  
of the home land, and the result  
of Chamberlain's propaganda campaign  
will be the most important factor,  
by which the empire will be the  
benefit of all the great trading nations  
of the world.

Looking down to our own province, it is  
to be expected that the current year will witness  
an active development of the mineral  
rich, and of other enterprises adding  
to the importance of an industrial centre;  
the provision of further facilities  
for winter past trade will no doubt be  
a feature of the year. In the summer we shall have at St.  
John the ten-centenary celebration, probably  
marked with the most memorable in the  
history of the province.

1904, despite some misgivings,  
will be a hopeful year, because of the  
renewal of confidence in human  
nature.

The year 1903 brought many blessings,  
and so much will be expected of the year  
on which we have now entered.

**A DESERVING CAUSE.**

The city council should without hesita-  
tion grant the sum of \$1,000, asked for by  
the Victoria Order of Nurses. The ex-  
penditure is justifiable on two grounds.  
The first, and the one which would most  
naturally appeal to the members as guar-  
anties of the treasury, is that the order is  
a most valuable auxiliary to the public  
hospital, and therefore in a sense a public  
institution. The other is that there is no  
charity more fit, more deserving, or more  
deserving than the work of these nurses in  
the homes of the poor; and therefore on  
the merits of their deserving assistance.

Admiral Millidge very properly said  
yesterday that the city grants sums of  
money to those who, or for entertain-  
ment, or for some like purpose, quite  
freely, and in none of those cases is there  
any justification as in that of the  
support of the Victoria Order.

For five years two awards have been em-  
ployed, and all expenses paid without an  
account to the council. Mrs. Ellis pointed  
out clearly to the treasury board  
yesterday that the money has been con-  
tributed by people who personally derive  
benefit at all, except the consciousness  
of having done a kindly act. The poor are  
a person who profit, and the poor of  
denominations. Mrs. Smith yesterday  
quoted the words of a clergyman who said  
he could scarcely have believed if he had  
not witnessed the wonderful transfor-  
mation made in the home of a poor family  
by the methodical, sympathetic, skillful  
and unobtrusive work of one of the  
nurses. They live in the hospital and go  
out when the doctors ask them to go.  
One of them may make as many as ten  
calls in a day, or may spend most of the  
day in one home, according to the urgency  
of the case. They look after the patient,  
perhaps wash and dress the children, do  
some cooking if necessary, brighten up  
everywhere. One cannot compute  
the amount of such service. If the people  
are willing to contribute a little,  
the amount goes into the fund  
of the order. If they can

We're nothing they receive the same sym-  
pathy and care.

The ladies who have labored so faith-  
fully to establish the order desire now to  
see its work enlarged, and to be them-  
selves freed from the necessity of con-  
stantly soliciting aid from their friends.  
The grant from the city will not lessen  
their zeal, but enable them to do more in  
the future than in the past. They not  
only deserve thanks for their past efforts,  
but also the small measure of support  
from all the citizens which they now ask  
at the hands of the council. It will be an  
appropriate New Year's gift.

**THE PROVINCIAL FINANCES.**

The abstract of the provincial accounts  
published in the Royal Gazette are very  
satisfactory. The receipts in respect to  
the most important items, which may be  
said to be controllable by the government,  
particularly territorial revenue, are larger  
than the provincial secretary estimated in  
his budget speech at the last session.

The execution duties amounted to the  
respectable sum of \$23,983.11, while the  
provincial secretary estimated \$30,000.  
This falling off is understood to be largely  
due to a decision of the judicial com-  
mittee of the Privy Council, the effect of  
which was to relieve from duties the es-  
tate of a wealthy citizen of Nova Scotia,  
who died, leaving a large sum of money  
on deposit in one of the banks in this  
province. The sum collected is largely in  
excess of the annual average since the  
Succession Duty Act came into force.

The provincial secretary also estimated  
on the sum of \$8,000 from the dominion  
government, being one-half the cost of  
wharves built by the board of works on  
the St. John river and its tributaries,  
while only \$3,000 has been paid. He also  
estimated on about \$12,000, a claim arising  
in respect to the loss of rental by the  
provinces for fishing rights on a branch  
of the Restigouche, by reason of the waters  
having been appropriated by the Marine  
and Fisheries Department for breeding  
purposes. Both these claims have been  
very persistently pressed upon the domi-  
nion government. Only \$3,000 has been  
paid, but the auditor general states, an  
immediate settlement is promised. Had  
both these sums been received during the  
year, the receipts would have been in-  
creased by over \$17,000, and so the es-  
timate of the provincial secretary would  
have been exceeded. The time of pay-  
ment, however, by the dominion is be-  
yond the control of the provincial govern-  
ment. Had they been received, the cur-  
rent revenue, including the balance of  
\$6,785.91 from the previous year, would  
have exceeded the current  
expenditure by \$8,903.24. To this  
should be added the proceeds of debentures  
issued to cover the extraordinary  
expenses caused by the small pox epidemic,  
which has been charged to current ac-  
count, the large sum of \$12,979.52, having  
been paid during the past year.

There are also two items of unusual  
expenditure—one of \$8,143.05 for the gen-  
eral elections, and another of \$10,042.98  
for the revision of the statutes. Three  
thousand dollars of debentures have also  
been redeemed out of current revenues.

There was an issue of \$125,000, author-  
ized by the legislature, for permanent  
bridges. This amount appears on both  
sides of the account, and does not alter  
the result so far as current revenue and  
expenditure are concerned.

**MR. BLAIR'S CAREER.**

The retirement of Hon. A. G. Blair  
from political life is a notable event of  
the past year. For twenty years he has  
been a commanding figure in the politics  
of New Brunswick, and his retirement  
leaves a gap not easily filled. No man  
has been more earnestly championed or  
more vigorously assailed. In the provincial  
arena he was invincible, and in federal  
politics he held a very prominent position  
until his voluntary act deprived him  
of power and patronage, and led to the  
series of events which are now a matter  
of familiar history. Whatever the ver-  
dict of the future upon the ending of his  
political career, his name will fill a large  
place in the history of this province for  
the period from 1882 until 1903.

Mr. Blair entered the New Brunswick  
House of Assembly in 1878, as one of the  
members for York county, and in the fol-  
lowing year was chosen leader of the oppo-  
sition party. Those who were students  
in Fredericton, or had occasion to be in  
the city and attend the sessions of the  
legislature during the next three or four  
years, have a lively recollection of the  
wordy duels between Mr. Blair and the  
present Mr. Justice Hanington, who was  
then the strong man of the government  
party. In 1883 Mr. Blair defeated the  
Hanington government, and became premier  
of New Brunswick. That position he  
held until 1886, his government being suc-  
cessful in the general provincial elections  
of 1886, 1890, 1892, and 1893. He was him-  
self defeated in York in 1892, in a cam-  
paign that was waged with intense bitter-  
ness throughout the province; but Mr.  
Hetherington of Queens county resigned,  
and Mr. Blair was elected to represent  
that county. In 1896 he resigned the  
premiership he had held so long, and  
which he might have held ever since, and  
accepted a seat in the federal cabinet, as  
minister of railways and canals. He was  
elected to represent Queens-Sunbury, Mr.  
King resigning in his favor, and in 1900  
he was elected member for the city of  
St. John. His energetic and progressive  
policy as minister of railways is familiar  
history; and now, almost twenty-one years  
from the date of his elevation to the  
premiership of his native province, he has  
retired from the political arena.

Mr. Blair was a member of the inter-

provincial conference held in Quebec in  
1897, and was one of the vice-chairmen  
of the Liberal convention in Ottawa in  
1898. As minister of railways and canals  
he secured the extension of the Inter-  
colonial railway to Montreal, and let the  
contract in 1897 to complete the canal  
system by a 14-foot water way from the  
lakes to the sea. He opposed the Grand  
Trunk Pacific scheme, and broke with  
his colleagues on that issue. His with-  
drawal from the leadership of his party  
in New Brunswick deprived that party of  
an exceptionally clever and resourceful  
mind, and a commanding personality.  
When the heat of partisan feeling has  
subsided and a later generation reviews  
the record of this, whatever may be said  
of Mr. Blair's course since he delivered  
his memorable speech in condemnation of  
the Grand Trunk Pacific scheme, it will  
be recognized that for more than twenty  
years he rendered good service to his  
native province, and deserves to rank  
among its ablest legislators.

**A BUSINESS VIEW.**

The New York Commercial makes the  
usual mistake of inference. United States  
journals apparently do not care to inform  
themselves concerning Canadian opinion,  
and it is therefore not surprising that  
the Commercial should make the following  
statement:

"It is worth noting that the demand for  
closer reciprocal trade relations than at  
present rule between the United States  
and Canada comes chiefly from the Cana-  
dians themselves on the one hand," etc.

But if the Commercial has not learned  
that Canadians are not demanding recip-  
rocity it is able to speak with authority  
on another question, and to show that  
without reciprocity the Americans are do-  
ing a remarkably good business with Can-  
ada. Here is the statement, and it is  
worthy of careful attention:

Our imports from Canada in 1893 were  
valued at only about \$34,000,000; they now  
amount to \$55,000,000 annually. Ten years  
ago we exported to Canada commodities  
valued at \$57,000,000. Last year our ex-  
ports to the dominion had reached an  
aggregate of \$120,000,000. Briefly, our  
trade with Canada both ways was only  
about \$91,000,000 in value in 1893. Today  
it has been piled up to a total of \$185,  
000,000. We have thus doubled our  
trade with our northern neighbors in the  
past decade—have increased it more than  
100 per cent, and most of this increase has  
been brought about under the present  
tariff regulations that have been in force  
for nearly seven years.

During the same decade the entire for-  
eign commerce of the United States was  
increased about 50 per cent. The per-  
centage of increase in our Canadian trade  
has been twice as great as that of our  
trade with all the outside world com-  
bined.

The United States is doing very well  
indeed under existing tariff regulations,  
even in the face of a 33 per cent prefer-  
ence accorded by Canada in the duties  
levied on imports from the United King-  
dom.

**AN IMPORTANT QUESTION.**

The communication in today's Telegraph  
from J. W. Daniel, M. D., and Thomas  
Walker, M. D., relative to the proceedings  
against members of the medical profes-  
sion, for not reporting births occurring in  
their practice, will be read with a great  
deal of interest; and will also suggest the  
propriety of further enquiry as to the  
whole law relating to vital statistics.

It appears that the proceedings against  
the physicians have been withdrawn, and  
their counsel expresses the conviction that  
the whole vital statistics act is ultra  
vires. If this latter opinion be correct,  
the municipality has been put to expense  
without legal warrant. The proceedings  
against the physicians have revealed either  
too much or too little; and the public  
will now desire to know exactly where  
they stand with regard to the whole act  
and its provisions. It is not now a ques-  
tion of the regular, but for the municipali-  
ty and the provincial government to  
consider.

So far as the physicians are concerned,  
the professional reasons given for their  
refusal to furnish the information required  
of them will commend themselves to the  
public. Their criticism of the registra-  
tion may be natural under the circum-  
stances, but they will of course recognize  
that it is their duty to give the statistics,  
and that it is a very difficult task. But  
now the question takes on a new aspect,  
and calls for further enquiry.

**THE FERRY SERVICE.**

It is estimated that over a million and  
a half of passengers crossed the St. John  
ferry last year. The increase for 1903  
is estimated to have been about 140,  
000, and the previous year showed a large  
increase over the figures of 1901. For  
years the volume of ferry traffic has been  
increasing, but the service has not been  
improved. It is true that tenders are  
now asked for the construction of a new  
ferry steamer, but nothing has been done  
to provide a better service in the mean-  
time. The winter port business is in full  
swing, and every day sees at certain hours  
a congestion of traffic. The subject has  
been discussed over and over again at  
board and council meetings, but nothing  
has resulted. It is within the power of  
the city council to give a better service  
than is now enjoyed, and in view of the  
amount of enlarged traffic the subject  
is worthy of reconsideration. It is believ-  
ed that the legitimate ferry expenses  
could be reduced, and that the cost of  
repairs to the ferry boats is greater than  
need be. It would perhaps be a very  
good move if the council would designate  
the new year by appointing a ferry com-  
mittee to look after that institution and  
see to it that the people get a good  
service without any waste of public funds.  
Of course the officials ought to attend to  
the business, but from the constant com-  
plaints and the ridiculous things that have

been done in connection with the west  
side ferry toll house, it is perfectly clear  
that something more than the ordinary  
official supervision is required.

**THE PROVINCIAL FINANCES.**

Some of the newspapers opposed to the  
provincial Government, including the  
Globe, are seeking to create the impres-  
sion that it has done something very  
wrong and very extraordinary because the  
Public Works Department last year bor-  
rowed some money on debentures for the  
purpose of building steel bridges and other  
works of a permanent character. They do  
not tell their readers that the legislature  
some years ago approved of this policy,  
and the electors of the province have  
very emphatically endorsed it.

The same policy was inaugurated in  
Nova Scotia, when Hon. Mr. Fielding was  
premier, and has been pursued by his  
successor.

With as much reason might it be said  
that the city of St. John should have  
constructed the wharves in Carleton  
of the current income of the city during  
the period of this construction instead of  
issuing debentures, than it can be said  
that permanent bridges should be built  
out of current revenue. Had not the legi-  
slature and the people agreed to the policy  
of constructing these works on capital  
account, New Brunswick would be without  
the great number of steel bridges which  
have been constructed in the various  
counties of the province, and which for  
generations to come will afford very nec-  
essary accommodation to the people, and of  
which they are justly proud.

One contemporary opposed to the gov-  
ernment are sorely at a loss for valid  
ground of attack on the administration,  
when they make this an excuse for cen-  
sure.

**A REMARKABLE CHANGE.**

The use of cement for building purposes  
is made the subject of an article of several  
columns length in a New York commer-  
cial paper, and the facts set forth are  
merely astonishing. The following sum-  
mary statement will give an idea of the  
remarkable industrial change that is be-  
ing wrought:

Only a few years ago the use of con-  
crete cement was confined to building  
foundations, vaults and structural work  
of a primary character. The closing year  
witnesses such phenomenal achievements  
in the application of this manufactured  
product as to cause almost a revolution  
in many leading departments of structural  
work, embracing high office buildings,  
dwellings, public works, municipal im-  
provements, railroads, factories, farming,  
submarine, mining, ornamental and rec-  
reational ground construction.

Next to the exploitation of electricity  
there is perhaps no other field in which  
the progress of modern science has made  
strides during the closing year as in the  
new use made of concrete and reinforced  
concrete cement for structural work,  
reinforcing concrete with embedded steel  
rods, bars or wire mesh. This article has  
become almost indispensable in every  
component part of high building and  
engineering work, and the completion  
of skyscrapers made entirely of reinforced  
concrete, including girders, walls, floors,  
roofs, foundations and piling.

**IN NORTHUMBRIA.**

The Newcastle Advertiser confirms pre-  
vious statements that politics are badly  
mixed in the county of Northumbria.  
It says:

"The political factions of each party in  
the county seem to be irreconcilable and  
are each pursuing their own ends irre-  
spective of party or party principle. Each  
party is divided, and unless some stren-  
uous effort is made by party leaders the  
next general election will find this county  
in a worse political muddle than that  
which prevailed at the last election."

The Advertiser says that a section of the  
Conservative party is not satisfied with  
Mr. Robinson, and wants a convention  
called to nominate a candidate. It be-  
lieves that if a convention were called  
Mr. Robinson would still be the man, but  
there is at present an element of discus-  
sion in the party.

When it comes to the Liberal party, the  
Advertiser says the situation is even more  
difficult. The party who supported Mr. Mor-  
rison before are anxious to have him run  
again, but another section wants some  
other man. Mr. Morrison, it says, is not  
anxious to run, but might be induced to  
do so. The Advertiser says there will un-  
questionably be a strong Liberal in the  
field, and if the party were united would  
have "a fighting chance to win." But  
without unity it declares the party would  
be doomed to defeat.

**TRIUMPHANT ELECTRICITY.**

The year 1903 has witnessed a further  
remarkable growth of the use of electricity  
as a motive power, crowding steam still  
more into the background. The follow-  
ing from the Railway Age, which also  
points out that electricity is coming into  
use, sets forth the views of experts on  
the subject:

The steam locomotive in its best estate  
is an expensive proposition, and with the  
increasing development in the application  
of electricity to motive power it stands  
a fair chance of being relegated to a se-  
condary place. It is simply a commercial  
proposition. The adaptability and effi-  
ciency of electricity in that line of work  
have been demonstrated, and just so far  
as it is possible to be more economical  
than the steam locomotive it will be em-  
ployed.

Not long ago ten miles was thought to  
be a long distance for the transmission  
of electric power, but we have already  
reached the point where fifty miles is not  
considered prohibitive. In view of these  
changing conditions it may be well for  
the railway managers to consider carefully  
if any branch lines, which are now ap-  
parently at a loss, cannot be successfully  
conducted through the medium of elec-  
tricity. Certain it is that suburban lines  
from ten to fifty miles in length are thus  
operated with more or less success where  
a steam line would prove an utter failure.

# Great Clothing Bargains

FOR MEN AND BOYS.

Did you get a money present for Xmas? If so, here's a chance to spend it wisely and economically. All our stock of Men's and Boys' Ulsters and Reefers have been greatly reduced in price to effect a speedy clearance. It is the chance of chances for any one who needs warm outer garments. You can wrap yourself up in one of these big roomy Ulsters and enjoy the luxury of cold weather.

Remember the Reductions are from our own prices, which every one knows are much lower than those prevailing elsewhere.

- MEN'S ULSTERS**—Made of excellent quality heavy weight dark Oxford Canadian Frieze, cut double breasted style with high storm collar; heavy tweed body lining. A warm coat of good wearing quality. Regular price, \$6.00; SALE PRICE, \$4.25.
- MEN'S BLIZZARD ULSTERS**—Made of extra heavy triple twisted 10 oz. brown duck, cut double breasted style. Deep corduroy storm collar. Body and sleeves lined with heavy mackinac and interlined throughout with rubber, which makes the coat wind and water-proof. Without a doubt the warmest and most serviceable coat made for teamsters and others exposed to severe winter weather. Regular price, \$9.00; SALE PRICE, \$6.85.
- MEN'S REEFERS, EXTRA BARGAINS**—In this lot only sizes 36, 37. Made of blue nap and dark brown frieze. Regular prices, \$3.75 to \$5.00; TO CLEAR, \$2.25.
- BOYS' REEFERS**—Made of grey frieze and all wool tweed lining. High storm collar. 5 to 10 years, were \$2.50; NOW \$2.00. 11 to 15 years, were \$3.00; NOW \$2.35.
- BOYS' REEFERS**—Made of black and grey frieze, and all wool tweed linings. High storm collar. 5 to 10 years, were \$3.00; NOW \$2.35. 11 to 15 years, were \$3.75; NOW \$2.85.
- BOYS' REEFERS**—Made of English blue nap, with high storm collar and all wool tweed linings. 5 to 12 years, were \$1.50; NOW \$1.25.
- BOYS' REEFERS**—Made of grey frieze and all wool tweed lining. Storm collar. 5 to 10 years, were \$3.75; NOW \$2.85. 11 to 15 years, were \$4.50; NOW \$3.35.
- BOYS' ULSTERS**—Made of grey frieze and all wool tweed linings. Storm collar. Ages 6 to 10 years, were \$4.00; NOW \$3.00. Ages 11 to 15 years, were \$4.25; NOW \$3.15.

# GREATER OAK HALL,

KING STREET, } ST. JOHN.  
COR. GERMAIN }

## SCOVIL BROS. & CO.

These lines also are confined to the trans-  
portation of passengers, whereas if en-  
larged to include freight movement in or  
out of the city, they might be much more  
remunerative.

**THE ONTARIO SITUATION.**

The Toronto News, an independent  
journal, of which Mr. J. S. Willison,  
formerly editor of the Globe, is managing  
director, bitterly assails the Rose govern-  
ment for summoning the legislature of  
Ontario instead of resigning office. The  
News declares that the government is in-  
juring the Liberal cause in Ontario, and by  
its cowardice is daily strengthening the  
Conservative party. With regard to the  
Gamey affair it declares that "a deeply  
discreditable bargain was made with him  
by the ministers." No Conservative jour-  
nal has more strongly condemned the gov-  
ernment's course, which the News claims  
has been for some time past a continuous  
descent from Liberal ideals and profes-  
sions. It declares further that the gov-  
ernment is doomed, and that its friends  
and party workers all know that it can-  
not last long.

**MR. EMMERSON.**

The Moncton Transcript is confident  
that rumors which would give the por-  
tfolio of railways and canals to another  
than Hon. H. R. Emerson are not well  
founded. In the event of Mr. Emmer-  
son's appointment the Transcript thus in-  
dicates the course he would pursue:

"The Hon. Mr. Emerson, should he  
enter the cabinet, may be expected to at-  
tend instantly call the Liberals of New  
Brunswick together in a provincial con-  
vention, through the existing provincial  
organization, and show his desire to work  
in harmony and co-operation with the  
representative Liberals from every county  
in the province. The little formality in  
Westmorland county of submitting his ac-  
ceptance of a portfolio, to the ratification  
of a Liberal convention and thence to the  
electors, should he enter the cabinet, will  
be largely perfunctory. The electors, like  
the Liberal convention, may be expected  
to approve of his course by so decided a  
majority, to humbly speaking make un-  
necessary any delay in calling the provin-  
cial convention to meet in St. John city."

**CONCERNING TELEPHONES.**

In view of the discussion in the city  
council Monday on the subject of a  
civic telephone service, a statement of  
results of competition in some American  
cities will be of special interest. The  
American Telephone Journal of June 27, 1903,  
gave a statement of Bell telephone rates  
in a number of cities and the rates to  
which independent companies reduced the  
service.

At Adrian, Michigan, the Bell company,  
before they had competition, charged \$48  
for business and \$36 for residence tele-  
phones. An independent company cut the  
rates to \$24 and \$12 respectively, or to one  
half and one third of the former rates.  
At Auburn (N. Y.), the Bell rates were  
\$72 and \$60. An independent company cut  
them to \$30 and \$24.  
At Grand Rapids, Michigan, the Bell  
rates were \$30 and \$40. They were cut by  
an independent company to \$20 and \$20.  
At Duluth there was a flat rate of \$84.  
At St. Paul and Minneapolis the rates  
were \$120 and \$66. They were cut to \$48  
and \$30.  
At Louisville (Ky.), the rates were \$96  
and \$90. They were cut to \$48 and \$30.

Quite a number of other instances are  
given of similar reductions. Without  
fuller information in each instance it  
would not be fair to jump at a conclu-  
sion. If it is found that they do come

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