

PUBLISHERS' LETTER TO SUBSCRIBERS

Dear Sirs,—We take this opportunity of thanking all our subscribers for the very general response they have given to the notices recently sent out from this office, asking for remittance of amount due for subscription, before the date of closing our books for the year.

We heartily appreciate the kindness of our many friends in responding so promptly, and feel that this is proof of the very great interest taken by our subscribers in the welfare of the paper.

The Telegraph is the people's paper, and there is no more effective way of contributing to its success than by keeping the subscriptions paid up in advance. The management is thus enabled to take advantage of every opportunity to improve the paper, and so in turn benefit the readers.

We hope to make The Telegraph still brighter in the coming year, and so maintain the high standard it has always held as the best Semi-Weekly published in the Maritime Provinces; and to this end we ask that all our friends should interest their neighbors in the paper, as the larger our circulation patronage, the better paper we are enabled to produce.

With best wishes for a happy and prosperous New Year, we remain,

Yours Truly,

THE TELEGRAPH PUB. CO
S. J. MCGOWAN, Business Manager.

The SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH.
Published every Wednesday and Saturday at \$1.00 per year in advance by The Telegraph Publishing Company, St. John, a company incorporated by act of the Legislature of New Brunswick.

ADVERTISING RATES.
Ordinary commercial advertisements taking the run of the paper, each insertion, 25c per line. Notices of Births, Marriages and Deaths are charged for each insertion.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.
All remittances should be sent by post office order or registered letter, and addressed to the Telegraph Publishing Company. Correspondence should be sent to the Editor of The Telegraph, St. John. All subscriptions should, without exception, be paid for in advance.

AUTHORIZED AGENTS.
The following agents are authorized to sell and collect for The Semi-Weekly Telegraph, viz:—
Wm. Somerville,
W. A. Ferris.

Subscribers are asked to pay their subscriptions to the agents when they call.

Semi-Weekly Telegraph
ST. JOHN, N. B., DECEMBER 9, 1903.

EDITOR AND PRESIDENT.
A situation which Canadians are in a position to enjoy has arisen from the position taken by Mr. James Gordon Bennett, of the New York Herald, in gratuitously advising Great Britain and the United States to engage in a sham naval campaign in the Caribbean Sea. Certain British ships have been ordered to these waters at a time when an American squadron will be on service there and it is Mr. Bennett's whim that these fleets of the two friendly nations shall match wits in a "starkling and desperate" contest in the mimic and blindfold game of war.

It was to be expected that the great and grave men who more earnestly than any other Canadians receive the great American editor's novel suggestion with scant evidence of conviction. They have done so. Mr. Bennett has been confronted in many quarters by the argument that the spectacular exercise he suggests, and which he asserts would make far greater common respect and warmth of amicable feeling between the nations, would have no such happy effect as that which he ill-judgedly imagines. It is a dangerous, and dangerous, to play to play to war.

But Mr. Bennett is not the man to drop a suggestion until convinced that it is hopeless. His reporters in London, Paris, Berlin, St. Petersburg, Rome, Vienna and Washington have interviewed naval authorities for the purpose of fortifying his idea and have wrung from many notable commanders opinions favorable to it. It irks Mr. Bennett's vanity to be thus backwinded and he feels called upon to chide Theodore the First as a spoilsport and a carpet knight.

At a time when Canadians have come to regard Colonel Roosevelt as an expansionist and an aggressor of menacing stature it is peculiarly amusing to find the New York Herald charging him with timidity and inconsistency in matching ships with the British for the avowed purpose of increasing the bond between the nations and gaining much tactical and strategic knowledge of importance. Great Britain, Mr. Bennett says, is now cultivating friendly relations with all nations. He emphasizes this point and makes a comparison disparaging President Roosevelt.

This new spirit has been particularly noticeable since the adoption of King Edward's motto, which has been abandoned in a large measure to bring about the more successful conclusion of the relations between Great Britain and France in place of the old sentiment of mutual suspicion, and is proved by the anxiety relating between Great Britain and Italy, Great Britain and the United States, and that will continue to reign between the last two nations.

Mr. Roosevelt appears to have a weakness for dictatorship and to believe that the policy which Great Britain has abandoned in the very act of adopting the United States. That belief is neither factual nor justifiable. The bullying of feeble nations is no work for the Americans to do, and even should be founded upon a policy of "peace and good will" toward all peoples. At the very moment that the world begins to appreciate the inconceivable of "splendid isolation" Mr. Roosevelt would like to impose "splendid isolation" upon the United States. This is a serious quality in an American for Americans hitherto have prided themselves upon being in advance of it.

The Herald describes the President's attitude in the Panama affair as that of a "fire-breather," and charges that he will

at this time must be open to serious objection?

The Globe may be openly congratulated upon its determination to reform. It is now on record as saying that the candidates of a Liberal convention will be its candidates, presumably through "sunshine and through storm." This is a great concession, and possibly it may be hoped that the convention will not impose upon the now "humble" evening newspaper candidates who have the support of the party but who are not on the Globe's slate as it is now made up.

Incidentally it may be said that these forty-three years of strenuous advocacy of the Liberal party's cause cannot fairly be held to include the years during which the evening newspaper strayed after strange gods, notably annexation. The Globe is somewhat chastened, no doubt. The absence of Hon. Mr. Blair removes one of the great obstacles between its editor and the proper advocacy of his party, but since he is a man of so many likes and dislikes and has for yokefellow a man who can match him in that respect, who shall say that the Globe will do if the Liberal party here does not meet its demands? And who would be mad enough to contend that Liberal success in this constituency necessarily means agreement with the now humble evening contributor to party harmony?

MR. BORDEN.
The visit of the Opposition leader naturally arouses much interest and some enthusiasm in Conservative circles, and as his appearance in St. John at this time marks the opening of the political campaign here, The Telegraph devotes considerable space this morning to the news features of his arrival and the reception of Saturday night and prints, also, an interview with Mr. Borden in which he explains his mission and discusses in some measure the political prospect as it appears to him.

Now Scotia Liberals will not be wholly pleased with Mr. Borden's resumption of conditions there, and if it were true, as he says, that the Conservatives have their candidates in the field while the government party has not yet made much stir politically, it is to be remembered that the present Liberal members must be regarded as in the field, ready to defend the ground they hold against all contenders. In New Brunswick, to which Mr. Borden now comes in the course of his four weeks' campaign in these provinces, matters are more backward than in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, but no doubt the presence of the Conservative leader will be followed by evidence of activity on both sides of the house. Mr. Borden, in his brief address of Saturday evening, refrained from claiming absolutely everything in sight, an exhibition of moderation which is grateful enough in view of the tone of the journals of his party.

There was in the leader's informal address no hint as to the names of the candidates who will be put forward here in the opposition interest, though one might infer from his reference to Mr. Hazen as likely to become the leader of the provincial government that Mr. Hazen is not likely to re-enter Federal politics at this time. Such an inference may not be correct, for doubtless some pressure will be applied to the provincial leader at this time by those who realize the futility of opposing the government with weak candidates.

The appearance of Dr. Stockton as one of the orators of Saturday evening indicates that he is not inclined to consider favorably the recent touching appeal made to him by a local evening newspaper to return to the ranks he forsok on a certain far-off occasion. His course in declining the advice offered is not surprising, nor will it be held likely to have much effect one way or the other upon the coming contest.

"DISMEMBERMENT"
It is somewhat astonishing to find how seriously the Canadian Gazette, of London, regards Mr. Tarte's recent remarks concerning the seizure of the Isthmus and the lesson which Canadians should learn from the American conduct in recognizing the republic at whose independence it connived. While Mr. Tarte was doubtless justified in saying that had Canada only her own strength to depend upon she could not expect considerate treatment from the United States, the Gazette goes farther and tells its public that were Canada dependent upon her own strength and resources "the slightest local disturbance in Canada might be seized upon for the dismemberment of the Dominion."

While the tone of a portion of the American press and of some American public men has been openly menacing to the future of Canada, probably neither Mr. Tarte nor any other Canadian is prepared to believe that any influential statesman across the line actually contemplate our "dismemberment." This line of argument is adopted by the Gazette no doubt for the purpose of discouraging certain utterances which became common in the Dominion press after the Alaskan boundary decision, and which hinted at independence and the like. The few men who openly advocate "separation" find themselves opposed by the solid sentiment of the people, though there is no doubt an increased feeling that Canadian interests might be more completely under Canadian control. This feeling is in no sense hostile to Great Britain and does not even indicate a desire for independence. The recent conduct of the United States has raised the barrier between that country and this higher than ever, and has certainly made the discussion of trade relations

more hopeless. On the contrary this promulgation of the Chamberlain policy and its widespread discussion has increased the warmth of feeling for the Empire, great as it was already. Foolish as has been much American discussion of Canadian affairs, talk of "dismemberment" has as yet been confined to one Boston newspaper, which recently suggested that our friendly neighbors might promote a revolution here after a while "and then forbid England to interfere." The suggestion is not without its humorous features, for both the Canadians and the British would object to the plan and the Americans would then be forced to give it up. Columbia is helpless and also rather useless. Canada never will be either.

A CLERGYMAN'S EXAMPLE.
No one will maintain that clergymen receive too large salaries. Indeed there is frequent evidence that some of them do not receive sufficient remuneration. Some comment has now been elicited by the case of Rev. E. J. Bodman, a Fall River pastor, who has reduced his own salary by ten per cent. His congregation is largely composed of mill operatives. Their wages were reduced recently, and this pastor upon hearing the news announced that if others could live on ten per cent, less than formerly he should do so, and was willing at once to lighten the burden of his people and prevent any undue weakening of the finances of the church. His salary originally was \$800—little enough, one would think, considering that he has a wife and three children. But the mill operatives, in many cases, have relatives depending upon them and are in a position to appreciate the pastor's self-sacrifice.

Other Fall River clergymen who continue to receive their usual salaries will, no doubt, give more freely in charity as there is greater need for it, and no one can say that their recognition of their duty is less keen than Mr. Bodman's. Yet while the amount he gives up is trifling it is easy to understand that his practical method of showing his sympathy with his flock may result in renewed interest in the work of the church, and increased sympathy between pastor and flock. As his congregation are all of small means and will feel the recent reduction of wages severely they doubtless need the encouragement afforded by the clergyman's somewhat unusual announcement.

A PLEASING SITUATION.
The President of the United States is an author. So also is the Secretary of State. The latter, unfortunately, is a poet as well, and whereas in the past he made use of many a profane word to carry the point he was seeking to make in verse, these days he seems to turn to damn his pen by one. So with the strenuous utterances of the Rough Rider who is present. What he said and did in action—when the "fog of fighting" was on him, to quote Private Mulvaney, comes back now to confront him in the columns of the newspapers which oppose his policy of Imperialism and aggression.

Roosevelt the Rough Rider was all right, and John Hay the poet was a "good seller" and an author easily capable of sense, but as diplomat. The poet has become Secretary of State and the Rough Rider sits in the chair of Lincoln, and the journalists who regarded them with friendly eyes when they were, as one might say, in the ranks, turn now without thought to read their old favorites.

It seems but yesterday indeed that the stately New York Evening Post praised John Hay's "Little Breeches," and kindled the words of the poet Theodore Roosevelt when he assisted the Negro regulars of the United States army in taking Kettle Hill. And now with the same studied regard for the facts the Post turns to and puts these high pronouncements to rest. They have become makers of policy and contentments of high international doctrine—and the Post likes them not. It says now, in its own delightful fashion:—
"Luncheon as, next after death, the poet has been put to the test by Mr. Hay. Grim-visaged Gen. Secretary's smile he wrinkled front at the Secretary's table. He cannot, as yet, be received officially, but while the lamp holds out to burn the vilest sinner may come to lunch. Yet there are limits to the number of plates that can be laid. It is doubtless the fear of too great strain on his hospitality which leads Mr. Hay to adopt so often an air towards the San Domingo revolutionists. He might at once have to entertain an end of emissaries from Wos y Gill. This thing of recognizing republics is all very well, but digestion has its bounds. Your art diplomatic is stuff!" wrote the contemptuous Coleridge. In the light of modern usage, it appears to be such stuff as luncnes are made of.

It is known that formerly when he warred of the yellow journals of New York, Colonel Roosevelt turned with relief to the calmer and more discriminating columns of the Post. So also his Secretary of State. One may naturally wonder if they find now in these columns the same solace as of yore. Verily the path of Imperialism and aggression is not without its notable thorns.

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NAUTICAL MATTERS.
Commodore Stewart, of the Chatham World, recently attended a smoker of the R. K. Y. C. here, and The Telegraph, in reporting that happy event exercised its prerogative of the landlubber in speaking of Mr. Stewart as if he were not, only the Nelson of but in present command of any pleasure fleet which may tempt the breeze on the North Shore. The editor of the Chatham Advance, who

loves the World editor as he does a brother, promptly arose and fell upon that gentleman with a verbal belaying pin, saying that he was really but skipper of the Chatham Yacht Club and had been sailing under false pretences in the circumstances as sporting the pennant of the Miramichi Yacht Club.

The shoal water into which this craft was tempted may be measured by the warmth of the language in which Commodore Stewart resents the outlash and pike language of his fellow North Shore editor. He stands by to rebel reporters to the faith—
"It is the detailed report of this, in The Telegraph, that has caused the big belled but small sooted fellow's gleam to show itself anew. It was Mr. Stewart who was invited, and toasted, and cheered, not the club or the commodore. The club would never have been heard of as far away as St. John if it hadn't been for him. It has been given a prominence to which it is not entitled by the error of the St. John men in confounding it with the Chatham Yacht Club, the organization of which Mr. Stewart is commodore, and ought to be duly grateful. The Telegraph, it is to be hoped, will permit the catamaran carpenter to keep it straight on this important matter in future."

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Honesty in Overcoats.

It's the hardest thing in the world for a man to carry values in his eye; he may see an overcoat marked \$15 at one store and \$18 at another, but he can't remember "whether it was just the same thing or not."

¶ Cloths and styles in so many stores look alike—it is confusing.
¶ So he must depend upon the reputation of the store and its garments.

The Oak Hall reliability is behind every overcoat we sell—not one penny beyond its actual value is ever tacked on to the price of a garment.

Men's Winter Overcoats, \$5 to \$20

AT \$5.00—Blue and Black Beaver Overcoat, made Chesterfield style, having Italian body linings and mohair sleeve linings.

AT \$6.00—An All-wool Grey Frieze Overcoat, made Raglanette style, body linings of Italian. Best value ever offered in an overcoat. Can't be got elsewhere under \$8. HERE FOR \$6. We also show at this price a good quality of Blue and Black Beaver Overcoat made Chesterfield style.

AT \$10.00—Men's fine Overcoats of Chevots, and Dark Grey Military Frieze made Raglanette style, also of fine English Blue and Black Beaver. These coats will compare favorably with those shown elsewhere at from \$2 to \$3 more.

AT \$12.00—Men's stylish Overcoats, made of fine Dark Grey Vicunas and Chevots in Raglanette style. In the lot is one of fine Grey Chevot, having a fine stripe, which should command your attention; also at this price five Imported English Blue and Black Beavers made Chesterfield style.

AT \$18.00—A line of Men's Overcoats made of finest quality Grey Chevot with a fine white stripe running through the cloth, with all the style and good trimming usually put on a \$22 coat. OUR PRICE \$18.00.

The above will give you an idea of the Overcoat stock. To fully describe it would take a whole page. Price ranges from \$5 to \$20.

Your Winter Underwear.

You don't want to neglect purchasing your winter supply of underwear longer, for the change in temperature is very apt to cause you to contract colds which a little judgment now in displacing the thinner underwear of Summer will prevent. We absolutely know that we offer the very best values in Winter Underwear for your money to be found in St. John. Shirts and Drawers 45c to \$2.50 per garment.

GREATER OAK HALL,

KING STREET,
COR. GERMAIN } ST. JOHN. SCOVIL BROS. & CO.

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Boys' Clothing for Winter.

The Boys' Clothing store serves all tastes, and stands for good qualities alike to all.

Just a hint today of what, perhaps, your boy wants in his winter outfit, with price ranges.

Double Breasted Suits\$2.00 to \$6.00
Norfolk Suits\$2.50 to \$6.00
Sailor Suits\$2.00 to \$4.00
Russet Suits\$5.00 to \$6.50
Overcoats\$3.75 to \$8.50
Old Trouser\$1.50 to \$1.75
Suspenders\$1.00 to \$1.25
Underwear\$.25 to .75
Stockings\$.20 to .65
Shirts and Drawers\$.20 to \$1.40
Night Shirts\$.50 to \$1.00

More than \$5,000 worth of pure gold has been taken from the sands of the Swift river, in York county (N.C.), during the last six or six years.

The people of New Brunswick and especially those of the river counties are all interested in the port of St. John and its prosperity. The more the facilities of that port are increased the better market our people will find for their products. So it is greatly to our interest that the port should be properly equipped not only to do the trans-Atlantic winter trade of Canada, but a larger summer trade as well. Frederick Glemmer.

It is of the utmost importance not only to St. John but the province at large that this city's representation at Ottawa, under any government, should be composed of men thoroughly conversant with the requirements of the port and in a position to urge its claims upon the administration. St. John knows the value of having representation in the Cabinet.

"Zion City has reached the same stage as the Shipbuilding Trust, the Consolidated Lake Superior Company, and a good many other concerns—it needs working capital," says the New York Evening Post. "And it has got to its present position by the same means as have been followed by the others. The fact that St. John should be properly equipped not only to do the trans-Atlantic winter trade of Canada, but a larger summer trade as well. Frederick Glemmer.

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EXECUTIVE TIPS.

The American newspapers of late have devoted a very great amount of their editorial attention to the government scandals which have given to the Republic an amount of notoriety which is at once unpleasant and of commanding interest. The world has learned and recently that the world has learned that the United States post office department of the United States has been found to have been honeycombed by thieves. The sale of public lands, also, has been marked by a similar scandal, and while cabinet officers have shown a disposition to punish subordinates and permit proper penalties to fall upon those who are guilty, these revelations come before the public with renewed effect at a time when the conduct of officers high in another department, the army, is subjected to damaging fire.

Now curious accusation comes from a new quarter and is directed upon another department of the government. It is charged by the New York Journal of Commerce that the custom market was demoralized by a tip from Washington, the inference being that men in high places and their friends may have made profit through their inside knowledge and used it for the manipulation of the stock market.

The Journal of Commerce says in part:

ERROR IN ADVERTISEMENT.

We are informed by Messrs. Layton Bros. that their advertisement in the Semi-Weekly Telegraph of Dec. 2nd which read "A \$300.00 organ for the remarkably low price of \$1.95 cash, should have read \$185.00 cash. The readers of The Telegraph have too much good sense to think otherwise than that this was simply a mistake in the placing of the decimal point, a mistake for which The Telegraph is not wholly responsible as the copy furnished by the advertiser was not complete in that it did not have a decimal point either before or after the figures. The absurdity of the error being thus explained, The Telegraph furnishes this extra advertisement without cost.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

Hon. Mr. Sifton appears to have an abiding confidence in Canada's ability to fend for herself, judging by his Toronto speech.

Mr. Borden has spoken. When Sir Wilfrid Laurier addressed the people of this important constituency? Probably when the battle is nearer at hand.

Since The Telegraph mentioned Hon.