

OTTAWA.

Hon. Mr. Fisher Entertained by Maritime Province Men.

St. John Man Complained to the Police that He Had Been Robbed, But Found His Money in His Pocket.

OTTAWA, Dec. 17.—Hon. Sydney Fisher, minister of agriculture, was entertained to luncheon today by a number of maritime province representatives, who are here on their way home from the fat cattle show at Guelph. They visited the experimental farm along with the minister.

The party included the following: Messrs. E. B. Elderkin and wife, R. Robertson and wife, Mr. Wyman, Mr. Corning, Yarmouth; Mr. Wood, Halifax; Mr. Archibald, Mr. Hill, Truro; G. Lawrence, Bad Hasting; W. W. Black, Howard Black, Amherst; Hon. L. Harris, Queens Co.; H. Montgomery Campbell, Apohaqui; M. H. Parlee, Sussex; W. W. Hubbard, Sussex; Mr. Fawcett, Sackville; Mr. Dickson, Chatham; Mr. Pugsley, Amherst; P. Hassard of Charlottetown; C. Smallwood, Charlottetown; Mr. Edwards, North Wilshire, P. E. Island; Mr. Clark, Mr. Simpson, P. E. Island; J. F. Tilley, Woodstock; Harvey Mitchell, Sussex, and Hon. A. T. Dunn, St. John.

Dr. Borden left for Halifax today. Charles Keenan, who has been working for Mackenzie and Mann out west, arrived in the city yesterday on his way home to St. John, N. B. He fell in with a gang of young fellows on the flats, and at four o'clock in the afternoon complained to Detective Dicks that he had been robbed of \$200. He said that J. Pitt did the deed, and that he (Pitt) had passed the money over to another man. Pitt, accompanied Keenan to the police station and stoutly denied all knowledge of the affair. At his request, Keenan was searched by the detective, and on him was found \$190 in cash, a railway pass, and some loose change. Keenan seemed surprised to discover that he had not lost the money. He begged Pitt's pardon again and again for having cast suspicion on him, and dropping on his knees, prayed for Detective Dicks who kept the money for Keenan until this morning, when he handed it over to him and the young man proceeded on his way east.

Hon. Mr. Davies said tonight that a royal commissioner would be appointed, as asked for by the Montreal board of trade, to enquire into and report upon the whole question of the navigation of the St. Lawrence from Montreal to the sea. The commissioner will probably be appointed at the next meeting of the council.

A batch of South African resorts was received by the militia department today. Col. Evans gives an interesting account of the engagement Nov. 2nd, near Belfast, in which Lieut. Chalmers was killed, and Major Sanders wounded. He pays a high tribute to the gallantry of Chalmers, who was an inspector of the Mounted Police.

Hurdman, reporting the doings of "D" battery, mentions four non-coms and the men, all from Ottawa, who were sentenced to 84 days' imprisonment, for breaking into and stealing military stores.

A census is to be taken in April. Over 3,000 persons will be employed. 150 clerks will be required for two or three years to complete the returns.

GRAND MANAN.

Some Thirty Boats Destroyed by a Recent Storm.

GRAND MANAN, Dec. 12.—St. Paul's Chapter of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew held their annual meeting on the 11th inst. at St. Paul's church, Grand Harbor. The officers elected for the ensuing year are: Director, P. P. Russell; vice-director, F. J. Martin; secretary-treasurer, Roy L. Carson. The chapter meets every alternate Tuesday at the church or rectory.

The heavy gale and sleet and snow storm of the 4th inst. did great damage to boats and weirs about the island. At White Head and Cheney's Passages fourteen good skiff boats and as many more small boats or tenders broke adrift and went to sea.

Good line fishing is still reported about the island when fishermen can get bait. Some herrings are reported in Dark Harbor.

P. P. Russell and Sylvester Watt have returned from their trip to Newfoundland. Capt. J. L. Gault, Jr., will locate a fishing station at Bay Verte in the spring. Roy Gault of Castalia is already there, as well as Ed Cook and Lawton C. Gault.

Fine sleighing and zero weather are now the order of the day.

The Y. P. S. C. E. held a stocking party at Grand Harbor hall on the 8th inst.

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York, Mr. Gibson; Sunbury and Queens, Mr. Wilnot; St. John, Hon. Mr. Blair and Mr. Tucker; Kings, Mr. Fowler; Westmorland, Mr. Emerson; Dr. Lewis; Restigouche, Mr. Reid; Carleton, Mr. Hale; Charlotte, Mr. Ganong.

Messrs. Powell, Hazen and W. Thorne filed the petitions on behalf of the conservatives, and A. G. Blair, Jr. for the liberals. It is reported that the two parties had agreed not to file petitions if Dr. McLeod would not press his in York. Heavy pressure was brought to bear upon Dr. McLeod's committee, but they stood firm, and at just four o'clock the protests against Mr. Gibson went on file. Then the others followed suit.

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The C. P. R. have arranged to make the complete record of its staff, giving the complete career of every man and woman employed by the system. Promotions will be made as far as possible from the staff and by merit. Mr. McNicoll also announces that evening classes in stenography and telegraphy will be established at Montreal, Winnipeg, Vancouver and Toronto, to give the juniors an opportunity of qualifying for promotion.

Rome having confirmed the decision of the Quebec religious authorities that the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Deloit was illegal on the grounds that both being Catholics, had no right to be married by a Protestant minister. Deloit is taking proceedings to have the decree given civil effect by the courts of the province. Mrs. Deloit declares that should the case go against her it will be carried as far as the privy council. She contends she is and was at the time of her marriage a Protestant. The church decided she was not. The couple have three children.

Mr. Hay S. Mitchell, No. 3 company, Third Regiment Victoria Rifles, and a member of "E" company, first con-

tingent, was notified this evening of his appointment by the war office to be second lieutenant in the Third Battalion Middlesex Regiment. It is a reward for distinguished service in the field.

CHAOS ON THE I. C. R. Story of the Roads Shipped Management Not Half Told.

The Sun has reported, without bias or exaggeration, the good-you-please way in which trains are being run on the intercolonial railway, in the hope that the publicity thus given would have some effect in shaming the management of the road into paying more attention to the wants of the travelling public. So far the Sun's efforts have been without effect, but the hope remains that after all possible damage has been done to St. John's Christmas trade, the people between Sussex and this city will be given a time-table that will enable them to reach St. John and return home the same day without spending several hours on the local station platform awaiting a train delayed by inferior steaming coal or the traffic preference given to emergency freight trains.

I. C. R. INCAPACITY. (Moncton Times.) Something like chaos appears to prevail on the people's railway at the present time. It is rarely that a passenger train is on time, and there is general complaint now that the elections are over and the minister has given orders to avoid all possible expense. Complaint on the part of the travelling public is general. The St. John Sun gives the service to and from that city is wretched. The Globe mildly apologizes for the existing conditions, saying "there are many interests to serve," and that they should not be so served without a conflict of interests. Even the time-serving Chatham Advance is obliged to denounce the arrangement of trains between North Shore points. The difficulty at Truro over the water supply is an evidence of incapacity or words as shown by the fact that the mayor of the town has not received the courtesy of a reply to his offer to give the road temporary assistance pending a settlement of the question of relief from other sources. The truth is that Mr. Blair's political management of the railway is in conflict with the fact that a local organ recently referred to as the practical management. The general manager apparently has less influence in its affairs than Geo. Crossdale or Alphonse LeBlanc. Frequently the first intimation of the intentions of departmental officials is by means of papers or from some other political source. Business is good, but the road is running behind at the rate of over a million dollars a year, which is the amount of the capital expenditure, and the heads of departmental officials are being saddled upon it to add to the difficulties of management when quieter times set in. There never was a time when the party heeler was so much in evidence in the management of the railway as now that the necessity of pleasing everybody is not before the political management, the interests of the public do not count for much.

WORST RUN ROAD IN AMERICA. (St. John Star.) "This story of I. C. R. and its slipshod management isn't half told," asserted a well-known north end merchant to the Star this morning. "I went to Norton on Saturday, and on looking up from my paper I found the train moving away from the station at my destination. Nobody had announced the place, in fact, I did not hear the stations called out at any point along the road. On my way back to the city a car employe wanted to stop me going through the station car on my way to another part of the train, while I myself was travelling in a first-class ticket. 'Without a doubt,' concluded the citizen, who had now become quite wroth, 'the I. C. R. is one of the worst run railroads of any pretensions on America, and I have travelled on nearly all of them and know what I'm talking about.'

THE I. C. R. GRIEVANCE. To the Editor of the Sun: Sir—The Globe of Friday last, speaking of complaints of passengers on the I. C. R., says: 'A fairly made representation will always have an influence.' This is soothing, but not our experience. In the old country they air their grievances in the Times—here they inflict them on our 'Galleys,' and that is little by our motion.

An afternoon spent by a Globe reporter in the I. C. R. station from 12.30, when time table says C. P. R. will leave, will satisfy him that grievances are not imaginary. On its arrival, when he will go through the train and see the accommodation reserved for the St. John passengers and inhale the foul air of the ill ventilated cars, he will return to his office thankful that he has not to go in the train.

If the I. C. R. authorities would only exercise a small amount of common sense and take into consideration the fact that the time of the up country travel is of more value to them than a paid official's, they would arrange what should be done by Halifax for the returning soldiers Governor Jones' remark was as follows: "Let the men have a pint of beer."

STEAMER ALPHA FOUNDERED. VANCOUVER, B. C., Dec. 17.—The steamer Alpha foundered on a reef on the east coast of Vancouver Island, and is a total wreck. The captain, three engineers, the managing owners, the purser and three seamen were drowned.

RETURNING SOLDIERS.

The Steamer Lake Champlain Will Call at Halifax.

Elder-Dempster Company do Not Favor the Landing of the Men at This Port.

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A cable was received from Colonel Otter in reply to an invitation from Colonel White of the Royal Canadians, declining an invitation to a banquet here. Colonel Otter stated that he and his men were anxious to get home as quickly as possible.

OTTAWA, Dec. 17.—The deputy minister of militia today received a telegram from the Elder-Dempster Co. of Montreal, pointing out the inadvisability of carrying Colonel Otter's men to St. John. The company states that the Lake Champlain would not arrive at Halifax until Saturday or Sunday, and that consequently she would not get to St. John until possibly Monday morning, thereby preventing most of the men from spending the Christmas holidays at home. The company also pointed out that there was no accommodation for the men at St. John.

Colonel Phelan, deputy minister of militia, replied that the war office had given instructions for the men to be landed at St. John, and that there could be no change in this respect. Instructions have been given to Colonel Foster, quartermaster general, to proceed to Halifax on Thursday, to meet the Lake Champlain. He will then pay off the Nova Scotians and Prince Edward Islanders, and will then accompany New Brunswickers and western men to St. John, paying them off and granting them their discharge before arrival at the port of destination.

The delay in St. John will not be long, the men being detained only a sufficient length of time to enable them to partake of the civic hospitalities.

The Roslyn Castle, with artillery and mounted rifles, goes direct to Halifax.

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Officer Howitt and Seaman Thomas Hartley, Gus Anderson, A. Olsen, Nilsen and John Nilsson are remembered, the mate with a heavy silver medal and the sailors with 50 each.

The presentation was made in recognition of the services of the men in saving the survivors of the crew of the schooner Myra E. Weaver in Vineyard Haven Sound on Nov. 19.

MALAGA DISASTER. BERLIN, Dec. 17.—The foundering of the German liner Malaga, which was wrecked in the Straits of Gibraltar, has created a most painful impression in Berlin, following the brilliant reception tendered the sailors and marines from China yesterday. The news spread rapidly through the city and morning. Great crowds thronged the admiralty building and the ministry of marine, inquiring as to the state of relatives. Many touching scenes were witnessed. Emperor William has received a telegram of condolence from the Spanish King Regent.

MALAGA, Dec. 17.—Of the 24 survivors, 33 who were injured, 25 sheltered in the barracks and 150 lodged in the town hall. The municipality is providing food for all. Members of the German colony and many Spanish ladies have offered to nurse the injured.

The flags over all the consulates are at half-mast.

FOR CONSPICUOUS BRAVERY. BOSTON, Dec. 17.—Captain Geo. C. Savage of the steamer City of Mazon, which arrived here last night from Savannah, was presented today by the Massachusetts Humane Society with the society's certificate for conspicuous bravery.

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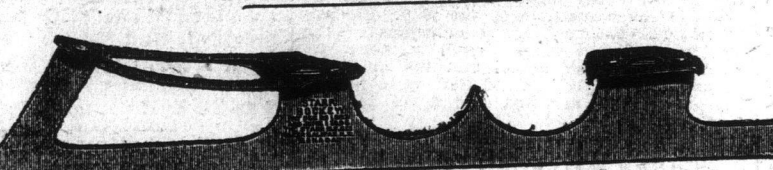
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MALAGA DISASTER. BERLIN, Dec. 17.—The foundering of the German liner Malaga, which was wrecked in the Straits of Gibraltar, has created a most painful impression in Berlin, following the brilliant reception tendered the sailors and marines from China yesterday. The news spread rapidly through the city and morning. Great crowds thronged the admiralty building and the ministry of marine, inquiring as to the state of relatives. Many touching scenes were witnessed. Emperor William has received a telegram of condolence from the Spanish King Regent.

MALAGA, Dec. 17.—Of the 24 survivors, 33 who were injured, 25 sheltered in the barracks and 150 lodged in the town hall. The municipality is providing food for all. Members of the German colony and many Spanish ladies have offered to nurse the injured.

The flags over all the consulates are at half-mast.

FOR CONSPICUOUS BRAVERY. BOSTON, Dec. 17.—Captain Geo. C. Savage of the steamer City of Mazon, which arrived here last night from Savannah, was presented today by the Massachusetts Humane Society with the society's certificate for conspicuous bravery.

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