

## STEAMERS, ETC.

### EASTERN STEAMSHIP CO'Y.

(International Division.)  
WINTER REDUCED RATES.

In effect November 1, 1902, to May 1, 1903.  
Commencing December 1, 1902, to May 1, 1903, the following rates for passengers, baggage, and freight, will be in effect:  
Returning from Boston, via Portland, Eastport and Lubec Mondays at \$15.00.  
Through tickets on sale at principal railway stations and baggage checked to destination.

WILLIAM C. LEE, Agent,  
St. John, N. B.  
A. H. HANSCOM, G. B. & T. A.  
CALVIN AUSTIN, V. P. & Gen'l Manager,  
Foster's Wharf, Boston, Mass.

## TO LET.

Advertisements under this head: Two words for one cent each time, or Three cents a word for ten times. Payable in advance.

TO LET—Two self-contained flats, 2½ Bt. street, five rooms, to be occupied by a family. Apply to JOHN DUNLOP, corner Water and Golding streets.

TO LET—For the spring and summer months, a small flat furnished in a central locality. May be had on easy terms. Apply at this office.

TO LET—Lower flat fronting on south side of Elliot Row, two flats fronting on north side of Elliot Row. These premises will be thoroughly renovated for desirable tenants. A. C. FAIRWEATHER, Barrister, etc., city.

TO LET—Two large flats on Main street, North End. Apply to J. E. COYAN, 99 Main street.

TO LET—Two self-contained flats, one with seven rooms and the other five. Modern improvements. Apply to J. E. COYAN, 99 Main street.

FOR SALE OR TO LET—The Leasehold Premises fronting No. 50 on east side of Charlotte street in the occupation of James W. Lee. A. C. FAIRWEATHER, Solicitor.

TO LET—From 1st May next, two very comfortable, self-contained dwelling houses, new occupied by George H. Horton, Esq., No. 150 Germain street, corner Herford street, containing 8 rooms, bath, and modern water, etc. Can be seen on Wednesday and Saturday afternoon. Apply to W. TREMELAIN GARD, 48 King street.

TO LET—Self-contained flats of four, six, seven and eight rooms respectively. Also a large barn. Enquire of M. J. WILKINS, 59 Haymarket square.

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THE ST. JOHN STAR is published by THE SUN PRINTING COMPANY (LTD.), at St. John, New Brunswick, every afternoon (except Sunday) at \$3.00 a year.

## ST. JOHN STAR.

ST. JOHN, N. B., MARCH 14, 1903.

### TIME FOR A CHANGE.

No apology is necessary for giving up so much space as the Star does today to the Ontario bribery case. This paper withheld any comments on the case until further information should be received, because the first report sent out from Toronto seemed almost incredible. But the full report sustains the first, and so staunch a liberal paper as the Montreal Witness publishes the statement of its Toronto correspondent that everybody appears to accept the story of Mr. Gurney as correct in every particular.

We have, then, the charge made openly on the floors of the legislature, and said to be supported by documentary evidence that a member of the Ontario liberal government bargained with a member, through the medium of a notorious political heeler, and paid him \$4,000 to turn traitor to his convictions and his party, and support the government he had been elected to oppose.

Mr. Gurney tells a straightforward story, and the Montreal Witness correspondent says that he spoke with every evidence of sincerity. Not only that, but he produced the letters and the money in the case and handed them to the leader of the opposition.

Of course every effort will be made to deceive the public, and, even if Mr. Stratton should be convicted by the evidence, the people will be asked to believe that nobody else is guilty.

Mr. Gurney played a part few would care to play, but he has done Canada good service. For years the province of Ontario has been at the mercy of a corrupt government, which by methods the most rascally contrived to keep itself in power. Over and over again the liberal conservatives have exposed the corrupt methods of the government party, revealing facts that were nothing short of disgraceful and even criminal.

And the same machine that was operated in the provincial elections was made use of in the last two federal campaigns.

Thoughtful people will naturally ask themselves if it is not time for a change. The men and the party that indulge in wholesale bribery and fraud such as has been revealed over and over again in Ontario should be hurled from power. They are a disgrace to the country.

New Brunswick has lately had an example of political corruption without parallel in the history of the province. Whether are we tending? There is a government in Ontario that should be defeated, as the Star has no doubt it will be as soon as there is an opportunity. There is a government at Fredericton which does not deserve to be in power; but some of the people have allowed themselves to be befuddled, and some have allowed themselves to be influenced by considerations entirely apart from the real issues, and some have not been proof against the seductive influence of the wad; therefore this province will be misgoverned for another four or five years. But there is a government at Ottawa which is in league with those of Ontario and New Brunswick, and which is tarred with the same stick. There may be long be an opportunity to send it about its business, and the people, if they desire to check the growth of political corruption, which has become more and more glaring under liberal rule, will not return that government to power. The people of New Brunswick do not need to go to Ontario for an object lesson. They had it in their own province last month.

It is not pretended that the bribers and the men open to corrupt influences are all in one party. But it is perfectly clear to every observant citizen that no period of conservative rule, either in province or dominion, has shown anything like the revelations of the last five years. And men convicted of rascally acts have been rewarded with office. It is time for a change.

Referring to the proposed commission on transportation and terminal facilities, Hon. Mr. Prefontaine says it will probably be named within two weeks and he believes Sir William Van Horne would accept the chairmanship.

The Grand Trunk now appears to be quite willing to help develop the port of St. John. It wants to make Quebec and St. John the terminals of its transcontinental system.

The Fort Kent dam project is before the house at Ottawa, supported by the Hon. John Costigan.

The Telegraph is still chuckling over Mr. Foster's defeat. The Telegraph is said to have got over \$15,000 for government printing last year. That's where the fun comes in.

Is it quite the proper thing for loaded teams to be driven over the lines of hose during the progress of a fire?

ADVANCE IN LEAD.

LEADVILLE, Colo., March 14.—The American Smelting and Refining Company has announced another increase of 15 cents in the price of lead, making \$3.90 the present basis of settlement.

ST. JOHN'S MANSE.

Rev. J. M. MacLean, CHATHAM, N. B., March 12.

Dear Mr. Short.—I have very great pleasure in bearing testimony to Short's "Dyspepticure" as a remedy for indigestion. It has been of unspeakable benefit to me.

Yours sincerely,  
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### MR. AGAR'S TURN.

He Takes Messrs. Carleton and Trueman to Task.

In today's Freeman Mr. John L. Carleton assumes responsibility for the editorials in last Saturday's issue which provoked so much criticism. Mr. Carleton expresses regret that anything he wrote should be open to censure, and says that the paragraphs in question had seemed to him to be "mild, timely, absolutely fair, and correct in statement and deduction."

Mr. M. E. Agar also has a signed letter in today's Freeman in which he charges Mr. Carleton with writing partisan paragraphs and pointedly denies that gentleman's statement that the Catholic vote in the county was solid for the government. He says Mr. Carleton is also wrong in saying that the Catholics are 45 per cent of the total county vote, as they are only 32 per cent.

"If," he adds, "what you say is true, that the Catholic people were solid for Dunn and Riddick, we Catholics ought to appreciate the broad mindedness of the Protestant people who carried me along ahead of my ticket and gave me such a substantial vote."

Mr. Agar very warmly resents Mr. Carleton's allusion to Geo. A. Blair, which he says were in bad taste.

"You have no right," he says, "to attack a most worthy citizen such as Mr. Geo. A. Blair, and use the language you do. Mr. Blair may not be a great citizen, but he has the courage of his convictions and the manliness to stand up for what he believes to be right. He feels he is just as good as any other man, strong in his honesty and convictions. You, sir, have no right to cast your reflections upon a citizen who has the courage in a campaign to take issue with any candidate, even if he should be a college graduate. I wish we had more working men of the energy and strength of character of Mr. George A. Blair; we would have a cleaner and more honest government."

Mr. Agar also has a sharp letter in today's Freeman replying to W. H. Trueman, who, he says, "was guilty, at least, of a grave error of judgment and unwarranted assumption of authority to direct the Catholic people how they should vote in the then pending election."

Mr. Agar severely scores Mr. Trueman for mentioning the question of religion at all at St. Martin's in connection with the campaign, and concludes with these vigorous remarks:—

"Mr. Trueman says he will do anything to create religious animosity. I am glad to hear that, and that he speaks plainly about the conservative management until he is satisfied the conservatives are sincere in their professions of good will to Catholics. I think Mr. Trueman ought to leave that phase of the question to the Catholic conservatives who are just as sensitive and just as well able to deal with the situation as Mr. Trueman. I will say in conclusion, without the slightest intention to be offensive, that Mr. Trueman in future had better mind his own Catholics should do when their votes are going to be cast."

LOOKS TO SYDNEY.

SYDNEY, March 12.—A communication was read at the town council meeting here tonight from J. W. Carmichael & Co., of New Glasgow, on behalf of Napier and Son, shipbuilders, Glasgow, Scotland, asking for information relative to the establishment of a shipbuilding yards on this side of the Atlantic. The Glasgow firm have also asked for maps, charts of the harbor and measurements of available lands which would be suitable for laying down a steamer of six hundred feet keel, as well as the cost of labor, etc. The same to be forwarded by Captain Meikle of New Glasgow, who will sail for Glasgow on Monday to take charge of the new steamer which Napier and Son are building.

HALIFAX SEALERS DO WELL.

Three Schooners Sent From There Have Landed 5,300 Skins.

The schooners which were despatched from Halifax and Victoria to the sealing grounds off Cape Horn and the Falkland Islands, are making big catches. Capt. Balcom has received a cable from London notifying him that 5,300 skins of seals of the three Halifax schooners Edward Roy, Beatrice L. Corkum and Ola M. Balcom—had reached London on Tuesday. The advice received did not give the individual catches and the number of seals, but the average of 1,766 skins to each vessel is a good one, and if the three other vessels, which have been hunting during the same period as these vessels will secure over ten thousand skins, which means they may be further developed and adapted to the special conditions of individual localities. In this work, the fundamental principle of the invariability of the community is to be maintained while at the same time means are to be found to render it easier for the individual to sever connections with the community to which he belongs, if he so desires.

"Without delay measures must be taken to release the peasants from the present burdensome liability of forced labor."

"Through reform is to be effected in the provincial governments and district administrations by the local representatives while attending will be devoted to securing closer co-operation between the communal authorities and parochial trustees of the orthodox churches wherever possible."

"Calling upon all our subjects to co-operate in strengthening the moral foundations of family, school and public life, under which alone the well-being of the people and the confidence of every one in the stability of his rights can develop we command our ministers and chief officials concerned in this matter to submit to us their views regarding the execution of our intentions."

Although the Jewish faith is not specifically mentioned in the czar's decree it is believed that the liberty granted to "all creeds" is intended to include the Jews.

RIVER OPENING.

The ice continues to run freely down past Indiantown and reports say that the river is now open as far up as Carters Point. Mixed in the ice yesterday and last night were numbers of logs from along the shores of the Reach, and Indiantown boatmen today are busy gathering them up. Every river steamer is being hustled into trim with as possible despatch, but none will be ready for work inside of two weeks, even if the prevailing warm weather should open navigation before that time.

FOR FREEDOM.

ST. PETERSBURG, March 14.—A commission under the presidency of the minister of the interior, Von Plehvo, already has commenced work formulating a method for carrying out the reforms in provincial administration as commanded in the czar's recent decree. Several heads of departments and five provincial governors are participating in the work of the commission.

ST. PETERSBURG, March 12.—The czar has issued a decree providing for freedom of religion throughout his dominions, establishing to some degree local self-government and making other concessions to the village communities.

In the decree which was made public Thursday after referring to the efforts of his predecessors, particularly his father, to add to the welfare of the Russian people, the czar announces his decision to grant freedom of religion to all his subjects who profess non-orthodox creeds and to improve the conditions of village life and those of the local nobility and peasantry.

Among the measures outlined by his majesty for the attainment of these ends is the reform of rural laws which is to be effected with the advice of persons who possess the confidence of the people.

The system of administration in the various governments and districts is to be examined by representatives of the localities concerned with the view of effecting the necessary amendments.

Measures are also to be taken to relieve the peasantry of the burdens of forced labor.

The decree which was issued in commemoration of the anniversary of the birthday of Alexander II. is considered to be the most significant act of state since the emancipation of the serfs. The public hails it as the proclamation of a new era opening up new prospects of the early improvement of Russian internal administration.

The text of the decree is as follows:—

"On ascending the throne of our ancestors by the providence of God we make a solemn vow before the Almighty and our conscience to sacredly guard the centuries old pillars of Russian power and to dedicate our life to the service of our beloved fatherland in indefatigable solicitude for our subjects. We chose, in order to assure the well-being of our people, the way indicated by the memorable deeds of our predecessors, especially our never-to-be-forgotten father. God pleased to interrupt the deeds of our father by his early death and thus laid on us the sacred duty of completing the consolidation of order and truth begun by him in conformity with the exigencies of national life."

"The troubles agitating our country which to our deep regret have partly been sown by designs hostile to the state and partly engendered by doctrinaire foreign to Russian life, hinder the general work of ameliorating the well-being of our people. These troubles confuse the public mind, remove the people from productive labor, and often ruin families dear to our heart and young energies, among high and low, necessary to the internal development of the country. In demand the fulfillment of this our will, while remaining strongly opposed to any violation of the normal course of national life and having confidence that all will loyally discharge their local duties, we have irrevocably decided to satisfy the needs for which the state has become ripe and have deemed it expedient to strengthen and decree the undeviating observance of the principles of tolerance for the Russian Empire, which, recognizing the orthodox church as the ruling one, grant to all our subjects of other religions and to all foreign persons freedom of creed and worship in accordance with other rites and we have resolved to continue the active carrying out of measures for the improvement of the material position of the orthodox rural clergy, while enabling them to take a large share in intellectual and public life."

"In accordance with impending measures for the consolidation of the national economy the efforts of the state credit institutions and especially the nobles and peasants, banks should be directed to strengthening and developing the welfare and fundamental pillars of Russian village life and that of the local nobility and peasantry. Those principles marked out by us for the revision of the laws of the rural population are, when formulated to be referred to the provincial government councils, so that with the assistance of persons enjoying the public's confidence they may be further developed and adapted to the special conditions of individual localities. In this work, the fundamental principle of the invariability of the community is to be maintained while at the same time means are to be found to render it easier for the individual to sever connections with the community to which he belongs, if he so desires."

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Czar Nicholas of Russia Announces Important Reforms.

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