

AROUND THE CITY  
GALES WITH RAIN

THE COUNTY COURT.  
The County Court which was convened yesterday morning in the turnkey's office in the jail, was adjourned for two weeks, when it will meet in the Masonic temple.

HIGGINS INQUEST.  
The inquest into the death of Harold Higgins which was held in the North End police station will be in all probability held in the Alexandra school building, Coroner Kenney announced last night.

JUVENILE COURT MATTERS.  
The mayor and city commissioners, W. E. Braden, A. R. Crookshank and A. M. Greig held a conference yesterday morning in the mayor's office on juvenile court matters. Mr. Braden outlined the work of the juvenile court in other cities and answered a number of questions.

WAREHOUSE COMPLETED.  
The new warehouse, erected by the city for lease to the Eastern B.S. Company, is now complete with the exception of the painting, and this will be done as soon as the weather is favorable. The new structure will enable the company to handle traffic much more expeditiously than formerly.

JEWISH WEDDING.  
A wedding of much interest took place last night when at the Hasen Avenue synagogue, Rabbi Fleischer united in the bonds of matrimony Miss R. Milber and J. Gordon. After the ceremony the wedding party and their friends adjourned to the Moose Hall, Charlotte street, where a sumptuous banquet was served. After the banquet dancing was indulged in for a few hours.

JUNIOR BUSINESS BOYS.  
An informal gathering of the Junior Business Boys at the Y. M. C. A. last night was addressed by Wilbert E. Braden, of the National Council of Toronto, who told how the places in the working world left vacant by those who had died overseas and those who are returning incapacitated for further service, must be filled by the younger generation. The dignity of constructive labor was extolled by the speaker and his talk made a marked impression upon his hearers.

BUILDING DIRECTORS MET.  
At the annual meeting of the G. W. V. A. Building Association held yesterday morning the retiring members of the board of directors were re-elected. They are: Mayor Hayes, E. A. Schofield, P. C. Boatman, G. L. Warwick and M. E. Agar. Officers will be elected at a subsequent meeting of the directors. The directors referred to the fact that there still was a large mortgage on the building and hopes were expressed that public assistance would be given in wiping this off.

LOCAL EXECUTIVE MET.  
At a meeting of the local executive of the National War Savings Committee, held last evening at the headquarters office, the ward chairman reported very satisfactory conditions in their territories. The report from the Thrift Day drive under the auspices of the Y. W. P. A. was received and the committee expressed their appreciation of the splendid work accomplished by the young ladies that day, and a vote of thanks was ordered sent to the association. A. Mence reported that good progress in the organization of War Savings societies. Ways and means to create further interest in the campaign were discussed and it was decided that reports made will be submitted to the provincial executive at once.

1919 REVUE MATINEE

The Loyalist Chapter takes much pleasure in announcing that they have been able to secure the Imperial Theatre for a matinee on Wednesday afternoon at 2 o'clock. Those unable to procure tickets for the Tuesday evening performance will have an opportunity of seeing the 1919 Revue on Wednesday afternoon matinee. Box office open at Imperial Theatre 9 a. m. Wednesday. Lower floor, 75, balcony, 50.

PICTURE FIRST THEN THE REVUE

Imperial Theatre Will Show Mildred Harris Feature at 2 to 3.30, After Which Local Show.  
There will be special liveliness around the Imperial Theatre this afternoon. At sharp 2 o'clock the Mildred Harris feature, "For Husband's Only," (merely the title of it implies) will be commenced, concluding at 3.30. Then the Loyalist Chapter 1919 Revue will be given, lasting until close to 5 o'clock. Naturally therefore the King Square theatre will hum with merry-making crowds from lunch time to supper. In the evening the Imperial will resume its usual two programmes, at 7 and 8.45.

SERVICE WELL RENDERED AND WELL APPRECIATED.

For twenty-seven years this institution has worked to the one end to make Dykeman's service best service. Good service as we understand it, and work for it, means permanent satisfaction for every customer in every transaction made within this store. Our service of today—of this early spring season is nothing less than not being satisfied with the splendid achievements of past service, but to better and broader service at every opportunity. Nothing heartens endeavor as does expressed appreciation by store patrons on the receipt of courteous and helpful attention on the part of any member of the store staff.

As a store we are but human. As individuals such encouragements are the greatest stimulants to betterment. Such acknowledgments should be forwarded to the office. At the same time any shortcomings we would like to learn about—a first aid towards their correction.

AUTOMOBILE PLUNGES THROUGH ICE IN RIVER;  
J. L. McAVITY AND SGT. HARRIS HAD NARROW ESCAPE  
ROBT. L. JOHNSTON AND E. R. OSTEN DROWNED

Fatal Accident Occurred off Sandy Point in Kennebecasis Yesterday Afternoon—Car Run Into Crack in the Ice—Lt.-Col. McAvity and Chauffeur Swim from Submerged Car to Safety—Harris Saved Colonel's Life by Timely Assistance—Messrs. Johnston and Osten Trapped Under the Ice—Bodies Recovered Five Hours After Accident by Diver Edmund Howard.

The citizens of St. John were shocked and grieved yesterday when the word was passed around that R. L. Johnston, one of the best known among the younger business men of the city, and E. R. Von der Osten, who recently returned from a four years' captivity in Germany, had been drowned, and that Lieut.-Col. J. L. McAvity, who raised and took to France the famous 26th Battalion, and his chauffeur, Sgt. Harris, had a narrow escape from the same fate. During the afternoon and evening the accident was the sole topic of conversation, and many and varied were the rumors going the rounds. At first it was reported that Col. McAvity was the only survivor, but this report proved to be unfounded.

The party went into the water at nine minutes after twelve, this being the hour at which Mr. Johnston's watch stopped. Col. McAvity and Sgt. Harris were fortunate enough to escape from the watery grave which threatened, and on being rescued that the other members of the party, Messrs. Johnston and Von der Osten, had been drowned, made their way to Millidgeville, a distance of about two miles, and Col. McAvity got in touch with city friends and notified them of the sad happening. Arrangements were immediately made for rushing rescue parties to the scene for the purpose of recovering the bodies of the men who had lost their lives. In this they were successful, the body of Robert L. Johnston being recovered about 5.45 and that of Mr. Von der Osten about half an hour later. The bodies were found and brought to the surface by diver Edmund Howard, of the West Side, and now lie at the undertaking parlors of M. N. Powers, Princess Street.

Last night Coroner Kenney had not decided whether an inquest would be held or not, but will make a decision today. The party, consisting of Lieut.-Col. McAvity, Robert L. Johnston, E. R. Von der Osten and the chauffeur, Sgt. Harris, left the city shortly before twelve o'clock, intending to make a spin up the Kennebecasis from Millidgeville to Rousesay. They went out the Sandy Point Road and took the ice at Sandy Point. When about 100 feet from the shore the automobile plunged through a thin spot in the ice and went down in about twenty feet of water.

When the word was received at the King Street store of T. McAvity and Sons, that the car had gone through the ice and two men were drowned, preparations were at once made to send out rescue parties. The McDermott Bros., with a lot of rigging, and Edmund Howard, with a diving outfit and three trucks, were sent out accompanying them were Ronald, Clifford and Percy McAvity, Major Gordon and William Johnston, brothers of R. L. Johnston, and Capt. Robinson. Col. McAvity and Sgt. Harris were brought to the city and the work of recovering the bodies of the two who were drowned begun.

Lt.-Col. McAvity Relates His Experience.  
Lieut.-Colonel James L. McAvity, when seen at his home last evening, was resting quite comfortably in bed, although having a high temperature at the time. He was asked concerning the accident, and gladly stated the following: "We left the city about 11.45 o'clock in my automobile, a 'Big Four Overland' with Sedan top. We were en route to Riverside, and, as far as I can say we were not going to see the ice harvesting on the Kennebecasis, although some might have mentioned it. We were on a business trip, in which Mr. Osten is interested. At Plum-sweep, near Sussex, in the salt springs there. I was in the rear seat with Mr. Osten, while Mr. Johnston and the chauffeur were in the forward seat. Naturally being in the rear seat I could not see over the hood of the machine, and it never occurred to me even to look if we were on a 'bad' spot. We were all talking business at the time, and Mr. Johnston turned around in the car to speak to me, previously requesting me to accompany him to Montreal in the immediate future. Suddenly the car went into the ice, and as it went down, I tried to unlatch the door on my side, but couldn't force it open. Soon after, when the waters had equalized its pressure, I forced open the door, and seeing an opening overhead, swam for it. I reached the surface about 'all in' and clung to the ice, and if the chauffeur had not arisen to the surface I simply would have clung to the ice until numbed with cold, and slipped back again, but fortunately my chauffeur was on the ice and aided me in getting out. Soon after a broken cane came to the surface, my military hat, and a felt hat—whom the latter had belonged to I really don't know, but believe it was Mr. Osten's. Looking at my watch, it stopped at 12.15, presumably the time we went under the ice."

Speaking about Mr. Osten, the Colonel remarked: "He had just returned to Canada some short time ago, being imprisoned in Germany, where he had gone just previous to the outbreak of the war on business. Although a German by birth, he had no use for the Germans and was quite loud in his declamations toward his countrymen." Speaking of the chauffeur, the Colonel remarked that "it was he who saved my life; coupled with the assistance of Divine Providence, and the strength given to me."

A physician called in to see the Colonel last evening and advised him to none the less disturbed, and hopes to be out doors soon. "Some remark how or in what manner, the chauffeur who was holding the wraps and a closed car could extricate himself as he did. Sergeant Harris is an athletic chap, well built, and no doubt kept his presence of mind, determined to fight his way to the top. He did it, and Colonel McAvity is a glad man today that he did so, for had he not Colonel McAvity would not have been living today."

Diver Howard Tells of Finding Bodies Immediately on arriving at the scene of the accident, the rescue party procured a number of saws and in order to give Diver Howard more room to work saved away a considerable block of ice. The diver then went down to make his examination. Mr. Howard in speaking to The Standard last night said when he first went down he made an examination of the car. He found it empty and brought these to the surface. He then made a second descent to try and locate the bodies of Messrs. Johnston and Von der Osten. About 5.45 he found the body of Mr. Johnston and brought it to the surface. When he found the body was about 40 feet away from the car down stream. By this time it was beginning to get dark, but Mr. Howard decided to make another attempt to find the body of Mr. Von der Osten. He went down and made quite a wide circuit around the car and just as he was about to give up his search ran into the body of the missing man. The body was standing upright in the water and Mr. Howard cut it a start when he found it. It was about 100 feet from the car and on the same side of the car as when the body of Mr. Johnston was found, evidently having been carried that far by the current. A peculiar fact was that the deceased had no coat on, having probably taken it off before he got out of the car.

Bodies Brought to City. When the body of Mr. Johnston was brought to the surface his brothers, Gordon and William, left at once and brought it to the city, taking it to the undertaking parlors of M. N. Powers. Major Gordon Johnston said the car must have gone into the water a few minutes after twelve and his brother's watch stopped at nine minutes after twelve. Late Robert L. Johnston. Robert L. Johnston, who was 48th year of his age, and one of the best known and popular of the younger business men of the city. He began his career in the city with J. M. Humphrey and Co. and with them for some years. Later he entered into the brokerage business for himself and had been very successful. He is a son of the late John Johnston, painter, and is survived by his wife, formerly Miss Josephine Horne, and one child, two brothers, Major Gordon M. and William, and four sisters, Mrs. Thomas Wran, Campbellton, Mrs. Kenneth Brown, Montreal, and the Misses Bossa and Mary at home.

E. R. Von der Osten. E. R. Von der Osten had just recently returned from Germany, where he had been a prisoner of war, having been interned when war was declared. He was of a well known Hanoverian family, formerly of Winteholstadt of Portland, and niece of A. J. Gregory, K. C. of Fredericton. Yachtman Assists. Walter Logan, rear commodore of the R. K. Y. C. on learning of the accident, and being well acquainted with the river, at once offered his services to assist in recovering the bodies and hastened to the scene, taking some tackle along with him. Knowing the state of the tides and the location well, Mr. Logan with others proved of valuable assistance to Diver Edmund Howard in the work of recovering the bodies. Speaking of the sad affair last evening Mr. Logan said that the accident occurred about fifty feet from the shore and had traveled a short distance from the route taken, they would have crossed the river in safety. At the place where the accident occurred there was a crack in the ice which is caused by the tide drifting the ice and fall running round the point. The water is not so deep there as only a thin coating of ice that forms over the crack. Mr. Logan believes that the car was going along at a rather rapid rate of speed, that the front wheels crossed the crack and reached the opposite side when the rear wheels broke through and the car plunged backwards into the river, for when it was located by the diver it had turned nearly round in the opposite direction from what it had been going at the time of the accident. Mr. Logan remained with the others of the rescue party until the two bodies were found and speaks in the highest praise for the work of Diver Howard. The place where the car broke through left an opening in the ice about five feet wide. To give the diver a better chance to work those present, by the use of saws, managed to cut a section of the ice and make the opening much larger. When the diver discovered the car and reported that the bodies were within Mr. Logan said he then thought that perhaps the bodies had been carried down the river by the tide and there would be great difficulty in locating them. However, Diver Howard was untiring in his efforts, and after persistent hard work, it was a great relief to the various persons on the ice when he finally located both bodies.

NEW WET WASH. Ladies on the west side will be pleased to know that the Wet Wash is now in operation on their side of the harbor. Work called for and delivered the same day. Phone West 555.

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WAR SAVINGS AND THRIFT STAMPS FOR SALE HERE

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The Newest and Smartest of Spring Washable Materials  
For Blouses, Dresses and Kiddies' Clothes Are Now Ready. Among the Various Kinds Are These:  
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