

THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, ST. JOHN, N. B., DECEMBER 1, 1900.

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An eight-page paper and is published every Wednesday and Saturday at 11.00 a.m. in advance, by the Telegraph Publishing Company, of St. John, a company incorporated by act of the legislature of New Brunswick.

ADVERTISING RATES.

Ordinary commercial advertisements taking a run of the paper: Each insertion \$1.00 a line. Advertisements of Wants, For Sale, etc., for each insertion of six lines or less. Notices of Births, Marriages and Deaths for each insertion.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

Owing to the considerable number of communications to the editor, it is necessary to request our subscribers and readers to send their communications to the editor by post office order or registered letter, in which case the remittance will be at our risk. The editor will not be responsible for the loss of letters or for the loss of money sent by post office order or registered letter, in which case the remittance will be at our risk. The editor will not be responsible for the loss of letters or for the loss of money sent by post office order or registered letter, in which case the remittance will be at our risk.

FACTS FOR SUBSCRIBERS.

Without exception, names of no new subscribers will be entered until the money is received. Subscribers will be required to pay for their subscription in advance, whether they take them by the office or not, until all arrears are paid. There is no legal discontinuance of a newspaper subscription until all that is owed for it is paid. It is a well established principle of law that a man must pay for what he has. Hence, when a subscriber takes a paper from the post office, he is bound to pay for it. He is not bound to pay for it. He is not bound to pay for it. He is not bound to pay for it.

RULES FOR CORRESPONDENTS.

Be brief. Write plainly and state special points with care. Write on one side of your paper only. Address your name and address to your communication as an evidence of good faith. Write nothing for which you are not prepared to be held personally responsible.

THIS PAPER HAS THE LARGEST CIRCULATION IN THE MARITIME PROVINCES.

AUTHORIZED AGENTS.

The following Agents are authorized to canvass and collect for the Semi-Weekly Telegraph, viz.: Allison Wishart, W. A. Ferris, Wm. Somerville.

MR. ALLISON WISHART, Traveling Agent for the Daily and Weekly Telegraph is now going through Nova Scotia.

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

Semi-Weekly Telegraph

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THE OPPOSITION LEADERSHIP.

The Conservatives made a good deal of the acceptance of Mr. G. G. King as a postmaster worth \$10 a year, but he desired to retire in favor of the Hon. A. G. Blair, to enable the minister of railways to obtain a seat in the House of Commons. The amount of amusement that the Sun and other Conservative newspapers made of this transaction was somewhat ridiculous to witness. It was so extremely funny that a member of parliament, from the province of New Brunswick, should accept an Ontario postmaster's salary worth only \$10 a year. These people did not explain that the acceptance of an office was the only way in which a member of the House of Commons could resign his seat prior to the meeting of parliament, and the election of a speaker.

COASTING STEAMERS.

The attention of the public has been particularly called this year to the safety of coasting steamers by the loss of the Monticello and the Gulf, the latter having been lost in the St. of St. Lawrence. Some of the newspapers are condemning the use of sidewheel steamers as coasters, but we think that this general condemnation of such vessels is not based on good grounds. No doubt in some respects a screw steamer is a more seaworthy vessel than a paddle steamer. Yet for many years the steamers which crossed the Atlantic were propelled by paddles, and none of them met with any accidents which were due solely to this fact. A paddle steamer may be disabled by her paddle being broken, but a screw steamer may also be disabled by the breaking of the blade of her propeller or by the loss of the propeller altogether. The steamers of the International line, which have run for forty years between St. John and Boston, without any loss of life from wreck, have all been paddle boats with one exception. They have gone safely to their destination because they have been carefully managed, and a proper regard paid to the weather signals. If a steamer is structurally weak, so as to be unfit to stand the sea, it makes but little difference whether she is a screw or paddle steamer, the result in either case will be a disaster. The great point is for the inspector appointed by the government to see that the steamships which run in the Bay of Fundy, and other inland waters of Canada, are strong and seaworthy, and the owners of these vessels, in addition to making them strong and seaworthy, ought to take great care that they are under the command of efficient and careful men, who will take all the necessary precautions for the lives of those whom they are carrying as passengers. If these matters are properly looked after, the number of disasters to coasting steamships will be very few, and the dangers of navigating the Bay of Fundy will be reduced to a minimum. As a matter of fact the Monticello is the only steamship in which any lives have been lost in the

COLD COMFORT.

The Sun is bragging about the Conservative victories in Manitoba, but it does not say much about the result of the contest in this province in which it would seem to be more concerned. It is very poor consolation to Mr. George E. Foster, Mr. Henry A. Powell and Mr. George Valentine McInerney to know that, although they have been defeated and will no longer

er sit in the House of Commons, some person of whom they have hardly ever heard, in the province of Manitoba, has succeeded in obtaining a seat. In this connection we may perhaps be pardoned for pointing out that the great effort of the opposition in Manitoba was to defeat Mr. Sifton, and for that purpose they put up the man with the nose, the son of his father, Mr. Hugh John Macdonald. Mr. Sifton was not defeated, neither was Mr. Tarte, neither was Mr. Blair. In fact no minister was defeated, while the opposition leaders went down like nincompoops. Sir Charles Tupper, Mr. Foster, Dr. Montague and Hugh John Macdonald are all gone, and some of them will be seen no more in the House of Commons. We do not think that any jubilation that the Sun can indulge in over a Conservative majority of two in Manitoba will console it for the loss of its leaders, and for the Liberal majority of 10 in Nova Scotia, and of four in New Brunswick. The Sun is in a very bad humor at present, but perhaps it will recover its usual evenness of temper in the course of time.

THE TAXATION OF SMALL INCOMES.

The Board of Trade has for some time past been considering the taxation of small incomes and the subject was taken up again at a meeting which was held last evening. As the matter is one of general public interest it is to be regretted that the attendance was not larger. This is a subject with which the Board of Trade has been wrestling for some time without reaching any very satisfactory conclusion, so that the passage of a resolution to exempt incomes of \$300 is a point gained. Certainly it seems very hard that a man whose income does not exceed \$300 a year, and who has a family to support, should have to pay taxes on that small sum. In England there is an income tax imposed by the government and the scale of exemptions has been several times changed. From 1863 to 1872 incomes under £100 were exempt, and incomes of over £100 and over £200 received an abatement of £50 from the assessment. From 1872 to 1878 incomes under £300 received an abatement of £80. Between 1878 and 1895 incomes under £150 were exempt and if under £200 the tax was not chargeable on the first £150. Now the exemption is £100 and where an income does not exceed £400 the tax is not chargeable on the first £100. Where the income does not exceed £500, the tax is not chargeable on the first £100 and incomes between £500 and £700 are subject to a special rebate of £70. It will be seen from these figures that the policy of the British government has been to exempt from taxation all small incomes up to a certain figure, that figure being determined by the actual cost of living. At present £100 seems to be regarded as the least that a man with a family can live upon in a respectable fashion in England. That would be equivalent to \$800 in this country but probably £100 in England would not go nearly as far as \$800 would in St. John. The incomes of working men have never been taxed in England, because they have never been large enough to reach even the low point at which incomes begin to be taxed. In a matter of this kind we think the Board of Trade and our civic authorities may very well be guided by the experience of Great Britain where the subject has been most carefully studied and thought out by eminent men.

THE RIVER IS CLOSED.

The closing of the river St. John in former times was the great event of the season. It cut off suddenly the communications between the city of St. John and those places on the river which it did business by means of steamboats in the summer. The people of Fredericton and other towns were altogether dependent on the river for the transport of heavy goods, because the cost of carriage in the case of such goods was too large to admit of them being taken otherwise than by water. Every Fredericton storekeeper had to lay in a six months' stock of whatever he had to sell, and to be certain it would reach him before the river closed. This condition of affairs lasted until within thirty years when the railway from St. John to Fredericton was opened. Then the people of Fredericton were able to change their system and purchase goods as they required them, knowing that they could get them to their destination at any time without excessive charges. Fredericton, Woodstock, Andover and Grand Falls now do not depend on the river for their supplies, but smaller towns like Gagetown, Oromocto and other districts still have to depend on the river for transportation. Perhaps some day we shall have a railway running along the bank of the river, or at all events a portion of the distance, which will place these small towns in a better position, but for the present this has not been realized. No doubt a considerable part of the backwardness of the country north of the city is due to the fact that they have such poor communication with the outside world in the winter. These countries possess a fertile soil, and everything apparently that is needed to make them prosperous, yet they ought to do, and possibly the cause we have mentioned is responsible for it. The great secret of prosperity in any country is to have good communications, and although it would sometimes seem that too much money has been expended in Canada on railways, which are not earning dividends, on the whole the policy of the successive governments for the encouragement of railway building has been a good one.

CRUISING TAXES.

Kruger, it is said, became very violent and excited when he was told by a reporter of the London Daily Mail that Great Britain would ignore all attempts to secure arbitration. Mr. Kruger's efforts to obtain arbitration after he has been soundly thrashed and driven out of this country, are rather ludicrous. If the result had been otherwise and Mr. Kruger had been able to overrun Cape Colony and Natal, he would have been able to find many good reasons against arbitration. The time for arbitration was before the war commenced, and not when it is practically finished.

THE LONDON CANADIAN GAZETTE.

The London Canadian Gazette published a list of articles purchased in Canada for the British government and for the Indian government which shows that our manufacturers have been well patronized. The list includes saddlery, great coats, khaki trousers, serge frocks and transport wagons, and also a large order for wooden huts, while hay, oats and other articles have also been supplied. The whole amount expended in Canada in supplies for the British government reached a total of upwards of \$4,000,000.

This country has had more than its share of severe storms during the last two or three weeks, and it is to be hoped that we shall now have some fine weather to make up for the bad weather we have been experiencing. The loss of life on this coast in consequence of the storms of the autumn, has been greater than for many years, and the loss of property has also been very considerable.

Some of the British newspapers are proposing to impose a war tax from 5 to 10 per cent. on foreign manufactured imports. This would not be regarded as a measure of protection, but simply for the purpose of raising money to pay the bills of the army and navy. As parliament is to meet shortly we will have an opportunity of learning how this proposal is likely to be received.

The Toronto Star's proposition that the leader of the opposition be paid a salary by the government will hardly be accepted or even taken seriously. Possibly the other suggestion made by the same paper, that the salary of the premier should be increased may receive consideration.

Recently there has been a sharp advance in the prices of turnip seed, the increase being 50 to 75 cents a bushel.

TALKING TAXES.

Some Members of the Board of Trade

DISCUSS EXEMPTIONS.

They Decide Salaries Up to Three Hundred Dollars Should Be Exempt and That a Hundred Dollars Should Be Taken From Five Hundred Salaries.

At a special meeting on Tuesday the board of trade took action on the proposal to recommend exemption of taxation on smaller incomes. Mr. W. F. Hatfield's proposition, put as a motion at a recent meeting, was changed somewhat and passed by the meeting. It will be sent to the common council and the city's representatives in the legislature. There was a lengthy discussion of many points before the vote was taken and then the amended proposition was unanimously adopted.

Mr. G. Wetmore Merritt presided in the absence of President McLaughlin. Those present were Messrs. W. Frank Hatfield, W. M. Jarvis, G. Fred Fisher, W. S. Foster, F. L. Davis, E. A. Goodwin, John Seely, F. A. Dykeman, T. H. Hall, W. E. Earle, John E. Irvine, E. H. Fairweather and F. A. Peters.

The motion of Mr. Hatfield, which had been held over for further discussion, provided for request to the common council to take steps to exempt from taxation incomes of \$400 and under and to increase the poll tax from \$2 to \$3, franchise to be granted on such poll tax. As having moved the adjournment, Mr. W. S. Foster was called on. He said his object in moving the adjournment had been to prevent any hasty action. He had since gathered some data. He spoke of the difficulty of equitably dividing the tax. He thought the feeling was one of desire to relieve the man who had a hard time to make both ends meet, who with his family had to suffer privations, and the rate would rise to \$1.51. Exemption of taxation of the \$100, \$200 and \$300 incomes with no increase in poll tax would mean a loss of \$15,000 five points increase. Exemption of those with poll tax increased to \$3 would mean a loss of \$7,000 in income or three points increase in rate. Exemption of the \$100, \$200 and \$300 incomes with a reduction of the poll tax raised to \$3, the loss would be \$13,000 or five points increase in rate of taxation.

Mr. Hatfield here said he felt that in these figures there should be considered a loss of 50 per cent. in the fact that that amount of the smaller taxes were not paid. Mr. Fisher said the figures had been given him as \$15,000. Mr. Fisher moved as amendment to Mr. Hatfield's resolution that the common council be asked to take steps to exempt all incomes of \$300 and under and to increase the poll tax of \$100 in valuing incomes of \$400 and \$500, and that the poll tax be \$3. Mr. W. M. Jarvis thought this proposed nearly to manifold suffrage. Mr. Fisher said he also had some figures given him by Chairman of Assessors McRobbie. His calculation was practically the same as his own (Mr. Fisher's). It would make the rate \$15.12 instead of \$13.33. Contrary, Mr. Fisher said there were 220 incomes of \$100 which were taxed \$3.50; 930 incomes of \$200, taxed \$6.00, and 1,320 incomes of \$300, taxed \$8.50. This meant that 4,270 people would, by the plan of the amendment, be relieved of \$1 and poll tax.

Mr. G. Fred Fisher said he thought the amendment on the subject of taxation was a very important one. He had found 3,08 per cent. uncollected in 1899; of the 1893 levy the percentage was 2.62; of the 1894 levy it was 2.34; of the 1895 levy, 2.35; of the 1896 levy, 2.70; of the 1897 levy, 4.06; of the 1898 levy, 6.59; and of the 1899 levy, 21.90 per cent. He thought that Mr. Hatfield's estimate of the loss of the city through non-payment of the smaller income taxes was too high. Mr. Hatfield made it some \$19,000. Mr. Fisher thought it would be more than \$12,000. He seconded the amendment.

Mr. W. M. Jarvis spoke of the diversity of taxation systems. Some one of these must be right and he thought it strange that so many systems should exist in a community. Behind it he thought was the wonderful shifting of taxation. He praised Mr. McRobbie for the work he had done as chairman of assessors. He (Mr. Jarvis) had also collected some figures. He had been under the impression that many small incomes never paid their taxes. But he found that of taking the year 1892—only 3.08 per cent. of the total tax was unpaid. This was not a very heavy percentage. He had not been able to tell how this amount was divided among the classes of income but it would be important to know. Mr. Jarvis expressed himself favorable to reducing the lower income taxes. He felt it might bring people to the community. At any rate he was willing to pay his share of increased taxation.

He pointed out that smaller incomes paid more in proportion than the larger ones, and said this was unfair. A man of \$1,000 income paid \$4 taxes or something over 11 per cent., while the man of \$200 income paid \$6.50 taxes, a percentage of over 3.25. He did not think it fair that his employee should have to pay a higher percentage than himself. If anything, it should be less, for the employee would have property to be protected. His wish was to see a little expense allowed from incomes up to \$1,000.

Mr. W. E. Earle made the point that the proposed scheme would relieve the \$100 man of only 50 cents on a rate of \$1.51. The \$200 man would have \$2.06 relief and the \$300 man, \$3.50, so that those whom it was sought most to benefit would be getting the least benefit. He said some 280 people were taxed on poll alone and of these some 30 were all that paid. In 1897, only 20 per cent. of the \$100 incomes' tax was paid. Mr. T. H. Hall said he favored Mr. Hatfield's motion. Mr. F. L. Davis suggested that many working men would not think the board for decreasing the tax, for they felt landlords would add it to rentals. What he favored was a reduction of the poll tax to \$1.51. Mr. Hatfield said that two and a half years after the levy of 1895 was made, there remained 34 per cent. of that year's taxes uncollected, and for they felt landlords would add it to rentals. What he favored was a reduction of the poll tax to \$1.51. Mr. Hatfield said that two and a half years after the levy of 1895 was made, there remained 34 per cent. of that year's taxes uncollected, and for they felt landlords would add it to rentals. What he favored was a reduction of the poll tax to \$1.51.

A KING OF MUSIC.

Sir Arthur Sullivan Buried With Royal Honors.

London, Nov. 27.—With all the pomp and circumstance which might have attended the obsequies of a member of the royal family, the remains of Sir Arthur Sullivan were interred in St. Paul's cathedral this afternoon. Immense crowds assembled in the vicinity of the late residence of the deceased and St. James' palace, while every point of vantage around St. Paul's was taken up hours prior to the arrival of the cortege. Great crowds lined the route traversed by the procession. The Queen, Emperor William of Germany, the Prince of Wales and other royalties were represented and the musical and dramatic world attended in force. The presence of United States Ambassador Choate and other diplomats was noted. The coffin was embedded in magnificent floral tributes sent from far and near.

Just as Mr. Choate, with Mr. Charles Wyndham, Mr. George R. Sims and other well known persons, arrived at the Chapel Royal, the attendants resisted orders to close the doors, as the chapel was full. Mr. Choate expostulated and showed his card of admission, but all to no avail. Mr. Sims remarked in a low tone: "The Anglo-American entente cordiale is shattered after all these years."

For 10 minutes the United States ambassador kept waiting, but finally the attendants were ordered to admit him and the other distinguished persons with him. The service was now well advanced. As this particular doorway is known as the ambassador's entrance, unprivileged bystanders were not a little amused and one of them referred to Mr. Choate as a "Polish Virgin."

PLAN TO REACH THE POLE.

Captain Bernier Wants British and Canadian Help.

Montreal, Nov. 27.—(Special)—Captain Bernier, of Quebec, has gained support of Sir Clements Markham, president of the Royal Geographical Society, for his scheme to reach the North Pole and is here making arrangements and hopes the British government will co-operate with the Canadian ministry. Captain Bernier's plans, as approved by Sir Clements Markham, contemplate the departure of the expedition from Vancouver with a wooden or steel ship and a crew of six sailors and five scientists. Entering the polar basin in August, a month earlier than Nansen did, the ship would begin to drift 300 miles further east than Nansen's vessel did. The expedition would winter in the ice.

CRUSADE AGAINST VICE.

An Open Meeting in the Chamber of Commerce.

New York, Nov. 27.—An open meeting to devise ways and means to restrict vice in this city was held at the chamber of commerce this afternoon. The meeting was called to order by Morris K. Jessup, president of the chamber, who made a statement as to its object. On motion of former Mayor Abram S. Hewitt, Charles Stewart Smith was made chairman, and George Foster, Peabody secretary. A letter was read from Bishop Potter, giving his reasons for not attending. Addresses were also made by Mr. Mayor Abram S. Hewitt, Prof. Felix Adler, St. Clair McKelvey, editor of the Brooklyn Eagle, and Rev. Dr. Padlock, vicar of the Pro-Cathedral, who was introduced as the representative of Bishop Potter.

Ex-Mayor Hewitt said the existing conditions were due to the laxity of the police and that the mayor should be held responsible. He told of his experiences while he was mayor. The chief of police, he said, had warned him that he would lose his best political friends if he persisted in closing the dives. Notwithstanding this he had issued the order and the dives were closed.

Dr. Padlock said that the people of the east side came to the clergy daily with complaints but that they were not interested in the matter. He said he could produce thousands of witnesses, but their names would have to be kept from the public until the Tammany leader had been crushed for they feared him as a tyrant.

OPINION ON THE PHILIPPINES.

Judge Taft Says They Are a Great Asset.

Cincinnati, O., Nov. 27.—Judge Taft, president of the Philippine commission, in a letter to a friend in this city, speaks of the resources and needs of the islands as follows: "With these islands completely pacified they are far and away the best possessions in the Orient for purposes of trade and development. Their climate is better than the climate of any tropical country I know and the capacity for agricultural, mineral and commercial development would seem to be unlimited. Even with the unsettled condition of the country as it is, the tonnage of the vessels coming into the harbor of Manila, excluding the government transports, is double what it ever was in Spanish times and the same thing is true of the inter-island tonnage. With the construction of wagon roads and railroads through these islands, the opportunities for development cannot be exaggerated. These people are a people who take to the luxuries of life, enjoy good clothes and comforts and markets among them for cotton goods, for canned goods, for flour, for petroleum and for machinery can be created in a wonderfully short time."

"One of the things that is needed here is the introduction of American business methods. The establishment of two or three large American business houses (retail or wholesale) carrying into business the same methods that prevail at home, would do wonders for the business standards of these islands."

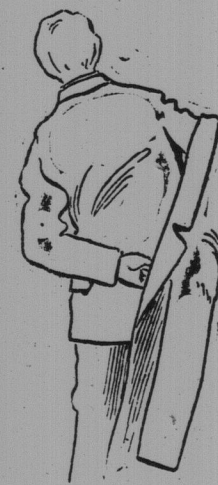
Dr. Gilchrist, of North End, has imported from the Hood farm, Lowell, Mass., a fine yearling Jersey bull, "Pedro XVII."

GOT YOUR WINTER OVERCOAT?

We were busy selling Winter Overcoats while the weather was yet mild. But now old Jack Frost himself is driving men to buy their Overcoats—and we suspect he gives a whispered hint as to the best Overcoat store! Even with absolute knowledge that our stock is best, we're surprised to see so many new faces. Men are not given to talking Clothes, as a rule; but every one is glad to tell a friend where he got a particularly striking or meritorious garment.

Overcoats \$5.00 to \$18.00.

- At \$5.00 and 6.00 Single Breasted Overcoats of Blue Beaver, with velvet collar, blue check linings, seam in back full length.
- At \$7.00 Single Breasted Black Beaver Overcoat, with velvet collar, black Italian body lining, mohair sleeve lining. A real \$10.00 Overcoat in other stores.
- At \$8.50 Men's Overcoats, single breasted, in Blue Beaver, Grey Twill and Grey Melton, with velvet collars, full facings Italian body linings and mohair sleeve linings. Best in St. John for the money.
- At \$10.00 Men's Overcoats, single breasted, in Fine English Blue Beaver; also, a very fine Grey Twill, velvet collar, full facings, Italian body linings and mohair sleeve linings. Well made and finished throughout. You might match them at \$15.00, but we doubt it.



GREATER OAK HALL, SCOVIL BROS. & CO.,

King Street, Corner Germain. } St. John, N. B.

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Christiania, Nov. 27.—The Duke of Abruzzi, the Arctic explorer, has completed his arrangements for the relief expedition next spring to Franz Josef Land in search of the Norwegian machinist Stoenken and the two Italians who were lost during the recent expedition. The search expedition will be commanded by Captain Stoenken, father of the machinist, who has conferred here with the Duke of Abruzzi and Dr. Nansen.

"Very changeable man, isn't he? I wonder what his latest whim is." "Well—I guess I am. We're engaged." —Puck's Life.

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