

Bountiful Christmas In St. John This Year

Money Circulating Freely And Stores Doing a Rushing Business—Turkeys And Other Products Of The Season At Top Prices, But Demand Is Brisk—Transportation Facilities Are Heavily Taxed—Charitable Organizations Busy.

Everywhere, in every home, in the stores, banks and all places of business, the spirit of Christmas is abroad and a birdseye view of St. John today would show thousands of people on the streets intent upon the sole purpose of observing Yuletide as it should be.

From all indications the Christmas of 1906 will long be remembered as one of favorable weather, happy people and the easy state of the money market. The stores report unprecedented sales; provision dealers are quickly disposing of their wares at unusually high prices and the express companies and post-office are doing a rushing business in receiving and forwarding thousands of gifts which St. John people in the generosity of their hearts are sending to absent friends.

Through it all, that genial old saint, Santa Claus, is the moving spirit and Christmas to everyone means a time of receiving and dispensing of presents. Children are as credible as ever of the old saint, who still resides at the north pole, undisturbed by the rival claims of Peary and Cook to the discovery of his domicile. Will it occur to any bright youngster to ask Santa Claus if Cook was really at the pole? A little girl who must have been at least eleven years of age was overheard to say to her mother when the latter ordered one of those mysterious prize packages enclosed in a gauze Christmas stocking, "Why, mamma you needn't buy those, Santa Claus always brings them." This shows how the beautiful tradition is still cherished in many homes in this bustling 20th century.

Brunswick from the United States are sorted in the most important at the Union Depot.

One of the new popular things to be considered in connection with the holiday feast, is the food problem. The Christmas dinner is generally one of which fond memories linger until perhaps the months have rolled around, and recollections of the past have given way to anticipation of the future.

First of all in the preparation of the dinner comes the turkey, and fortunately there is a good supply of the luscious birds this year. Large numbers have been imported from P. E. Island and these have more than made up for the deficiency in the local supply due to the inability of the country people to come to market for want of good sleighing. No matter what the supply has been the demand has been equally brisk, and the price has advanced steadily within the last day or two. Yesterday afternoon 28 cents a pound was asked, though some dealers parted with their birds for a cent lower.

Prices Away Up.

Pork was firm yesterday at 10 1/2 cents, considerably higher than the day before. Geese were high at from \$1.60 to \$2.00 and ducks sold all the way from \$1.50 to \$2.00. Chickens did not go below \$1.00, while fowls sold for 75c. to \$1.25. Other prices in the country market were: Beef 9 1/2c to 10 1/2c; Mutton, 7c to 8 1/2c; Lamb 10c; Fresh eggs 35c to 50c; Butter, (creamery) 30c a pound. Dealers in the market have recognized the Christmas spirit by decorating their stalls with greenery and spruce boughs and the lower end of the building now presents a very attractive appearance.

Hundreds of Christmas Trees.

At the head of King street and in the paths in King Square are hundreds of Christmas trees which have been brought in from the country and are being sold at a good price. From 25 cents to \$1.00 is the price asked but the supply this year seems greater than the demand and the vendors are glad to get anything they can for the smaller trees. The experience of some of those engaged in selling the trees in having about forty trees stolen last Monday morning does not speak well for the record some merchants have for the Christmas season.

THE LAST DOLL.

It is a healthy sign to see the dolls displacing the Teddy Bear.

In the midst of all the plenty and generous buying of the best of produce at high prices, there are always a certain number of the less fortunate ones of life who have not the wherewithal to purchase even bare necessities on Christmas day and for these charitable organizations and private individuals are making provision so that there will be none in St. John who need go without a Christmas dinner this year.



Those who took the advice to shop early are glad.

Shoppers who have taken advantage of the advice so earnestly given by the merchants to shop early are now congratulating themselves when they see the late shopper waiting impatiently at a crowded counter or in danger of being trodden underfoot in a rush down a corridor at a bazaar sale. Hundreds of Christmas presents have been purchased this year at the auction sale of Japanese novelties going on in King street and the luckless wit of the foreign auctioneer made the time spent in the store pass very pleasantly.

The Polar discoveries are responsible for the influx of Eskimo dolls and north pole toys which are everywhere in the stores. The Teddy bear is now almost forgotten and more dolls are sold than ever.

While the greater portion of the gifts purchased in St. John stores find their way to homes in the city, yet a large number are sent away and the avenues of transportation, generally considered quite sufficient, are overtaxed at this time of year. A reporter who visited the express offices yesterday found a line of extra men behind the counter industriously attending to the wants of a waiting line of people, who had parcels of all conceivable shapes and sizes to transmit to other parts of the Dominion. The manager of one of the companies remarked that each year it seemed there was more traffic and that things were getting harder to handle or else it was because he was getting older.



Nineteen extra men were assisting at the Post Office.

At The Post Office.

At the post office yesterday six extra men were assisting the regular carriers in distributing the mails about the city while thirteen extra men were helping in the office to sort the largest accumulation of mail matter on record. It is expected there will be an increase of about 50 per cent in the amount of matter handled this week than in the same period last year.

Stamps are being sold from two windows while one girl's time is taken up almost entirely with weighing parcels. The clerks in the registration office are very busy men these days. During the rush the mails for points in New

ROBINSON OPERA COMPANY HERE



MISS ESTHER BARTON With the Robinson Opera Company.

The announcement that the Robinson Opera Co. are to be in St. John again is being looked forward to as the theatrical event of the season. Already there is a big advance sale and indications point to packed houses at the opening performance on Saturday afternoon and evening.

The company comes here direct from Halifax, where they played a very successful week's engagement on their return from Newfoundland. The press in all the cities in which they have appeared speak very highly of them.

A number of new people came to the company since they last visited St. John. Among these are Charles Fulton, tenor; Jack Henderson, comedian, and Charles Hillman, basso.

THREE DIE, VICTIMS OF VENGEFUL ASSASSINS

Yesterday a Remarkable One In World Politics—Corean Premier, Russian Detective, And British Magistrate Killed

A remarkable series of political assassinations of personages high in office was reported yesterday from widely separate points throughout the world.

In Seoul, Corea, the prime minister of the Corean cabinet was stabbed to death with a dagger as an apparent result of the intense feeling in Corea against Japanese influence.

In St. Petersburg the chief of the secret police, Colonel Karpoff, was blown to pieces by the explosion of a bomb, supposedly thrown by an anarchist.

NOTED CROOK GETS STIFF SENTENCE

Ten Years For Fritzie Dubin, Convicted Of Switching a Valise Containing Over \$1,000.

Chatham, Ont., Dec. 22.—Fritzie Diehn, alias Chapman, convicted a few days ago of switching a valise containing over \$1000 at Tilbury over a year ago, was sentenced this afternoon to ten years in Kingston penitentiary.

Diehn, who is now 64 years of age, is a noted crook, who has served terms in Ohio, New York, Pennsylvania and Tennessee state prisons for diamond robberies. He escaped to the United States after the Tilbury affair but was arrested a few months ago and extradited.

ATLANTIC TROUBLED WITH SEVERE STORMS

London, Dec. 22.—Gales in Great Britain have done much damage to shipping. The railway company's steamer Rostrevor which left Greenore, a headland of Ireland at 11 o'clock Tuesday night and which was due at Holyhead, Wales at 5 a. m. Wednesday, a distance of about 75 miles across St. George's Channel, has not yet been reported and it is believed she has foundered. She carried a crew of 24 and a few passengers.

Queenstown, Dec. 22.—Incoming steamers arriving here from the United States and elsewhere report severe storms on the Atlantic ocean. The Cunarder Campania, from New York, December 15, arrived today at 5 1/2 p. m., after one of the roughest passages in her history. The French liner Chicago, also from New York and already overdue at Havre France, her home port, has sent a wireless message saying she will arrive at Queenstown tomorrow to replenish her coal and water supplies.

UNITED STATES CRUISER ARRIVES AT COLON

Colon, Dec. 22.—The United States auxiliary cruiser Prairie, having on board 700 marines and 500,000 rounds of ammunition, arrived here today. The marines are under the command of Col. William P. Biddle.

The United States despatch boat Dolphin also came into the harbor today.

people of St. Andrew's Guild are putting forth every effort to make it a success.

The men of the sea will be given their Christmas treat in the Seaman's Institute on Tuesday evening, next, when 500 comfort bags will be presented to those in attendance at the annual concert.

Ladies of the King's Daughters order and the W. C. T. U. are sending out the usual baskets and the former have also been receiving and distributing gifts of clothing. Catholic charitable societies work quietly and make a specialty of distributing coal to the deserving poor.

Take it all around there seems no reason why every citizen of St. John should not enjoy a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

HENRY HILYARD PASSED AWAY AT NOON YESTERDAY

Was One Of St. John's Foremost Citizens—A Man Of Many Activities—Deep Feeling Of Regret.

Mr. Henry Hilyard, one of St. John's most prominent business men and foremost citizens and head of the firm of Hilyard Brothers, millmen, passed away at noon yesterday at the Hilyard homestead, Douglas avenue, after a short illness. Only a few days ago Mr. Hilyard was around the streets and to all appearances seemed to have many years of life before him.

Mr. Hilyard was the fifth child of the late Thomas and Matilda Hilyard and was born in 1848.

His Early Career.

His early education, obtained in St. John was supplemented by a professional course at the law school of Harvard University, where he received the degree of Bachelor of Law in 1870. He continued his study of law in the office of Messrs. Bayard and Thompson, St. John, and after his admission as an attorney in 1871, he went to England. Upon his return the following year he became associated in business with his father, whose death occurred shortly afterwards.

In company with his brother, Mr. Thomas R. Hilyard, he succeeded to the business and carried on the wood on shipbuilding for some time. They also carried on an extensive ship repairing business as well as operating their large lumber mills. He was also actively interested in the Dalhousie Lumber Company, with big mills on the North Shore. In 1876 Mr. Hilyard married Miss Theresa McDonald, daughter of the late Mr. Arthur McDonald, a well known shipbuilder of this city.

Active In Public Affairs.

Mr. Hilyard was a very active man and gave a good deal of his time in the interest of the public. Before the union of Portland with the city he was a member of the Portland council and also mayor for one year. He was a very active worker in St. Luke's Episcopal church, and held the office of warden for many years. He was a commissioner of the General Public Hospital and chairman of the nurses' training school of that institution. Mr. Hilyard's ability was recognized by his selection as chairman of the commission to arbitrate the dispute between the International Railway Company and the New Brunswick Lumber Co.

Mr. Hilyard is survived by his wife and one son, Mr. George Hilyard; also by the following brothers and sisters: Mrs. W. H. Smith and Mrs. Geo. Robertson, Messrs. Herbert A. and Arthur H., at Dalhousie; Thomas R. and E. J., at home, and W. W. Hilyard at Dalona, Florida.

In Mr. Hilyard's death St. John loses one of its leading citizens, a man who took an active interest in public and semi-public affairs, and who discharged well all the duties and obligations that he undertook. He was a familiar figure about the streets and many warm friends all over the city will regret his death.

The funeral will take place tomorrow afternoon at 2:30 o'clock at St. Luke's church.

MAY NOW DEFER DISSOLUTION IN ENGLAND

be a foolish politician. He is astonished to find that the views which always prevailed in his dining room are greeted with laughter in public. The six hundred nobles are like the noble hundred at Balaklava making their wild charge. In defence of themselves they say things that are brave, but absurd. The onlookers exclaim, "Glorious, but it isn't politics."

As the contest proceeds the success of the party becomes assured.

Winston Churchill grows more conservative, but Lloyd-George wounds and harries the enemy with every sentence. At Cardiff yesterday he made a rousing speech, attacking landlordism as represented at Cardiff by the Marquis of Bute. He mentioned that land purchased in the city at £100,000 is only rated at £255, the trouble seems to be that the lords do their own assessing and selling and arbitrarily fix the prices.

If the city will not pay the lord may wait a hundred years until human needs make the purchase compulsory. As one lord naively complained, it is not the fault of the peers that the population grows, nor is it that the land will not stretch.

The Duke of Norfolk says that if the Liberals win the peers will pass the budget, for the lords will not scatter themselves over the country twice. This is a characteristic dual utterance.

Lord Curzon last night declared that the House of Lords should be reduced to one-third of its present membership by exempting from attendance all but the peers more suited by aptitude and inclination. How to determine aptitude is the difficult part of it.

TALK WE'LL GET THIS WINTER.

Did you ever hear two bowling friends discussing "last night"? Their chatter is as intelligible as Chactaw. Here's a sample:

"Going up against new wood is fierce. It was hole after hole, and the majority were railroads. In the second frame Rudy drew Big Dick and Jack followed. In the second frame Walter hits 'em Brooklyn, leaves the 5-9 Lulu and playing the lead in the Cherry Pickers. Charlie cracks them in the pocket for a cinch strike, but leaves Bismark up and poodies goes after it. The Limit was up three times in two games, and the Lady Singer four times, while the Baby was so common it was a chestnut."

For the uninitiated, "Big Dick," often the "Limit," is the 7-10 split. "Double poodie" is the 4-7-10 split. "Lulu" is a two-pin spare with pins in relative positions of 5-9, 4-4 or 1-5 pins. "Cherry Pickers," to take off one pin in a two-pin spare. "Pocket" is the space between the 1-3 or 1-2 pins. "Bismark" is the 10 or 1-2 split. "Ladyfinger" is the 6-7-10 or 1-5 split. "Poodie," otherwise "One Dog," to roll in the gutter. "Hole" is a split. "Tailroad," horizontal two-pin split, as 4-4 or 8-10. "Baby" is 2-10 or 2-7 split. "Brooklyn" to go set head pin on far side.

AIRSHIPS SUPPLANT AUTOS.

Toymakers have been busy since last Christmas, as Toronto toyshops will show. Flying machines have taken the place of automobiles. The bears and elephants take a back seat while the sleepy mule and automatic clown have been succeeded by the cowboy and his bucking broncho. The latest arrivals of dolls are clad in furs from head to foot, and even the terrible African lion could not be kept out of toyland.

Most of the aeroplanes and other flying machines are inexpensive and sell about in an interesting manner when suspended by a thread or cord. The propellers are revolved by mechanism. This is a German product and is attracting the attention of old and young alike. The American production is more expensive but is substantial, and sells independent of any sensation.

See Our Large and Attractive Stock of SPARKLING CUT GLASS

W. H. THORNE & CO., Ltd., Market Square.

- VASE—Price \$8.50; others \$1.40 to \$15
- WATER BOTTLES Price \$5.25
- JEWEL BOX \$7.50, \$10.50, \$15.00
- BOWLS \$8.75 to \$12
- PUFF BOX \$4.50
- UMBRELLERS Like cut \$3 per dozen. Others, including Lemonades, \$7.50 to \$17.
- FERN DISH Price \$3.50

FRIDAY

Will be your last chance to influence Xmas buyers. Being pay day, and the last day before Xmas, it ought to be a big one. Get after them early Friday Morning in our snappy Xmas edition and make the record of this season. Phone 1722 any time before 6 o'clock tonight.

The Advertising Manager.

NEW CABINET IS FORMED IN PORTUGAL

All Ministers Are Progressionists—Cortez To Re-assemble Jan. 2 to Immediately Adjourn For Two Months.

Lisbon, Dec. 22.—The formation of a new cabinet was announced today. The electoral system.

It is composed as follows: President—Berio. Minister of Justice—Montre. Minister of the Interior—Dacosta. Minister of Finance—Branco. Minister of Foreign Affairs—A. E. Villaca. Minister of War—Mathias Nunes. Minister of Marine—Azevedo Coutinho. Minister of Public Works—Moreira.

All of the new ministers are progressionists. The Cortez will reassemble on January 2, but immediately adjourn for two months, to permit the government time for the preparation for a programme of reforms including amendments to the constitution and the improvement of the electoral system.