

BAD FOR THE WINTER PORT.

The recent despatch of a steamer, grain laden from St. John for Liverpool, had given those who regarded that city as Canada's real winter port, considerable hope that a better day was dawning for our ambitious commercial metropolis, but it appears the labor question is intervening in a way that may drive the grain shipment business entirely away from St. John. General freight agent Tiffin of the C. P. R., has made public correspondence in reference to the matter of ship laborers' wages. When the grain elevator at the Canadian Pacific terminus was completed, the company entered into a contract with the Furness steamship company for space in steamships for the next three sailings. The intention was to continue to furnish cargoes for four or five later trips. But the Furness company, having failed to induce ship laborers to work for less than \$3 per day, as against \$2 paid by them at Halifax, have notified the railway that they cannot do business at the rate of the agreement, and will discontinue after two more cargoes carried are taken. Mr. Tiffin says that the railway cannot allow the steamships more than the present contract, and that if the rate is more they will send grain, hay and other merchandise to some other port. Mr. Schofield the Furness manager, and Mr. Tiffin, have presented the case to the ship laborers' union, which is distinctly informed that after two more sailings there will be no more work at Sand Point wharf at the present rate of wages.

A CIVIC CIRCUIS.

The city of Hall, opposite Ottawa, has been laughing this week over an event in civic circles. At a recent meeting of the council, the city clerk accused of a defalcation, was dismissed, and a committee consisting of the mayor and two aldermen, was appointed to take over the books, etc. But the clerk had no idea of giving up his job so easily. When the mayor called on him in his office he refused to surrender the books, denying the alleged charges. He also refused to give the combination of the lock on the door of the vault containing the books, and attempted to close the door, when the mayor stepped into the opening and prevented him. The mayor and the city clerk were alone in the office. The mayor is large, young and strong; the city clerk is small, old and weak. He took his seat at his desk and let the mayor stand in the opening of the vault. The mayor stood there for an hour. At last relief came. One of the aldermen appeared, and as the city clerk still refused to give up the combination, which he alone knows, the aldermen went for the agent of the manufacturers of the vault, who could set the lock to a new combination from the inside. He also sent a policeman to relieve the mayor, and that dignity departed, leaving the limb of the law in the vault opening and the city clerk still at his desk. By and by the policeman got tired and strolled to the window to see if the agent was coming. The moment he reached the window the clerk jumped from his desk, slammed the door which closed with a spring, put on his hat and walked out. When the agent arrived he said there was no possibility of his changing the combination of the lock without getting inside the vault, and the only way to do this is to make an opening in the wall large enough for the agent to crawl through. The clerk still refused to disclose the combination, and if he persists in his refusal, a breach is to be made in the wall.

THE UNFORTUNATE LEPEERS.

A public institution of which little is known, but yet is performing its duty to an unfortunate class of humanity, is the leper hospital at Tracadie in the county of Gloucester. There are at present twenty patients in the hospital or lazaretto, and it is called, eleven males and nine females. Eleven of these are in the first or early stage of the malady, six are in the second, and three are in the final stage. There were six deaths during the past year and four new cases were admitted. Of those admitted, two came from Lower Carleton, one from Shippan parish, and one from the parish of St. John's in the county of Gloucester. Dr. Smith, the superintendent reports the disease extinct at Tracadie outside the hospital, and that those entering during recent years came from the above mentioned outlying parishes, and from the poor sanitary surroundings, defective and bad dietetic conditions, and uncleanness, are important factors in the spread of leprosy. The superintendent observes that the female patients on entering the institution, although seeming to suffer more keenly at first, become resigned to their sad lot much sooner than do males. Friends and relatives are allowed to visit the poor unfortunates, but as a general thing, a leper's relatives look upon him, when immured in the lazaretto, as gone from them forever, and seldom visit him. In the early stages of the disease there is seldom much suffering beyond pains resembling rheumatism, but near the close of life there is much distress, particularly from ulcerated mouth, tongue and throat. The lepers are not in any sense prisoners. During the past summer the men and boys spent a portion of each day during fine weather, in boating and fishing on the harbor. The government having liberally provided for their maintenance, and the religious ladies in charge devoting their time to their bodily comfort and spiritual welfare, the lepers seem to pass the time happily, rather than otherwise.

PASSED THE LOWER HOUSE.

The Wilson tariff bill, in which Canadians take a living, active, interest, passed the House of Representatives at Washington, Thursday evening, by a vote of 204 to 140. The bill embodying as it does the Cleveland, Democratic, policy, a step towards free trade, was directly opposed by the Republicans, and the events leading up to its final passage in the House, says a Washington despatch, were almost unparalleled in the annals of the country. At 12 o'clock Thursday, the bill was reported to the house, and the closing speeches were made before a vast concourse of people assembled as had never before been seen within the precincts of the nation's legislative capitol. Four hours before the debate began, the corridors leading to the galleries were a surging mass of humanity, which finally became so great that men cried out in terror and women in fright. It was estimated that over twenty thousand persons attempted to gain admittance to the galleries. The seating capacity is about three thousand. When Mr. Reid, of

ST. JOHN AND THE N. P.

A City That Has Suffered and Still Suffers.

A St. John writer in the Montreal Transcript, says: Nothing sounds more hollow to the average intelligent citizen here than the cry that the financial troubles that have befallen other lands, it is as well that the truth should be told, sometimes at least. The long series of large business failures here have produced a most painful impression upon the community. Only to mention the names of the firms which have recently succumbed to the pressure of their difficulties, is to produce a startling array of facts that tell their own tale. The hotel Dufferin was one of the first to go down. It obtained a name and fame throughout Canada, as an old, well conducted and prosperous hostelry. It has now been closed for months and the worthy proprietor and his family are with the thousands of other exodians in the United States. The important shipping firm of H. D. Troop & Son, foremost in its line in this great commercial port, which had weathered the financial storms of a generation, was some time since carried down, its creditors being willing after an honest disclosure of the firm's affairs to accept a small percentage of their claims. Once this city was a great

FRENCH NAVAL SCARE.

England is having her naval scare, and the Frenchmen have caught the infection. The condition of the French navy occupied the attention of the French parliament, Wednesday, and some severe and startling statements were made. One deputy quoted from the reports of experts, and from official reports to show that the coast defenses have been neglected and exposed to the rivalry between the naval and military departments. The forts at Rochefort, L'Orient, Brest and Cherbourg, he said, were in bad condition. The torpedo boats at Toulon were notably worthless. He summed up the result of his observations in regard to the matter, and declared that, in the event of war being suddenly declared against France, her coast defenses were not prepared to prevent an enemy from landing. The island of Corsica, he said, was absolutely unprotected. Italy, if she so desired, was able to land on the island 15,000 men in a few hours time. The ships placed at the disposal of France's brave seamen were utterly unworthy of these heroic men. The superiority of the French sailors was powerless against the inferiority of their vessels. If France should be defeated in her next war, those who would be responsible, would be those who had failed to provide the armaments which modern science rendered necessary. Havre and Dieppe were at the mercy of any fleet that desired to bombard them, while Rouen and Boulogne were practically defenseless.

A WARM WELCOME.

Lord and Lady Aberdeen have been attending the Quebec carnival this week, and were given a rousing reception wherever they appeared. They arrived at the ancient Capital in the big snow storm, Tuesday, but that did not dampen the ardor of the populace in giving them a warm welcome. When His Excellency alighted from his car and entered his sleigh, the horses were unharmed, ropes more than a hundred feet long were attached to the vehicle, snowshoes in blanket coats formed a line on either side of either rope, and away sped Canada's viceregalty up the hill that leads from the station to the Chateau Frontenac hotel. A bodyguard of representatives of the different clubs surrounded the sleigh, and an equally interesting and gay scene, and so enthusiastic was everybody, that Lord and Lady Aberdeen could not forbear laughing heartily. The fun was infectious, and there was soon plenty of sunshine, despite the storm. Immediately on leaving the station the Governor General passed under the Eiffel living arch, the corners and summit of which were manned by snowshoes in uniform. Before entering, though, His Excellency, in both French and English, expressed his gratitude for, and appreciation of the honor done him, declaring he had never seen such a spectacle before, and would never forget it.

ENGINES OF EVIL.

Hon. S. H. Blake who is a brother of Hon. Edward Blake, and one of the leading lawyers of Ontario, in an address before the prisoners' aid association of Toronto, declared that one of the greatest evils of modern times is the daily newspaper, with its vile details of every brutal crime as instruction for beginners. Journalists tell the public how to poison folk and how to cover up crime; they have taught young women how to commit infanticide without discovery. The public trial, too, was as bad. Nothing was so disgusting to him as to have to sit in court waiting for another case while a criminal trial was in progress. The court room is crowded with boys and girls, and men and women; the moaning, the ripples of laughter, as the heathen and abominable details were elicited, was horrible to contemplate. The incentive to crime supplied by the newspapers and the courts was insatiable. In the majority of cases the criminal was made before he was twenty. Prevention was better than cure. Boys arrested for breaking glass, etc., should be dealt with in a fatherly way. They should not be thrown in with a lot of criminals to be forever contaminated. A reformatory for drunks should be provided; the present 32 or thirty days sentence was a cruel farce. Poverty was not a crime, and not a single man should be in jail because he is insane or destitute. Poorhouses, with work for everyone, should be insisted on.

THE UNFORTUNATE LEPEERS.

A young man named Keirstead from Kings county, a protégé of finance minister Foster, has been appointed a clerk in the St. John post office in spite of the efforts of Messrs. Hazen, McLeod and Chesley, M. P.'s, to secure the position for a St. John man. The St. John members are being snubbed right and left by the Ottawa ministers these days, and give no evidence of resentment at the insults heaped upon them. Mr. Pitts is very much concerned about the occasional escape of a lunatic from the provincial asylum, but there are so many of that unfortunate class at large now-a-days, that they receive but little public attention. Mr. Pitts is at large.

AROUND THE WORLD.

The News of the World in Brief—The Cream of Our Exchange.

The Dominion government has been allotted thirty thousand square feet at the Antwerp exhibition. Geo. W. Childs, proprietor of the Philadelphia Ledger, and a noted Philanthropist, died last night. Charles W. Polley, a young man with many friends in Fredericton, died suddenly Sunday at St. John. S. Edgar Wilson has been elected secretary of the Westmorland municipality, succeeding the late A. R. Oulton. A. Lumsden of Ottawa, has sold a timber limit to an American syndicate for \$305,000, which he purchased two years ago for \$60,000. Aid. Villeneuve, a wine merchant, has been elected mayor of Montreal, defeating Hon. James McShane by nearly two hundred votes. Peter Redpath, who built the Redpath museum and library in connection with McGill university, died yesterday in Chislehurst, England. Rev. Dr. DeBlois has resigned the principality of St. Martin's Baptist seminary, his resignation to take effect at the close of the present school year. W. W. Wendle, the champion bicyclist, has announced his permanent retirement from the race track. In the past seven years he has won \$10,000 worth of prizes. Capt. Nathan Peters, who observed his ninety-first birthday at Southampton, N. H., Wednesday, is the oldest free-mason in the United States, having joined the fraternity in 1828. Charles Doherty, Q. C., St. John's, oldest lawyer, died Tuesday morning, aged eighty-two. He was a native of Dublin, and his wife, who survives him, is a sister of A. P. Gault of Montreal, Canada's cooking king. The legislative council of Nova Scotia Wednesday, by 15 to 6, voted not to abolish itself, notwithstanding the fact that 18 of the 21 members had given Premier Fielding written pledges that they would vote for abolition. A terrible fight took place near Greenville, Tennessee, between Tennessee and North Carolina farmers who were working on a road. Fourteen men were wounded, six of whom died. The scene of the battle is twenty miles from Greenville, Tenn. In the case of *Beattie v. Grindle*, of Pembroke vs. the Mutual Aid association of Biddeford, an action brought for insurance of \$1,000 on the life of the plaintiff's husband, who committed suicide a year ago, the jury, Thursday at Ellsworth, Maine, brought in a verdict of \$1,028. On Wednesday afternoon, at St. Hilare, Quebec, a fourteen-year-old boy, while trying to take a cap off a loaded shotgun in his father's house, accidentally discharged the weapon and shot his brother, aged nine, in the back. The shot penetrated the boy's heart, killing him instantly. The marriage of Bruce Baillie and the Hon. Nellie Lisa Bass, only child and heiress of Baron Bass of Bass and Company of Burton-on-Trent, England, took place Wednesday. The bridegroom, who is a Scotch landowner, is a cousin of the earl of Elgin, now viceroy of India, and the bride is the prospective heiress to thirty million dollars. A tablet in memory of the late Governor Boyd, was publicly unveiled in St. David's Presbyterian church, St. John, Thursday night, addresses being delivered by Sir Leonard Tilley, Rev. John DeSoyres and other prominent gentlemen. Among those taking part in the musical part of the program, was Miss Annie Legrin, formerly of Fredericton. The St. John Globe says that the ridicule to which Sir Hibbert Tupper has been subjected since his silly proceedings were started against the city of St. John for running its ferry and against the tug boat men for running their boats without licensed officers has brought the best investments in shipping once yielded large returns, enabling them to live in luxury, who are now left with little or no means of support. Those who will tell us that Canada is prospering, that St. John is flourishing, do not venture to say what new industries have taken the place of the old that have gone, or what new resources we have to supply the place of our once flourishing shipping trade. They cannot do so. Perhaps the good times in other parts of Canada are of the same sort as we are now enjoying in St. John. If so, heaven help the country.

AN OUTRAGE.

The case of James McKay, incarcerated in the county jail at Newcastle, Miramichi, some months ago, under provisions of the extradition treaty, and brought to light by the jail committee of the municipal council, has aroused much interest and a general feeling of indignation at that place, that such things can be in this enlightened age. The Chatham World says: "That was a most extraordinary discovery which was made at Newcastle by the council, and shows how barbarian things are in the lap of civilization. A man was discovered in jail who had been placed there seven months before on suspicion of having committed a crime in a foreign country. The person on whose complaint he was arrested, went back to the United States and has made no application for extradition. Habeas corpus proceedings are necessary to secure the release of a person held illegally, and the poor devil has no money to pay a lawyer for conducting them. So he has been rotting in jail for months, and the country has been required to feed him, because he has not had money to pay a lawyer for his release. He will be there for life, unless some lawyer acts for him without a fee. What a blot it is on our legal system, what a disgrace to our country, when a man can be illegally deprived of his liberty for months and years because he has no money to pay a lawyer to move the courts to set him free. The lawyers, out of regard for the good name of the law, should see to it that no haggard criminal against justice shall never again be perpetrated in New Brunswick. The prisoner was charged with having stolen a horse he had in his possession, and the man who made the charge went back with the horse and left the prisoner in his fate. Instead of discharging him at the end of a month or six weeks, when no steps were taken for his extradition, the custodian of law and personal liberty, with an imbecility for which the law provides no remedy, have looked on helplessly, unable, they say, to act. The judge who committed the man says he cannot set him free, and that he has sent the facts of the case to the minister of justice. The council can't set him free, and nothing less than \$50 to \$100 for paying a lawyer more for a writ of habeas corpus will open the jail door. This is a shameful, a scandalous, an outrageous case, and an outrage on public liberty. The prisoner says he is innocent and should be considered so now that no effort has been made to prove him guilty. The jail committee of the council bought him a suit of cloth, and several councilors are making the ripples of good speech, thanking them for their generosity, declaring his innocence, and urging that he be brought to trial or set at liberty. Coun. Sullivan of Hardwick, asked several questions, and the man's answers showed that he was sincerely grateful for the interest the council were showing in his case. In reply to Coun. Sullivan he said he was 70 years old. Think of it—72 years old and in jail for months with a prospect of dying there, because the law does not provide a safeguard for the liberty of a poor man who may be arrested on a charge of having perpetrated a crime in a foreign country."

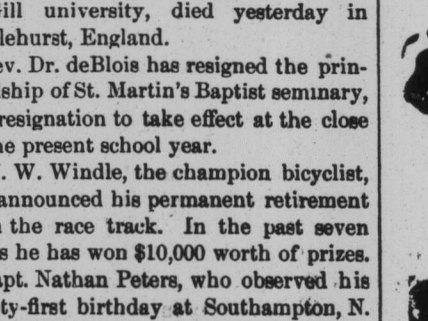
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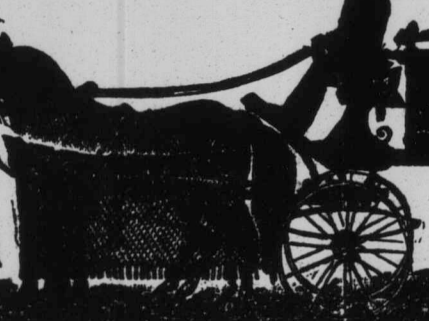
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