

THE WEATHER.

Maritime—Westerly to southerly winds, gradually increasing in force, fair, stationary or a little higher temperature. Washington, Dec. 17.—Forecast: Northern New England—Generally fair Friday and Saturday, fresh west winds. Toronto, Dec. 17.—A depression is situated tonight over Saskatchewan and pressure is highest over the Middle States. The weather is fair throughout the Dominion, except in Northern Alberta, where light snow has fallen. Temperatures. Min. Max. Victoria..... 32 38 Vancouver..... 22 36 Kamloops..... 6 16 Edmonton..... 14 28 Prince Albert..... 2 16 Calgary..... 4 26 Winnipeg..... 4 12 Port Arthur..... 2 22 London..... 3 17 Toronto..... 4 22 Ottawa..... 4 22 Montreal..... 4 20 Quebec..... 4 14 St. John..... 14 29 Halifax..... 6 30

Around the City

Not Properly Fenced. The police report that a vacant lot on Union street owned by Dr. Bishop is not properly fenced and is dangerous.

Keys Found. A bunch of ten keys found on King street yesterday was handed to the police and the owner can obtain the same on application at the central station.

Escaped From Chain Gang. About one o'clock yesterday afternoon Michael Burns, one of the fall prisoners, made his escape. With other members of the chain gang he had been working on Delhi street, and when the guards were not looking he managed to make a clean get away.

Railway Employees. The Canadian Brotherhood of Railway Employees met last night and elected the following officers: Wm. Howard, president; D. W. Daley, vice-president; T. Donovan, secretary; W. Shaw, treasurer; J. Bradley, warden; K. McLeod, chaplain; R. Cain, messenger; J. Sheehan, reporter; M. McCarthy, inside foreman; H. C. Coburn, member of the Brotherhood, who has enlisted with the 26th Battalion, was presented with a wrist watch. The presentation was made by T. Donovan.

Plumbers' Association. The annual meeting of the St. John Master Plumbers' Association was held last evening at Foresters' Hall, Coburg street. Reports were received and officers for the year elected as follows: President: George Blake; vice-president: S. E. Fitzgerald; treasurer: F. Walker; secretary: W. J. Crawford. Messrs. Noble, McNulty, Emerson, McDonough, Doyle, Harrington and Buckley were appointed a committee to deal with the arrangements for entertaining the master plumbers who will meet at the annual convention of the Dominion Association of Sanitary and Heating Engineers next June. Two hundred delegates are expected to come here.

A False Rumor. Some persons started a rumor about the city yesterday which caused no little uneasiness among citizens. The rumor was to the effect that the steamships which left St. John during the week had received word to return to port and that two of these ships had already arrived in Halifax. It was said that all ships were to remain in port until such time as it was deemed good and safe for their departure. The reason for such action, the rumor said, was that the German war ships which bombarded the English coast had escaped from the Atlantic. The agents of the different liners received many calls for information during the day, and to every person who enquired the same answer was given: "There is no truth in the rumor; there has been no ships recalled. Two ships, the Scandinavian and Cassandra sailed today. There is no danger, and if there are any German ships in the Atlantic there are plenty of British to take care of them."

GLOVE SALE. Why not get your Christmas presents from the lot of French kid gloves which F. A. Dykeman are now selling at 89 cents a pair. These gloves are done up in dainty boxes, and every pair guaranteed. Ask to see their extra good quality of French kid gloves at \$1.25 and \$1.40. Children's kid gloves of a very fine quality, heavy weight, and all sizes at 75 cents a pair. Don't miss the great sale of linens now going on at their store. You will find handsome Japanese hand-embroidered linens of every description from 5 cents up to \$3.50.

Is Appreciated. Ensign Clarke, the matron of the Evangeline Hospital, 36 St. James street, desires to gratefully acknowledge the donation of four pairs of white woolen blankets, one large table cloth and four chairs, given by the Brunswick Chapter of The Daughters of the Empire, per Mrs. W. E. Earle. The kindly thought, as well as the very practical help, is most sincerely appreciated by both officers and inmates.

BEACONSFIELD. Local government supporters in Beaufield, in the Parish of Lancaster, will meet in the Conservative Club rooms, 19 Dufferin Row, West End, this (Friday) evening.

Xmas Beef on Display. Kane and McDonald have for Xmas trade 20 prize steers from Amherst Stock Show.

TEN DAYS AFTER CHRISTMAS. You will appreciate the useful presents much more than the fancy articles. Warm Slippers, Solid Shoes, Beautiful Party Shoes, are always appreciated. McRobbie Shoe Co., King street.

ELECTORS OF SIMONDS PLEDGE WARM SUPPORT TO HON. J. B. M. BAXTER

His Appointment as Attorney General Subject of Rousing Addresses at Splendid Meeting at Mayall's Last Evening—December 31st Nomination Day and January 7th Election Day, if Necessary.

The meeting of the Conservative electors of Simonds No. 3 in Mayall's last evening developed into a rousing demonstration for Hon. J. B. M. Baxter, who was taken into the provincial cabinet yesterday as Attorney General. Hon. Mr. Baxter will come before his constituents for a ratification of his appointment and the spirit of the meeting last night indicated that no candidate of the Liberal party would have the least chance of saving his deposit should that party be able to secure a candidate to bear its colors.

The general feeling of the meeting was that the Conservatives would have no opposition, although it was understood that perhaps W. E. Foster might be selected as the leader of the rebel hope.

Although the Conservative electors were called to attend the gathering, still it was the general feeling that Liberals as well as Conservatives in the county would rally to the support of Mr. Baxter and should an election be necessary his majority would show that the county was unanimously back of him.

G. Fred Stephenson acted as chairman for the meeting and the speakers were Luther B. Smith, Councillor Wm. Golding, Thomas B. Carson, M. L. A., John A. Barry, Rupert W. Wigmore, Councillor Shillington, W. B. Tennant, Thomas P. Jordan, Messrs. Ballie and LeBlanc and G. Earle Logan.

Mr. Logan was first called upon. He announced that J. B. M. Baxter, one of the representatives of St. John county in the local house had been taken into the provincial cabinet as Attorney General and that a by-election would be necessary for the ratification of this appointment. The election would take place on January 7, 1915 and nomination day would be December 31. He asked the electors to give their support to Mr. Baxter and do their best to secure other support. It had been said that W. E. Foster would be nominated to oppose Mr. Baxter but he felt that Mr. Foster stood no chance at all.

Luther B. Smith. Luther B. Smith, who contested the constituency of Sunbury—Queens against Col. H. H. McLean, was then called upon. He felt that Mr. Baxter was the logical selection of all parties for their representative and he pointed to the good work done by Mr. Baxter for the county of St. John and the advancement of the province in general. Mr. Carson, the other county representative, had also done valiant service. Mr. Smith also spoke of the fine work done by Hon. J. D. Hazen, minister of marine and fisheries. With Mr. Baxter in the local cabinet as the representative of St. John county, the people of this constituency should be well content, and he trusted that should an election be necessary Hon. Mr. Baxter's majority would show the county behind him to a man.

John A. Barry. John A. Barry was given a hearty reception, and in a few well chosen words he told the people of Simonds why they should give their support to Mr. Baxter and help to secure other support to him. Mr. Barry's remarks were greeted with great applause and he showed himself an earnest speaker, who could drive home his points well. In opening his address he said he had a close personal acquaintance with Hon. Mr. Baxter, and he felt that anyone who knew Mr. Baxter at all intimately knew him as a man working earnestly in the interest of St. John county, and the province in general.

Mr. Barry was surprised to hear that there was to be opposition to Mr. Baxter. It had been the custom in cases of this kind for a minister to be returned without opposition. He cited several instances where Conservatives had allowed Liberal cabinet ministers to be returned without a contest. If a candidate were to run against Mr. Baxter it was evident that the Liberals were partly awakened again. The leadership of Hon. C. W. Robinson he did not consider seriously, for he believed that Hon. Mr. Robinson would never run an election, at least in provincial politics, and he felt that before the Liberals came out for real work they would have a new leader. The man to oppose Mr. Baxter, was, he understood, W. E. Foster. He could remember a time when Mr. Foster was rather sore against Hon. Mr. Robinson. Should it so happen that Mr. Foster were elected he could do nothing as a member of the legislature. With the two present members of the opposition he would form a weak party and would have little chance to do much in the interest of St. John county.

On the other hand with Mr. Baxter as the county representative much good would be accomplished. He believed Mr. Baxter to be the brightest man in the present government and he deserved the support of every man in the county. While there was no doubt of his re-election still organization must be completed and strengthened and no opportunity lost for increasing the majority. He felt that every supporter of Mr. Baxter should personally work to swell the majority. For himself he was willing to devote twenty-four hours a day to the work of swelling the majority for Mr. Baxter. The findings of the royal commission that recently investigated the Dugal charges had placed no stain on any member of the present government.

A Strong Man. Mr. Baxter had been selected for the cabinet but the honor was not all his. The people, whose representative he was, should also be proud of having such a big man as their representative.

Mr. Foster had run one election in the city and now it was said he was coming to the county. The people of the county should ask if he is coming out of the city in the interests of the county or his own interests. The people of St. John county had been well represented by Mr. Baxter, who along with Thomas Carson, had done so well by the county.

PLATOON SYSTEM FOR 26th

Battalion Re-Organized Yesterday—Four Companies Instead of Eight—Other Corps.

The 26th Overseas Battalion has been re-organized on the Imperial plan by doubling the strength of a company, and making four companies instead of eight. Companies will be known as A, B, C and D. This change will involve some reorganization of the officers' establishment, but will not affect their rank or pay. There will be four company commanders instead of eight. With a second captain in command. So far as the lieutenants are concerned their position will not be affected by the change, as each will command a platoon of fifty-two men as under the Canadian system.

Most of the time of the Battalion was occupied yesterday with making the necessary arrangements in connection with the change from the Canadian system to the Imperial system. Major Harrison, commanding officer of the Divisional Ammunition Column has received orders to mobilize his command on Friday on Monday of next week. The men who have been sworn in here to the number of 125 will parade at the armory shortly before noon on Monday and will march to the Union Station where they will take a special train at 1.30 p.m. for Fredericton, where quarters have been arranged for them.

Today the 26th Battalion will be giving training in outpost duty as well as in the new formations required by the Imperial form of organization. The commanding officer of the 26th Battalion received an offer yesterday from the City Cornet Band to attend all church parades of the Battalion while it is quartered here. The offer was accepted and as the 62nd band attends all church parades this means that hereafter the Battalion will have two bands.

When the Minister of Militia was in the city the advantage of Sussex as a mobilization center was urged upon him with a view to the utilization of the big military grounds there. The Minister told local cavalry officers that the order for the muster of a cavalry regiment in the Maritime Provinces would not be issued until after the new year.

Rupert Taylor of Taylor Bros., 31 King Square, has gone to Halifax to join the Royal Canadian Engineers. He is a British war veteran, having been eight years in the Imperial Navy and was wounded while attacking Tien Sing in China.

EAST ST. JOHN. Local government supporters will meet at Peck's Hall, East St. John, Monday evening.

SANTA CLAUS AT IMPERIAL TODAY. The Imperial annual Santa Claus skit for the children will commence this afternoon. This year it will take the form of shadowgraphs and will include six funny characters. The pantomime will be called "St. Nick in the Snow" and will be brought on at 3.30 sharp. It was planned for childish eyes only, adults will overlook its literary defects.

For Belgian Fund. A very handsome baby doll which is beautifully dressed in all hand made clothing has been kindly donated to the Belgian fund by Mrs. Yassie. This pretty doll is on exhibition in a front show case at Macaulay Bros. & Co.'s store. Drawing to take place on Wednesday next; tickets, 25c. each which may be purchased at this firm.

9 TO 12 O'CLOCK SPECIALS AT M. R. A.'S FOR THIS MORNING. These morning specials seem to be meeting with great favor and this morning there will be offered in the whitewear department, Ladies' Pile-Spun Cotton and Silk Undervests at 50c. Children's Silk Spun Pile Vests at 40c. and Ladies' white aprons at 20c. and 35c. also in linen room, embroidered circular table centres, at 50c. Embroidered bureau scarfs at 35c., embroidered pillow shams 55c., bureau scarfs, to match shams, 55c. Damask luck guest towels, 25c.

Local government meetings in different parts of the county not already held will be announced during the week. MUNICIPAL HOME. The Commissioners of the Saint John Municipal Home, request that all accounts against the Board be rendered not later than the 22nd of December to ensure payment before the 31st inst. By order, S. M. WETMORE, Secretary. Saint John, N. B., Dec. 18th, 1914.

FAIRVILLE. Local government supporters in Fairville will meet in the Temperance Hall, Main street, on Tuesday evening.

PARK HOTEL, KING SQUARE. served by having one of its members in the government; Therefore resolved that this meeting extend Mr. Baxter its hearty congratulations on the honor conferred upon him; And further resolved that this meeting do all in its power to ensure his re-election.

Another resolution as follows was also supported by everyone present at the meeting: Resolved that this meeting convey to the Hon. J. D. Hazen, M. P., from the City and County of Saint John, its hearty appreciation of the work done for Saint John since the advent of the present government to power. This was moved by George M. Johnston and seconded by J. W. Wilks.

Cheers were given for Hon. J. B. M. Baxter, Hon. J. D. Hazen and the meeting broke up with the singing of the National Anthem.

TOOL CHESTS--THE PRACTICAL KINDS



Not toys, but Tools—Tools of real practical value—of good quality and which will prove useful and amusing to boys of all ages. To a well equipped Tool Chest many a boy owes the development of his mechanical ability and the start of a successful career in the field for which nature intended him. Our English Tool Chests contain more and better Tools than ordinary ones at the same prices, and in each is placed an illustrated book of instructions. Prices range from 75 cts. to \$13.50. Our Own Special Tool Chests 50 cts. to \$13.75.

W. H. THORNE & CO. LTD. MARKET SQUARE AND KING STREET

SLATER SHOE STORE to be closed up



BIG SALE NOW ON

A Good Time for Bargains

The directors of the Slater Shoe Company have decided on closing up their retail stores and our instructions are to close out the stock immediately. With that end in view we are offering stirring bargains in new, clean, up-to-date Slater Shoes.

Holiday season is not generally selected as a time for a sale, but so that people may save some money on their Christmas shopping we are now giving them a chance to obtain gifts at bargain prices.

Slater Shoe Store, King St.



The "Bissell" Santa Claus

Becomes more popular every year, because he has delivered thousands of women from the drudgery of sweeping. Hundreds of husbands, fathers and brothers have recognized in the "BISSELL" CARPET SWEEPER a most acceptable gift at a most moderate price. "BISSELL" UNIVERSAL.....\$2.75 "BISSELL" GRAND RAPIDS.....\$3.00 "BISSELL" BABY TOY......35 PURITAN VACUUM CLEANER.....\$8.00 FAMOUS CLEANER AND SWEEPER.....\$9.00 Makes sweeping easy, and is a daily reminder of the giver's thoughtfulness.

Emerson & Fisher Ltd.

All M. R. A. Stores will be Open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday of next Week Until 10 O'clock p. m.

9 to 12 O'clock Specials in Two Departments FOR THIS MORNING

9 TO 12 O'CLOCK SALE IN WHITEWEAR DEPT.

Here are some more offerings from the Whitewear Department which are even more inviting than the last kept. In mind the fact, however, that these bargains are good only until noon. Ladies' Pile-Spun Cotton and Silk Undervests, with fancy embroidered tops. Morning sale price, garment..... 50c. Children's Silk Spun Pile Vests, one year to eight, low neck, short sleeves, plain fronts also with fancy hand crocheted tops. Morning sale price, garment..... 40c. Ladies' White Aprons, lawn with fancy bibs, different patterns and styles of bibs. Morning sale prices, each..... 20c. and 35c.

9 TO 12 O'CLOCK SALE IN LINEN ROOM

Note carefully these interesting items specially reduced in price to induce shoppers to come out in the morning. Things suitable for gifts or for immediate use at home and representing attractive savings if you are early enough to get them. Embroidered Circular Table Centres with scalloped edge. Size 30 inches. Morning sale price, each..... 50c. Embroidered Bureau Scarfs, hemstitched, Size 17 by 50 inches. Morning sale price, each..... 35c. Embroidered Pillow Shams with scalloped edge. Size 20 by 30 inches, and Bureau Scarfs to match the shams. Size 18 by 54 inches. Morning sale price, each..... 55c. Damask Huck Guest Towels, with hemstitched or scalloped ends. A variety of designs. Morning sale price..... 25c.

GIFTS IN LADIES' NECKWEAR

There is nothing like nice new neckwear to improve the appearance of any gown and you may be certain that such a gift would be acceptable. We offer a wonderfully interesting exhibit of beautiful neckwear for Christmas giving and we suggest inspection of our good values. Collars, Yokes, Vests, Collar and Cuff Sets, Jabots, etc. Each..... 25c. to \$4.00. Real Lace Collars, Sets, Jabots, etc. Liberty Scarfs, Satin Stoles, Lace and Chiffon Scarfs, Knitted Motor Scarfs, Motor Caps, Crepe Ties, Bows, etc. NECKWEAR DEPARTMENT--ANNEX.

Manchester Robertson Allison, Limited