

**THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH.**  
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R. W. MOOREHEAD, Editor.

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**Semi-Weekly Telegraph**  
ST. JOHN, N. B., NOVEMBER 25, 1903.

**THIS IS HOPEFUL.**  
The most interesting announcement that has been made with regard to winter port matters is that which is given in The Telegraph's interview with Hon. Mr. Blair in today's issue. Hon. Mr. Blair states that Sir Wilfrid Laurier is interested in the development of this port, and that the transportation commission will soon visit the city to study the situation.

The board of trade adopted a resolution recently asking that the commission be sent to St. John, and Mr. Blair's statement shows that this request is to be complied with.

This, of course, will not affect the city's negotiations with the government and the C. P. R. for the immediate construction of three more berths for the business of 1904-5. While the city will welcome the latest inquiry by a government commission, it cannot afford to let the port remain without the facilities that are absolutely needed before next year's winter business begins.

But it is very welcome news that the premier is interested in the development of the port, and that he has a desire to aid in the realization of the hope he expressed at St. John some years ago—that all Canadian trade might be carried through Canadian channels.

Perhaps this is the time when the board of trade delegation should proceed to Ottawa. There is nothing so effective as to strike while the iron is hot.

**ST. JOHN AND HALIFAX.**  
The article which The Telegraph reprints today from the Maritime Merchant shows a broad-mindedness in regard to the relative position and claims of Halifax and St. John with regard to winter port business and recognition of the enterprise St. John has displayed, which will be heartily appreciated by St. John people.

"There should be no jealousies between the ports," says the Merchant, "because Canada is going to be a great enough country to need both St. John and Halifax."

The writer also concedes the point that St. John's proximity to the west gives her the prior claim for development, and contends that the government should spend money at this port as cheerfully as it does on other harbors. The tone of the whole article is admirable, and elevates the discussion to a higher plane than it has attained in a portion of the press of both cities.

A portion of the press of Halifax has apparently construed the recent talk about the withdrawal of some Allan steamers from this port as an evidence of St. John jealousy of Halifax. It was nothing of the sort, but was the expression of indignation at the sharp practice of a steamship company. That Halifax was the gainer did not affect the case at all. Not what Halifax gained, but what St. John lost through unfairness, was the cause of trouble. There was also some cause for remark when it was announced that grain would go over the I. C. R. to Halifax, and apparently none to St. John, but we are now assured that the St. John elevator will also be used, and therefore the cause of criticism on that score is removed.

It is quite true that there will always be a certain trade rivalry between St. John and Halifax, and at times there may arise some slight cause for friction; but in respect to the larger question of the relation of the two ports to the trade of western Canada, their interests, is common to a greater degree than is perhaps realized. And it is true of each that the best guarantee of their future success lies in the vigor and persistence with which the citizens make known their advantages, assert their claims, and labor for their commercial welfare.

**THIS IS DREADFUL.**  
The Moncton Transcript makes merry over the visit of the St. John delegates to Montreal, and says:

They had a private car to Montreal, and a private car back, and car-attendants who never allowed them to want for refreshments. Moncton sent a great delegation years ago from Moncton to Ot-

tawa, under Tory rule, to get a wet dock, or a dry dock, or something of the kind. The delegates returned with visions of a wet dock, or a dry dock already built. They had been entertained with legs stretched under mahogany, to spring chicken, and strawberries and cream, and other luxuries out of season, and champagne, which is always in season, and in their innocence they thought that when regaled like this to a common menu, surely the bigger dish, or the wet dock, or the dry dock, would be forthcoming, the expense of which was a mere trifle to the cost of the luxurious feasting they had. But the St. John delegates have returned equally impressed. Their reception was magnificent, and so were the refreshments. The bill of fare which the delegates presented to the C. P. R. was, in their opinion, only surpassed by the bill of fare which the C. P. R. people regaled them. The delegates are unanimously convinced that the business is so important it will have to go again.

Surely the Transcript is wrong. Deputy Mayor McGoldrick assured the St. John Board of Trade that he was not going west for banquets; he could get all the dinners he wanted in St. John. Of course the delegates had a pleasant journey. That would be expected. Would the Transcript have a St. John alderman fed on prison fare when he passed beyond the bounds of the city? Perish the thought. And are chicken, and ice cream, and strawberries, and champagne, too good for a St. John alderman? Assuredly not. St. John resents the insinuation, and calls upon the Moncton paper for proof.

**FOOD IN THE JAIL.**  
The attention of The Telegraph has been called to the bill-of-fare at the jail and police cells, and there is evidently room for improvement.

The municipality would certainly be very unwise to provide such rich and varied food as would make the jail a favorite boarding house; but on the other hand it is possible to have so little variety and substance as would leave a prisoner at the end of his term in a worse condition physically than when he went into the cells.

The Telegraph understands that dry bread and tea, the latter sweetened with molasses, is the ordinary bill-of-fare for breakfast and supper, with a quart of rice soup for dinner. There is very little meat in the soup. The bill-of-fare does not vary from day to day. There is no butter, milk or vegetables. It is the same diet day after day, week after week, and month after month.

A physician with whom The Telegraph talked on the subject last week, declared that a varied diet would cost, as more, and would be much better for the health of the prisoners. Most of the persons sent to prison are in a weak state, physically, when they go in, and such fare as that named would certainly not build them up. At the end of the term they come out weaker and with a stronger desire for stimulants. If the aim of the authorities is to reform these people, then certainly their physical condition should be improved, not weakened.

There is the more reason for better fare now that most of the prisoners are compelled to work every day. Doubtless the park brigade are a little better fed than the others, but they are not fed well enough. The attention of the members of the municipal council should be directed to this subject and a careful inquiry made. It is claimed on good authority that a more Christian diet can be provided for the prisoners without any material increase in cost.

There is another fact in connection with the jail that is not creditable to the municipality. The beds are not in good condition. And while inquiry is being made it would be well for the council to consider the question of prison clothing. Every prisoner should be given a bath and a suit of prison clothes. In no other way will it be possible to keep the jail clean. The building has been enlarged, and is in much better condition than formerly, but the questions of diet, clothing and cleanliness are deserving of further attention at the hands of the officials. There is no fault found with the officials, but the system needs to be reformed.

**FAIR PLAY NEEDED.**  
Canadian owners of live stock, who now threaten to withhold their exhibits from the St. Louis Exposition, make out a convincing bill of complaint against the officials of the big show. The breeders and stockmen met with conspicuous success at Philadelphia, Chicago and Buffalo, and they feel that some of the regulations governing Canadian stock exhibits at St. Louis are so pointedly discouraging as to warrant the suspicion that exhibitors from this country are to be deliberately handicapped.

One regulation is that Canadian live stock sent to St. Louis must pay duty as sold there; prices of low grade are offered for those classes of animals in the raising of which Canadians have been particularly successful; some of the judges of live stock are regarded as hostile to Canadian exhibitors. Such are the complaints. If there is any evidence of worth to support them, little surprise need be felt at the threat of the Canadian stockmen to withdraw entirely from exhibiting. The expectation of exhibitors, who have been approached in relation to these grievances, are said to have declined to meet representatives of Canadian live stock interests unless the Canadians first pledge themselves to send exhibitors.

If this be true a deadlock is not unlikely. It is to be hoped, however, that diplomacy and mutual concessions will avert it. Canadian breeders will ask no more than fair play and less than that

they should not be asked to accept, and perhaps further discussion may be followed by an amicable arrangement of the difficulty. It is of no small importance that Canada's exhibit both in respect of live stock and in other lines be extensive. Creditable we know it will be. The chance is a good one to show the wonderful progress this country has made in recent years, and to demonstrate its power to match the world in many branches of competition.

**PRESERVING THE BALANCE.**  
France is the weight commonly holding back Germany. I have been able to verify the statement that when the Emperor sent his telegram to former President Kruger, the French ambassador to England informed Lord Salisbury that he had been instructed by his government to place at the disposal of England a military power. France, for twenty-four hours, as the world knows, one of those sudden shocks sounded which so frequently all the world's news in American papers. Germany yesterday gave a satisfactory explanation of the telegram. France was again forced to wait. No particular secret has been made of the French offer. It is certainly very well known here—Collier's Weekly.

This interesting statement is made by the Berlin correspondent of Collier's, a writer who apparently believes that the stars in their courses fight in neutral in the United States. He says France's never dying hostility to Germany to correct the common American belief that the Kaiser might easily be led into war with the American republic and that sooner or later Germany, lusting after territory and a private market in this hemisphere, will seize a part of South America in spite of the Monroe Doctrine. It is true that not a few Americans, and particularly those in the army and navy, hold some such idea of Germany. But Collier's correspondent asserts flatly that Germany is and will be prevented from inviting a war by any such enterprise because France, watchful and eager for a chance to avenge Sedan, would make common cause with any country against the Germans. He goes so far as to say that even should the French government make a solemn agreement to remain neutral in case Germany went to war with another power, the people of France would sweep away the cabinet and with it, if necessary, the press, the bourse, and the academy, by their restless demand for revenge. And so it is, he says, that the Germans dare not risk an embroilment with the United States.

However much Germany may be influenced by such considerations it is not at all likely that the possible attitude of the French populace has such immense weight at Berlin as to control Germany's foreign relations to the extent outlined. There is, no doubt, some truth in the correspondent's picture of the German position, but France is ill-prepared for war and gives no indication of eagerness for it. As for the large pledge of French aid at the beginning of the South African war, the correspondent's statement regarding it is more interesting. If it were sustained by a little convincing evidence. As it stands the tale does not ring true. There may be a basis for it, but, as told, it smacks of the stage. Ambassadors do not get such instructions at a moment's notice—unless they represent the United States in South America.

**THE POLITICAL POT.**  
The political pot, which boils rather easily in this community, is already beginning to simmer because of repeated reports from Ottawa to the effect that the elections will be brought on soon after the beginning of the New Year. The man in the street is discussing plans and actually naming candidates, and yesterday it was whispered that January 21 would be the date of the struggle.

The presence of Hon. Mr. Blair in St. John at this time, and the announcement of Hon. Mr. Fielding's arrival today, will add new life to the discussion of these matters. Certainly signs are not wanting that soundings are being taken in waters political both in this province and others. In this constituency there are several matters which must be arranged before preparation for a campaign could well take form. For this reason it is waiting a definite announcement from Hon. Mr. Blair as to his future course, an announcement which it is not natural to suppose will be long delayed if an election is to come in January.

Hon. Mr. Fielding's visit is of particular interest at this time as he may be able to somewhat allay the uneasiness with which St. John has noted recent signs that this city has suffered somewhat through the alienation of interests which have proved hostile to this port. There is that Allan Line matter for instance, the complexion of which does not improve with age. St. John knows it was tricked by the Allan and is not delighted by Mr. Hugh Allan's demeanor since his coup and the ease with which outward freight is found at Halifax where Mr. Allan said only a little local freight was expected. The Allan, as the government men now are aware, deceived St. John and practiced a similar deception at Ottawa.

While the names of prospective candidates are being canvassed here, interest will centre upon the news from Ottawa. At the capital last evening it was not expected that today's cabinet meeting would be followed by a definite announcement of the date of the elections, though the matter is evidently to be discussed and the Premier will take the views of his colleagues on the question. Ottawa is convinced, however, that the contest will come in January. The Toronto News points out that the voters' lists have yet to be prepared. It says in part:

"Political exigencies may pay certain tribute to purely mechanical necessity, and a Printing Bureau engaged in the work of preparation for a session of parliament has small time for the printing of voters' lists."

"The printing of the voters' lists in

1903 took four months. At that time there was no hurry. But at the same rate now the lists would take until the end of March to complete. In the meantime, the small staff of printers engaged on the lists by way of "time" copy, during the session has been reduced and advanced on, perhaps, the one thing necessary to a general election is not apparent. All this may change at the stroke of the magician's wand. The work on the routine matter might be suspended and the great mass of Printing Bureau energies directed to the preparation of the voters' lists. The assistance of outside printing offices might be secured and the lists finished within a few weeks."

The News concludes that "the word may go forth at any day." The sale of Le Soleil and the rumor that an effort is being made to acquire La Presse, taken being made in articles which have recently appeared in some of the government organs in Toronto and Montreal would indicate that the Ottawa report fixing the elections for soon after the first of the year is not far wrong.

**AN APPLE OF DISCORD.**  
Considering that the office of Surveyor-General has not yet been declared vacant, the Frederick Gleason and the Moncton Transcript are shedding a considerable amount of ink over the respective claims of York and Westmorland. One of the worst features of the squabble is the almost brutal language used by the participants. "The Transcript," says the Gleason, "is essentially a local newspaper." When that shell explodes in the Moncton office the hum of industry in the "Eastern terminus of the G. T. P." will be drowned by the shrieks of the injured. "Essentially a local newspaper!" What if the Gleason does circulate in Marysville? Doesn't the Transcript wake 'em up in Cornerville and Lewisville? Granted that the Gleason illumines Keswick Ridge, that glory it sheds there any greater than that irradiated by the Transcript at Latta Mountain? What if the Gleason does go "away up" the Nidmunk? Does not the Transcript give the law to Paines Junction? If the Gleason amuses and enlightens its good old subscriber at Kingsclere, hasn't the Transcript two of 'em at Point de Bate?

And still the Transcript is stilled with the phrase "essentially a local newspaper" merely because it says York county's record is such that it is not entitled to the surveyorship! We hope not. The Transcript formerly despised the local government, but it is apparently now feeling able to dispose of the expected cabinet vacancy as it pleases and having been called an essentially local paper by a man in York county it will doubtless proceed to put York out of business politically for a dog's age. "The Transcript should restrain itself," says the Gleason. "The Transcript cannot restrain itself, and the surveyorship is to editorial riot is to assert, as the Gleason does, that its tone is local and its voice, audible across the long bridge or beyond the waterworks."

If Surveyor-General Dunn becomes collector soon, as it is expected he will, his successor should be the most capable man available and it is not impossible that both the Gleason and the Transcript will be disappointed.

**A TRIFLE ONE-SIDED.**  
A most astonishing story of battle is that which came from Manila yesterday. The writer of the despatch telling of a five days' skirmish between General Leonard and Wood's troops and the Moros is an American, no doubt, and it is fair to assume that the account is accurate in the main. In five days' fighting, then, at the beginning of which the Americans were "ambushed" by the natives, "300 Moros were killed and many others carried off dead and wounded," while no Americans were killed and but six wounded.

If it be true that 300 or more Moros were killed, it follows that their total loss in killed and wounded must have been nearly 1,000 men. In modern warfare the wounded are two or three times as numerous as the killed. Put the total at 1,600. The "rebels" are said to have been 2,000 strong at one time. They had the advantage of a surprise, according to the despatch, but as they inflicted no damage and were practically wiped out in the subsequent fighting it is evident either that guerrilla warfare is not their forte or that they were armed with inferior weapons and were all too easily slaughtered.

By "ambushing" the Americans the Moros appear to have committed suicide for the correspondent says: "The rebel forces have been literally destroyed by the operations, and Gen. Wood says the indications are that there will be no extension of the uprising, which was handled without difficulty."

General Wood's statement that there will be no extension of the uprising in that vicinity appears reasonable enough. All who are interested in civilized warfare and who have watched with care the progress of "benevolent assimilation" in the Philippines will wonder how the Moros continued to get themselves destroyed while the white men had but six men wounded. The correspondent says also:

"On Nov. 18th Gen. Wood started on an expedition against a body of 2,000 Moros who were in the mountains back of Tablad. No news has as yet been received as to the result of this movement."

It is easy to guess the nature of the news which is expected. If the Americans are not ambushed in this instance but continue to get at these 2,000 Moros under fairly favorable conditions the invaders should be able to exterminate the natives without the loss of a single white man. The Moro must be a whole lot tamer and simpler than the Mad Mullah's followers. And doubtless General Wood is a great soldier, though he does seem to kill a great many more of the foolish brown folk than is really sportsmanlike.

# B-r-r-r! Warmer Clothing!

"We'll go to Oak Hall."

Men's Suits and Overcats--Ready!  
So is the weather! and the clothes are moving lively—moving lively because there isn't anything in town can touch them for the money; the lowest prices in the land for the finest suits and overcoats in the land are here.

**Men's Suits, \$10.**  
Single or Double Breasted. All sorts of patterns and cloths—also blue or black.

**Men's Suits, \$12.**  
Fancy Worsteds, Tweeds—whatever you want—full of beauty and wear. They have all the style a-going; and good fitting.

**Men's Overcoats, \$12.**  
What's the use talking! You can't find as fashionable a coat, as well made through and through, as good materials anywhere for anything like the price—come and find out for yourself.

**Men's Overcoats, \$15.**  
There isn't a store in town that shows the variety, and you can "bank" on it that it would take \$3 to \$5 more to get as fine some where else. He must be a mighty hard man to please who can't find his overcoat in this \$15 lot.

**Men's Underwear.**  
Choose what suits your occupation, pay for whatever grade you prefer—you may be assured of service and satisfaction in any of the great stock we have collected for this season's needs.

Fall and Winter Weight Shirts and Drawers, 45c. to \$2.50 per garment.

**GREATER OAK HALL,**  
KING STREET, ST. JOHN.  
OOR. GERMAIN }  
SCOVIL BROS. & CO.

**BRING THEM BACK TO THE OLD LAND.**

Thomas Hetherington, ex-M. P. P., Talks on the Subject of Immigration.

**MAKES A SUGGESTION.**

Believes There Are Many Canadians and Children of Canadians Who Would Be Glad to Return from the United States if They Were Fully Informed.

Thomas Hetherington, ex-M. P. P., of Quebec county, is in the city. Mr. Hetherington has strong views on the question of immigration, and in conversation with The Telegraph Monday evening talked on the subject.

During the last few years Mr. Hetherington has at various times visited Massachusetts, New York state and Illinois, spending some time in each state, and, according to him, he has seen the best class of immigrants for Canada, and do not require so much training. More than that, they are Canadian in feeling, and would have no desire to Americanize this country, or distrust this country, or disturb the relations now existing with the rest of the empire.

Mr. Hetherington, in the course of his talk, gave many instances of many families who are making a living in the New England States, and who, he says, are just the kind we want in Canada. One of them is worth any number of ordinary Europeans, and they are superior to the people from the British Islands, for they have been brought up under the same or similar conditions to those in Canada, and do not require so much training. More than that, they are Canadian in feeling, and would have no desire to Americanize this country, or distrust this country, or disturb the relations now existing with the rest of the empire.

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**ROUND THE TOWN.**

Bright little bits which illustrate the many sides of human life in St. John.

Charity, sweet charity, was once sorely offended in this city, and the story was told Thursday evening last at the meeting of the Fabian League, when a factory act was under discussion. One of the speakers, referring to social conditions in the city and the betterment of them, which is contemplated in the proposed factory legislation, told of a poor family whose members were assisted last winter by the good people of the King's Daughters' Guild. A load of coal was sent to the home where the pinch of poverty was felt and a load of coal was something last year as most of us will remember. Well, the coal arrived at the house and at the same time one of the women of the guild to see to its proper delivery. Entering the home she announced that the fuel was at hand, and what do you think was the greeting from the head of the house: "Where's the man to put it in?" was his expression of thanks, while charity turned her fair face away and a hot tear fell in pity for the condition to which laziness and drink could bring a man—particularly a man with the happy care of a wife and children upon his shoulders.

Every club, be it social, military, philanthropic or what not, is governed by a set of rules even though they may not always be religiously observed. Sometimes these rules are strange and I heard this

week of one social organization which starts off its regulations with this: "No one but members will be permitted to be in the rooms." Evidently the framers of the laws of this particular society repeated it to the kid, wondering for when he had completed his work an afterthought suggested the following postscript: "Any member may bring a sober friend to the rooms."

The meaneast man appeared in Charlotte street the other afternoon and his victim was a newboy.

As a general rule a newboy has more shrewdness than his size and general appearance would indicate, but this one must have been pitifully glib. A poor person looking man beckoned to him, chose his paper and commenced feeling for money. "Change a bill, he asked braving bravely he had to do to make ends meet."

"No, sir," he replied, somewhat awed by the fat roll.

"Well, well," came the rejoinder in a rich, compassionate tone.

He took a note from the wad, and showing it to the kid, whispered that it represented many hundreds of cents.

Then gravely tearing a tiny fragment from his corner, he gave it carefully into the child's hands, telling him it was the equivalent of a copper. The child turned away, and his customer opened out the paper and began to read.

CHATTERER.