

AROUND THE CITY

FAIR AND COOL

A FAMILY ROW. The police were called to Lombard street last night to act as peace makers in a family row.

STARTED FOR BOSTON. Two tugs with the dredge Beaver started for Boston yesterday afternoon and was the cause of many whistles being sounded by harbor craft as a send off.

MUCH IMPROVED. Roy Gibson, who was taken to the Public Hospital on Saturday evening in consequence of being badly scalded at his home, is reported to be much improved.

THE DESBROW PROPERTY. The Desbrow property at the head of Jeffrey Hill has been purchased by L. P. D. Tilley for the St. John Real Estate Company and will, it is understood, be remodeled and converted into four apartments.

THE HOSPITAL COMMISSION. The quarterly meeting of the Provincial Hospital Commission was held yesterday afternoon, with a large representation of members.

AWARDED CONTRACT. The Canadian National Railways are to build a new freight shed and offices for handling their freight in Moncton at an expenditure of about \$75,000, the old quarters having become entirely too small.

EAST ST. JOHN EXTENSION. The trenching work at East St. John for the extension of the 14-inch main to Courtney Bay is sufficiently advanced to commence laying of the pipe today.

HEAVY HAIL STORM. When the steamer Ocoee arrived at Indiantown yesterday Capt. Flewelling reported there was a heavy hail storm on Monday evening in the neighborhood of Wickham which coated the fields white, but no damage was done.

WILCOX HOME STRUCK. The home of George Wilcox, Beacombfield avenue, was struck, Monday morning, by lightning, and slightly damaged.

CAUSED EXCITEMENT. On Monday night two small sons of Rev. Neil McLachlin failed to return to their home at Epworth Park, and there was considerable excitement as the boys started out in the evening for a boat sail.

THE ANNUAL SERVICE. The second annual Sunday service of the St. John Power Boat Club will be held on Sunday next, August 3, at Belyea's Point, on the river.

THE CANADIAN CLUB. Secretary Romans of the Canadian Club has received a letter from Gilbert Grosvenor, director and editor of the National Geographical Society, Washington, accepting an invitation to address the club the last week in September.

BLAME ROAD SIGNS. A delegation from the Retail Merchants Association appeared before the Provincial Government yesterday to complain about the road between St. Stephen and St. John.

MARITIME BOARD OF TRADE. The Maritime Board of Trade will meet this year in Moncton, August 20th. The subjects which have been sent in for discussion to date are: Maritime Union; Closer relation between employers and employed; Better transportation facilities, including water, air and rail for the Maritime Provinces; Development of National Ports on the Atlantic coast; Development of Water Power; War memorials; Revision of Freight Rates that discriminate against the Lower Provinces; Necessity for adoption of Unit System of Management of Canadian National Railways, with headquarters for the Eastern unit in the Lower Provinces.

LAST CALL. This is the last day to see William Ferrum in the 1918 version of "The Plunderer," which is being shown at the Unique Theatre.

Spire Struck By Lightning

First Presbyterian Church, West End, Was Damaged Yesterday Afternoon — Variety of Weather Conditions and Heavy Fall of Rain.

St. John had a fine variety of weather handed out to it yesterday. There was the nice bright sunshine, then a little straight rain, and during the late afternoon there was a variety of thunder showers intermingled with views of a hot sun.

The lightning was at times too close for comfort, and as a result of the fiery bolts the First Presbyterian church, West St. John, is minus a weather vane and there is a split in the spire, which will require considerable attention.

The church was hit about four o'clock, when the top of the steeple was knocked away and the roof of the edifice was covered with debris. The tower was shattered and a huge rent was visible down one side.

The rain was very heavy at times and in some of the streets there were large pools of water through which vehicles and pedestrians were compelled to splash. Between the showers the sun appeared and its strong rays dried off the sidewalks, but when the rain started again, the streets became water soaked in a few minutes.

Commission Form of Government

Shrewd Man from County of St. John Discovers it May Not Have Done Things Expected of it But is Good from County Point of View

The reason for being of the Commission form of government has been discovered. It was not Sherlock Holmes that discovered it either, but a shrewd man from the county of St. John.

"It must be admitted that commission form of government has worked well from the county standpoint," said the gentleman whose penetrating intellect has discovered some merit in commission form of government, and whose pronouncement will be as balmy in Gilead to the long suffering citizens contemplating the unhappy looking streets, and waiting with what forbids they may the coming of this year's tax bills.

"One thing the county council meetings have been shortened," he added. "Another thing the county has secured a lot of improvements we probably would not have arrived at with a board of aldermen in St. John. There is the County Hospital at East St. John. We would probably have been talking about it yet, if it had not been for the appearance of the commission government on the scene.

"Then look at the improvements effected in the Public Hospital. I doubt if we would have done as much with a board of aldermen." "Then the county has been authorized to borrow \$200,000 to build the bulk of the library, but that is nothing. The point is that the old aldermen would probably have put up a big kick, or undertaken to see that the money was spent in the most unwise way with its liabilities.

"Another advantage is that the commission has let the city's streets run down, and taxes run up, so that people are moving out into the country. Less life to the commission. It may not have done the things expected of it, but it is not without its blessings from the county point of view."

Looking To Canada As Possible Buyer Nova Scotia Points

Cuba is Looking to the Dominion to Import Great Portion of Her Tobacco and Cigar Exports—Local Consular Talks on Matter.

With the residents of the United States restricted by the federal luxury tax and France, the next greatest customer, leaving a tax of 100 per cent on all imported luxuries, Cuba is looking to Canada as a possible buyer for a great portion of her tobacco and cigar exports and Senor de las Cuevas, the Cuban consul here, is confident that the New Brunswick consular will find the genuine Habana a form of My Lady of Nicotine that cannot be excelled.

During the war period the European smokers were forced to regale themselves with "la flor de cabagosa," and what poses was in sight. It was thought that the lid would be lifted but as far as France and Italy are concerned, these countries are going to give the home market the benefit of a high tariff protection.

During the present year, so the consulate is informed, the Cuban exporters expected to market 15,000,000 cigars in France alone but it is doubtful if one-quarter that amount will be shipped, as cancellations of orders have been coming in steadily since the announcement of the super-tax by the French government.

The sales of raw sugar to Europe and Canada have greatly increased since the Sugar Equalization Board has taken over the entire crop. Stocks of raw sugar in Cuba this week are 1,106,031 tons against 929,797 tons this time last year. Raw sugars continue to be received at Cuban ports at the rate of 40,000 to 45,000 tons a week.

According to a statement compiled by Senor de las Cuevas there were 2,839 ocean steamships touching at the Cuban ports last year, of which some 800 were of British registry, bearing imports to the value of \$19,822,532.

Canadian exports to Cuba for the past year were composed principally of fish, the value running up to \$31,000,000 and another \$2,000,000 represents the exportation of Canadian potatoes to the island.

Grocery Store Was Robbed

That Owned by Frank Griffiths Latest to be Reported — Quantity of Goods Stolen — Breaks About City Supposed to be Work of Boys.

The grocery store of Frank Griffiths Duke street, West, was robbed during Monday night and a quantity of goods taken. The work was evidently through the back door, a pane of glass was removed from the door. During the operations one of the large plate glass windows was also broken.

The thieves secured a quantity of tobacco, chocolate and other goods. There was no money in the store and evidently the burglars were only after the goods. Mr. Griffiths reported the break when he went to open the store yesterday morning. He noted that articles were missing and notified the county police officials.

Mr. Griffiths said last night that the store had been entered about six weeks ago but at that time nothing had been missing. He felt sure that the theft had been the work of boys, but he had no idea who they were.

There has been a series of petty robberies during the last few weeks. Only a few nights ago the home of Rev. Walter P. Dunham, in the Mans wagonish Road, was entered and articles of clothing were taken as well as other goods destroyed. Several other places in the city have been entered recently.

In the city the store of W. Alex. Porter, in Union street, was entered and a quantity of groceries removed. It has been said that the work in generally all of these cases has been that of boys. It is understood that several former inmates of the Boys' Industrial Home are at large, and that they may have some connection with the thefts.

WEDDINGS. A wedding of military and social interest was performed yesterday at the residence of the bride's father, W. H. Bell, 218 King street East, when Miss Emma Bell became the bride of Frank R. Bleyler, Q. M. S. with Machine Gun Company, 111th Infantry, 28th Division, A. E. F., and a resident of Chester, Pa. The ceremony was performed by Rev. D. J. McPherson, pastor of Central Baptist church, in the presence of relatives and friends.

Little Miss Jean Bell carried a basket of roses as flower girl. The bride was becomingly gowned in a sand-colored suit of tulle with hat to match. An elaborate wedding supper was served, and the happy pair left on a honeymoon trip for Prince Edward Island, the Annapolis Valley and Southern cities, after which they will reside at Chester, Pa., where Mr. Bleyler is a prosperous pharmacist.

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