

**"GIFTS TO THE KING"**

The Gifts to the King service at Canon Wood Hall last night was inspirational and a success beyond anticipation. At 8 o'clock a procession of Sunday School children bearing gifts in almost endless variety, paraded from the lower hall and deposited them beside the platform in the main hall. The contributions having been placed, the programme was entered upon. Rev. C. A. Moulton presided and in opening delivered a short address. Other speakers were Mr. H. Y. Mott, the Superintendent of St. Thomas's Sunday School, and Rev. Canon Field. The musical portion of the programme was pleasing, and the large audience went away fully satisfied with the evening's entertainment and the good they were enabled to do for God's poor. To-day the "Gifts" will be duly distributed and we doubt not many hearts will be gladdened by the generosity and self-sacrifice of the children of St. Thomas's.

The funeral of the late Mr. John Rice took place yesterday afternoon and was attended by a large number of citizens, all friends of the deceased. Interment was at Belvidere and at the Cathedral the proper prayers were said by Rev. Dr. Carter.

**CARD.**  
**DR. C. V. SMITH,**  
Late House Surgeon at the General Hospital.  
Surgery, 228 Duckworth St.  
Hours:  
9.30 to 11, 2.30 to 3.30, 7 to 8.  
Telephone 421.  
Residence, 49 Cochrane St.  
dec19,1m,ead

**To Employers**  
Two Retired Volunteers unfit for active service, wish to obtain employment. Both have families and want work immediately. All information can be obtained at the office of "The Mail and Advocate.—3i

**INSURANCE AGAINST LOSS BY FIRE.**  
We are prepared to issue policies insuring property of almost every description, wheresoever situated in Newfoundland, against loss and damage by fire. Our rates are the same as all other companies doing business in Newfoundland. We aim to settle losses as promptly as possible. If you are not covered and want insurance write to or see our Agent, MR. J. A. CLIFF, Law Chambers, Duckworth St., St. John's.  
**Caledonian Insurance Co.**  
(The Oldest Scottish Fire Office)  
nov8,ead,1m

**IF YOUR GROCER CHARGES YOU 60 cents**  
Per pound for your TEA, and if he does not sell you ARMADA—the Tea of Quality—  
**THEN**  
You are losing money on your purchase as you do not get the fullest value that your money could buy—  
**ARMADA**  
Is absolutely the finest Tea ever imported into Newfoundland. Put up in Cartons—never sold in bulk.

**INSTALLATION ST. JOHN'S LODGE**

The installation of the Worshipful Master Elect and the appointment and investiture of the other officers of St. John's Lodge No. 579 R.E., A.F. and A.M. took place at the Masonic Temple last night, the ceremony being conducted by the District Grand Master, R.E., R.W. Bro. J. A. Cliff, K.C., assisted by the D.G. Secretary, R. W. Bro. W. J. Edgar. The new officers are as follows:  
W.H.—Bro. Gower Rabbits;  
L.P.M.—Bro. F. R. Rendell;  
S.W.—Bro. R. W. Jeans;  
J.W.—Bro. W. G. Currie;  
Chaplain—Bro. Rev. Canon Smith;  
Treasurer—Bro. R. Wright;  
Secretary—Bro. W. H. Cave;  
D. of C.—Bro. Major C. Macpherson, M.D.;  
S.D.—Bro. W. F. Parsons;  
J.D.—Bro. F. H. Ellis;  
I.G.—Bro. E. S. Pinsent;  
Stewards—Bros. T. Soper and P. B. Rendell;  
Tyler—Bro. G. Morris.  
Following the usual congratulatory addresses, joined in by the D.D.G.M., S.C., R. W. Bro. Tasker Cook, who was acting for R. W. Bro. Duder, unavoidably absent, District Grand Master Cliff, on behalf of the Lodge presented Bro. John Jeans, who is retiring from office after forty years of continued service, with a purse of gold and illuminated address. As a further reward for his faithful service to which the Grand Master paid a well merited tribute, Bro. Jeans was honoured by being made a Past District Grand Sword Bearer, which entitles him to a seat in the District Grand Lodge. The venerable Secretary was very much touched with this evidence of the regard of his brethren, and made a suitable reply. The customary collection in behalf of the Tasker Educational fund was taken following which the lodge closed in ancient ritual form.

**LOCAL F.P.U. COUNCILS**  
**BURNT HEAD COUNCIL ELECTS OFFICERS.**  
At the annual meeting of Burnt Head Council, held recently, the following officers were elected for 1917:  
Chairman—Jacob Oliver;  
Dep. Chairman—William R. Tucker (re-elected);  
Secretary—Linus Oliver;  
Treasurer—Moses Oliver.  
**LINUS OLIVER, Secy.**  
**LONG BEACH COUNCIL ELECTS OFFICERS.**  
At the annual meeting of Long Beach Council held recently, the following officers were elected for 1917:  
Chairman—George Vey;  
Dep. Chairman—Stephen Barfett;  
Secretary—George Barfett;  
Treasurer—H. J. Vey.  
**GEORGE BARFETT, Secy.**  
**SELDOM COUNCIL HOLDS ANNUAL MEETING.**  
At the annual meeting of Seldom Council held recently the following officers were elected for 1917:  
Chairman—Henry Anthony;  
Dep. Chairman—S. G. Holmes;  
Secretary—Arthur Dawe;  
Treasurer—Herbert Dawe.  
**ARTHUR DAWE, Secy.**  
The cross-country train will leave the station this afternoon at 5 p.m., and the local train at 6 p.m.

**DAMAGE ON SOUTHERN SHORE**  
People who arrived here by the Trepassey train to-day say that the sea and tide was the worst witnessed on the Southern Shore for years and did much damage to water-side property. From Bay Bulls to Trepassey the shore was swept in many places, stages, flakes, boats and other property going into the sea. Some fish was lost in some cases, but in no great quantity.

**THE POLICE COURT**  
Mr. Hutchings, K.C., presided to-day. Three volunteers who assaulted street car conductor Matthews were each asked to give \$100 bonds to keep the peace. A Torbay man for having an unclean slaughter house was fined \$5 or 14 days.  
In the Police Court in camera to-day before Mr. F. J. Morris, K.C., an enquiry is being held into an assault committed by one Ivany on a little girl named Mansfield.

**"INDEPENDENCE II." LOST**  
News of the loss of the sloop "Independence II." was received here yesterday, on her way from Santa Polo here. She left Smoky, Labrador, fish laden for Europe. She was abandoned on the return voyage North of Cape St. Vincent in Portugal and the crew were brought into Lisbon.

**News From Prison Camps at Lemberg**

Mr. Wm. O'Brien, Government Inspector of Foods, recently had some very interesting correspondence from men of the Royal Munster Fusiliers interned in the prison camps at Lemberg, Germany. One of them is the Inspector's nephew, Private Patk. Houlihan, who volunteered for service in this famous Irish Regiment at the outbreak of the war, and through him became acquainted with the other lads, whose names we mention and who though prisoners in an alien enemy land are certainly not downhearted. The Inspector and his relatives have been very kind to the men, having sent them repeatedly parcels of various kinds, including tobacco, which they highly appreciate and have gratefully acknowledged.  
Besides his nephew the Inspector receives letters from Sgt. Slattery, evidently a man of refinement and education, judging from the excellence of his handwriting and the finished style of his composition. In one of his last letters to Sgt. Slattery the Inspector asked him to say if there were any Newfoundlanders interned near where the Irish lads are located, and if there were would they do for them all possible, the Inspector (as we are aware) writing eloquently of the kindness he himself has experienced during his 40 years' residence in this country. The answer received recently is typical of the warm-hearted soldiers of the Emerald Isle and should any of our boys find themselves through the vicissitudes of war, near Lemberg, they will be well looked after by the Munsters. Sgt. Slattery is a nephew of Sister Theresa of the Presentation Convent, Conception Harbor, and as well as Pte. Houlihan and the others acknowledge the last parcels sent them from here. Sgt. Slattery says that his comrades, as well as himself, are enjoying good health. Some 700 of these brave troops, after a good stand-up fight, so dear to the Irish heart, were captured at Mons in 1914. Sgt. Slattery said he had not seen the Inspector's nephew for a little while past but knew he was well, thanked his St. John's correspondent for welcome news from his aunt and observed that letters from kind friends abroad were as comforting and cheering as those received from the old land. He says the postal arrangements at Lemberg are very good and a reference to the possibility of Newfoundlanders coming to Lemberg is worth quoting. The Sergeant says—"No, we have no Newfoundland men here. However, should any come here I can assure you they will not want for anything. What is better, our good chaplain, Father Crotty, would be the first to receive them, in a manner which would leave them actually in doubt if they were in Germany or Ireland, as he did us close on two years ago. Father Crotty," he said "celebrated his Silver Jubilee on November 1st, and the men made the occasion a memorable one for him."  
Another of the men, Sgt. Murphy also heartily and thankfully acknowledged a parcel of tobacco sent him by the Inspector, on behalf of the writer and comrades, but the Inspector did not hear from two other friends in the Munsters, Privates Patrick O'Brien and Patk. Roach, but expects to shortly.

**THE "MEIGLE" AT TRINITY**  
As no word has been received from the Meigle since she left Sydney six days ago there was some uneasiness about her and yesterday it was reported that she had been lost. How this report originated is not known. The Meigle, as far as we can learn, is o.k., being at Trinity with Captain and crew well. It is likely she will arrive here to-day.

**THE MEIGLE HERE**  
The S.S. Meigle, Capt. Parsons, arrived here from Sydney, via Trinity, this morning, coal-laden to the Reid Nfld. Coy. The ship left Sydney Friday and had it pretty stormy Saturday and Sunday and was off the Narrows Monday morning. Such a high sea ran that deeply laden as she was the Captain thought it prudent to run to sea, and the storm increasing he bore up for Trinity, where he arrived Tuesday. The ship came through all without damage, thanks to the care and ability of her skillful commander.

**THE TRAINS**  
The local and Placentia trains which should have arrived here yesterday, came to Brigus Junction, and were cancelled there, the passengers being sent back to their homes.  
The Kyle's express is due to arrive here about 8 o'clock this evening and the local express a little later. The sections where damage was done by the sea will be repaired and traffic will be resumed this evening.

**VIEW POINTS FROM THE CURB**

**By "The Man on the Street"**  
**TO HIS EXCELLENCY.**  
To you, sir, who doth stand here in the place of our beloved King to control over affairs of national life, I come with a simple request. I want to ask you as Colonel of our Boys to grant, if it is permissible and possible, leave to one and all of the Boys who may otherwise be on duty on New Year's Day, for on Christmas Day some forty were detained for picket duty and while I am and always shall be one for discipline, I thought it hard, considering they are giving us their all, and knowing many of them had friends who would have delighted to entertain them on such an occasion.  
Your Excellency, to you and your fair Lady, and your Household, may the New Year bring many joys.  
**TO THE CLERGY.**  
You, who are the leaders of us men who toil and labour in that great Vineyard, who each and all through various channels and different methods of doing so, whether you are of the Billy Sunday type or the deep theologian, yet all as one in the objective and pointing to the same heaven, I, a sinful man of the world, pray with you that the glimmerings through the clouds, the echo of a coming peace may soon grow brighter and that "the dawn shall soon break and the shadows flee away." How I wish with you that we wild wayward men and women would all get sense enough to once again unite in one synagogue in one thought, in one mind, for then could wars cease. Often the thought occurs to me that I, too, in that see a glimmering through the clouds and soon may the shadows of doubt, dissent and unbelief, flee away and the dawn, whose brightness shall outshine the sun, come again. May it be so.

**OUR THEATRES AT THE CRESCENT.**  
"Fools Gold" is the big feature the Crescent Picture Palace shows to-day, produced in three reels by the Esanay Company, featuring Nell Craig Patrick Calhain and Marion Lydston. "His Emergency Wife," a very laughable Biography comedy and an interesting issue of the "Ford Canadian Monthly," Canada's foremost topical. The musical programme by Professor McCarthy is new and up to the minute, see this great show to-day.

**REDUCED PRICES AT ROSSLEYS'**  
To enable all to see the clever Christmas production the prices are reduced and within reach of all. Matinee price is now five and ten cents. There is also a very fine three-reel feature by the Vitagraph artists, entitled "A Strange Case." The costumes, music, songs and dances are all new and specially adapted for a show of this kind. There is coming on Monday a beautiful picture in three acts by the Edison players entitled "Helen of the Chorus." "The Black Birds" is under the patronage and presence of His Excellency the Governor and Lady Davidson, and the Misses Davidson.

**Hermitage Bay Herring Fishery**

We learn from people who arrived here by the Portia that herring are numerous in Hermitage Bay but can only be caught in depths varying from 40 to 70 fathoms. These fish are next in quality to the old time Labrador herring, which are again making their appearance there and if proper attention were given by business men to Hermitage Bay good money would be realized from this fishery. The reason these splendid fish are not taken in large quantities is that the people cannot procure anything but small nets. What is required is the largest kind of net or big seines and those who will turn their attention to this fishery and help the fishermen will reap a golden harvest.

**PASSENGER COMPLAINS**

(To the Editor.)  
Dear Sir,—Permit me space in your valuable paper for those few remarks we left St. John's Dec. 27th at 8.45 a.m. by rail and got as far as Topsail, and were hung up there for about two hours. We then had to come back to St. John's again at 1 p.m., and when we got back we asked the ticket agent when would the track be fixed up again. He told us the train would go out again at 6 p.m. We went up at 6 p.m. and found her not going. We asked him (ticket agent) again and he told us she would be going some time to-morrow morning and we were hanging around to-day from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m., and found the train not going then. We were told then she would be going at 12 noon. Why should not the Reid Co. give us one free feed, or tell us right about the track, and not keep a crowd of people around the Station in the cold and almost frozen.  
There will be nothing right done while this Government is in power. Mr. Coaker. We are longing for the day when you will control poor old Terra Nova.  
Now, pack your rags and get you Reids  
And let the fishermen sow their seeds—  
And plant them well from Shore to Shore  
When Morris' Government are no more.  
**DREADNOUGHT.**

**The Minimum Wage**

(To the Editor.)  
Dear Sir,—Your timely editorial in yesterday's issue of the Mail on the question of the minimum wage is to be greatly commended as it voices the desires of the working class, and that portion of the commercial class who wish to deal fairly and squarely with their employees. There are some of the smaller men among the shopkeepers, tinsmiths, building contractors, and other trades who say they would gladly fall in line, but cannot do so in justice to themselves or their business, owing to the regulation of wages being left to each individual employer to fix for himself and as there are those found who take advantage of his liberty allowed by the State they give as little as they can to make bigger profits and better wages. Failing a fixed wage established by law (recommended by a Wages Board Commission appointed by the Government that would place all employers on an equality in productive and distributive undertakings, any attempt on their part to increase wages above the average now paid would be suicidal on their part. Some consideration should be given to such cases. In connection with shopkeepers it involves the question of female employment and introduces the matter of equality of wages. Whether a woman working, doing equal work with a man, should be paid the same? Justice says "Yes!" Shylock says "No!" It is very nice to have female labor, for if the male worker asks too much we can fill his place with a girl. Then there is the tinsmith trade. Wages paid in this trade are as low as nine dollars per week to married men with families. These are not many tinsmith employers who can be regarded as rich men. Not all make a comfortable living by it, hence any attempt by one to raise wages to a living rate would make it very hard to compete with competitors still allowed to pay starvation wage. Same may be said of wheelwrights, carriage-makers, ships carpenters, small building contractors and others, all of which show the necessity for the Government to fix wages in the interest of the community of the workers, of their wives and children who, because of low wages, are half-fed, half-starved, ill-clad, ill-educated and driven by the iron law of necessity to wharves, factories, stores and other places, crippling the young at the start of the race in life and damning most of them to a hopeless future, not having the chance to properly fit themselves for citizenship or as efficient workers

**THOSE RAILWAY WASHOUTS**

Groups of men, sent out by the Reid Nfld. Co. yesterday under Roadmasters Connors and Graham, are busily at work making repairs to the railway on the South Shore, where, with the heavy sea running on the Bay, the rails and ties and much damage done. Damage to the line has been done at intervals along the shore for nearly 11 miles or almost up to Holyrood, and so fierce was the sea that it beat away several sections of the beach, over which the track in places is laid, and flooded low-lying parts of the shore and went over the rails in some instances where they were over 25 feet from the water level. Possibly never before was such a high sea and tide witnessed in Conception Bay and only once before in the history of the Reid Nfld. Co.'s operation of the line was such a condition of affairs witnessed. It is hoped to have the line open to traffic by this evening.

**NOTICE**

**CREDITORS of the Insolvent Estate of Joseph H. Farrell, Tailor,** are notified to file a certified bill of their claim on or before January 30th, 1917, to the undersigned Trustee, after which date he will start to distribute the assets of the said Estate.  
**WILLIAM J. HALLEY,**  
Trustee.  
dec28,4i,1m

**SHIPS DID DAMAGE**

In the high tide and undertow in the harbor yesterday the Prospero parted her lines at Bowing Bros.' premises, went adrift, and smashed the flake on the western side of the pier. The Portia surged against the shed and damaged it and smashed a puncheon of molasses, the contents of which, valued at \$50, were lost.  
At one or two places north of St. John's considerable damage was done and stages and flakes were swept away by the high sea. At Portugal Cove the wharf, already dilapidated, was practically destroyed and three boats were smashed in pieces.  
to be full of initiative and push. You say, sir, that one firm has already established minimum wages for their employees that will give them some degree of comfort. This is not the only large firm who can do the same if they have any soul in them. They are wealthy and should show greater thankfulness to their employees who helped them in the getting of that wealth. Could any one of the heads of these firms without aid run the business he does to-day. He has to employ help to do it and out of that help he makes profits. Without that help his business would not be any larger than any small business seen on our back streets to-day. If one large firm can give a living wage, so can the others, and they will be the gainers by the contentment and appreciation that will be shown by nineteenth-twentieths of those they employ. You refer to the profit sharing conducted by some employers with success. We can think of the phenomenal success of Henry Ford, with his profit-sharing scheme, and minimum wage of five dollars per day for eight hours work. There is Cadbury's of Bourneville, Lever Bros. of Port Sunlight, Neisen of Illinois and scores of others who find it pays not only from a financial standpoint, but morally as well. It teaches them when you treat a worker well, unless he is a fool, he will surely recognize it, and give of the best in him. But as already stated, to have a wage for all workers that will allow him the comforts and necessities of life for himself and family the State will have to make it its business, and not leave it to heartless and soulless employers to regulate by their evil competition.  
**WORKING MAN.**  
St. John's, Dec. 28, 1916.  
The Susu left Fogo this morning and is due here Saturday morning.

**HOSPITAL OVERCROWDED**

To such a pass have matters connected with the General Hospital, arrived at present that the institution is absolutely overcrowded and patients are now lying on the floors and occupying chairs in default of cots and beds. This is caused by the habit which outport doctors have acquired of rushing cases to the city which are not at all urgent, so that overcrowding is the result especially in the female wards. Mr. Eli White-way tells us that on Tuesday no less than three ambulance cases arrived here. In spite of remonstrances again and again repeated the most trivial cases have been rushed here by outport physicians or magistrates, though most of these must be now aware that the hospital accommodation is more than overtaxed. Mr. White-way says that something must soon be done by the authorities to stop the indiscriminate sending of people to the hospital here. For urgent cases everything possible will be done but patients who can wait must be sent back to their homes.

**Notice**

**Wrapper Holders OF "CHRISTIAN'S Borax Soaps" Must have them in by December 30th,** as competition for the \$10.00 closes on that date.  
**CHRISTIAN'S Borax Co.**  
Box 902.  
**M. A. Duffy.**

**FOR SALE—One Horse, 5 years old, good and sound.**

Apply to W.A. PYE, Brooklyn, B.B. Sid, 1w  
**FOR SALE—60,000 Salted Squid** in good condition. Caught late this Fall. Apply to H. EL-LIOT, Harbor Breton.—dec19,6i  
**WANTED IMMEDIATELY—A Doctor.** Reside at Western Bay. Practice from Broad Cove to Burnt Point, both inclusive. Valued at \$3000; perquisites extra. Apply **EDMUND BUTT,** Western Bay.—dec2,t,f

**RUBBER GOODS**  
We have in stock now a full line of all kinds of Rubber Goods, selling at old prices.  
**RUBBER SHOES**  
Child's and Misses' Low and High Cut Robbers. Boys' and Youths' Low and High Cut Rubbers. Ladies' Low and High Cut Rubbers.  
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Child's and Misses' Long Rubber Boots. Women's Long Rubber Boots. Men's Bear Brand Rubber Boots. Youths' Bear Brand Rubber Boots.  
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