

ACTIVITIES OF MINISTER APPRECIATED

Hon. Mr. Murray's Interest
in New Brunswick Troops
Appreciated Writes Major
Donald.

An evidence of the appreciation of the New Brunswick troops of the activities of the Hon. J. A. Murray, Minister of Agriculture, in their interests is shown in a letter received from the commanding officer of the 65th Battalion, Hon. Mr. Murray, while in England worked indefatigably to advance the interests of the gallant fighting men from this province.

The letter to the editor of The Standard is as follows:
Digby, Kent, Eng.
11th Dec., 1916.
Sir, As an officer from New Brunswick I wish to express appreciation of the kind interest displayed by the Honorable Mr. Murray, Minister of Agriculture, in the welfare and interest of the men and battalions from that province.
Matters submitted to him were taken up with commendable energy and should result in the removal of the grievances that existed, and I am sure every officer, N.C.O. and man from the grand old province appreciate his efforts. If success does not result it will not be due to any lack of action on the part of the minister.
(Signed) A. DONALD, Major,
O. C. 65th Res. Battalion, C.B.E.

PENOBSCQUIS

Penobscquis, Jan. 3.—On Monday evening the members of Martin Luther Loyal Orange Lodge, No. 104, held a banquet in the Penobscquis cafe which was opened some time ago under the management of C. W. Osborne. At about nine o'clock the table in the banquet hall, which held a spread of thirty-three plates, was taken in charge of by about twenty-seven guests, including a number of the members of the L.O.B.A. The menu was a good one and after good justice had been paid to it the following toasts were proposed and drunk by the toastmaster, Rev. A. W. Currie.
"King and Empire," responded to by Rev. C. D. McKenzie, The "Orange Order," responded to by Harry A. Wallace, "The Boys at the Front," responded to by Irvine H. Dunfield, "The Ladies," responded to by Mrs. Heber Landon, Miss Beattie McKeon also spoke in behalf of the L.O.B.A.
God Save the King was sung which brought the banquet to a close, at about eleven o'clock. A good time was spent by all those that were present. Much credit was given to Mr. and Mrs. Osborne for the splendid and efficient manner in which their work was carried out. The decorating was good.

SHIPPING NEWS

MINIATURE ALMANAC.

Date	W.	Th.	F.	S.	Su.	W.	Th.	F.	S.	Su.
1	3.36	3.14	2.42	2.14						
2	3.30	3.05	2.36	2.04						
3	3.20	2.52	2.24	1.92						
4	3.10	2.42	2.14	1.82						
5	3.00	2.32	2.04	1.72						
6	2.50	2.22	1.94	1.62						
7	2.40	2.12	1.84	1.52						

Glochester, Jan. 1.—Arr: Sch McCanlie, Swains Island.
Borahay Harbor, Jan. 2.—Arr: Schs Andrew Newbiger, New York for Bar Harbor.
Northport, Jan. 2.—Arr: Sch Mary L. Baxter, Curacao.
Rockland, Me, Jan. 3.—Arr: Schs Henry Wilmington, New York for Bucksport; Warren B. Potter, Boston.
St. Jan. 3.—Schs Florence and Lillian, New York; Oda Miller Boston.
Boston, Jan. 2.—Arr: Schs Saran, Boston, Calais, for Fall River; Pochas, set, Dow, Rockland for New York.
Perth Amboy, Jan. 2.—Arr: Ship Brynhild, New York.
Vineyard Haven, Jan. 3.—Arr: Schs G. C. Baker, Portland; N. E. Ayer, Calais; Marie Saunders, Northeast Harbor; Rebecca R. Douglas, do; B. Hazard, do; William Blisbee, do.

THE POLICE COURT.

In the police court yesterday a soldier named John Patch was charged with being absent from duty in Halifax without leave, and with stealing two pairs of boots and skates. A five years sentence was allowed to stand and he was taken in charge by a military guard who came from Halifax for him.
James Burns was sent to the Municipal Home for three months for vagrancy.
Neil Tobin for a similar charge was remanded.
Four drunks were fined the usual amount.
Thomas E. Robinson for not having a boiler in his building inspected, was fined \$25, which was allowed to stand.
A fine of \$10 was allowed to stand against F. E. Jones for allowing his car to stand in front of the Royal Hotel for a longer period than allowed by law.

BLUE LAW OF 1642 INVOKED TO JAIL A "BLASPHEMER"

Right of Free Speech in Connecticut Hangs on Case of
Mocus, Accused of Calling God "a Liar" and "an
Iron Frog" at Waterbury.

Waterbury, Conn., Dec. 27.—The application here of an almost forgotten Connecticut "blue law" to a case of alleged blasphemy has promoted what lawyers declare to be the most interesting legal contest this State has had in a century, one on which, it is contended, the right of free speech precariously depends.

It now lies in the District Court here, to which the opposing attorneys have been directed to submit briefs. Each side insists that should the decision here be against it the case will be carried to the United States Supreme Court.

How the Case Arose
In a corner of this town called Brooklyn, populated by about 10,000 Lithuanians, a fight between the church and the devotees of alcohol has been waging bitterly for some time. Many of the Lithuanians believe they have not only the right to drink on Sunday, but to sell and purchase liquor on that day.

The church there, represented by the Rev. Peter Sauraitis, a Lithuanian, closed so many saloons there last summer and caused the arrest of so many persons who had converted their dwellings into unlicensed liquor stores, that retaliatory measures came up for consideration and adoption.
The Free Thinkers Alliance, a Lithuanian organization whose parent body has its headquarters in Newark, N. J., entered, or was brought into the fight. On its invitation there came to Waterbury last July Michael X. Mocus, a Lithuanian lecturer, who is forty-five years old and has been in this country nineteen years.

On July 17 last, in the third of three speeches on consecutive nights, Mocus referred to the Creator in terms that, for the greater part, are unprintable. His mildest assertions—declarations—were that God is a liar, "Iron Frog" and a man without goodness, and that "this teaching of Jesus is good only for thieves and robbers."

Some days prior to the first "lecture," given, as were the others, in a small hall in the Brooklyn section, his conduct was announced in hand-bills circulated in the Lithuanian colony. The topics were printed in these circulars.
The first speech was made on July 25. The subject was, "The Difference Between Belief and Knowledge Through Experience." The second, "Inventions of Priests," delivered the following night, aroused considerable comment. Mocus apparently satisfied curiosity inspired by his statements on some church questions under this head by saying he had studied for the priesthood.

But the police were not satisfied either by that statement or the statements Mocus felt called on to make. In addition they feared that these utterances might lead to industrial troubles, for the majority of the members of the colony are employed in munition and brass work and were made the subject of study and effort not long ago by Joseph J. Eitor of the I. W. W.

So, on the third night, when Mocus rose to speak on "According to the Bible, Who Cannot Enter Heaven?" he had in his audience a number of interested persons. But as he spoke in his native tongue, only the policeman a man of Lithuanian birth, was able to get what the State contends were Mocus's statements. Some of his countrymen, who testified against him, were on the outside of the hall, and when he picked up drifted through the open windows.

Mocus was arrested. This development was not entirely unexpected by his friends, but when the local authorities dragged from obscurity and applied to the case a blue law, enacted in Connecticut in 1642, when men and women were being hanged for witchcraft, there rallied to Mocus side influences of such unusual character that he was not less amazed than his friends. He had reason to be amazed, for when he attempted something of the kind in Baltimore last February, he was showered with eggs.

The Free Thought Alliance retained Lawrence L. Lewis, one of Waterbury's leading attorneys. And to bulwark his defense, Theodore Schroeder, a New York lawyer expert in free speech litigation and Secretary of the Free Speech League of New York, offered his services, which were accepted. At one time, if not now, Hutchins Hapgood, Brand Whitlock, United States Minister to Belgium; Lincoln Steffens, Gilbert E. Roe and Bolton Hall were officers of that organization.
This development gave motion to the storm of protest against a denial of the right of free speech that is growing in strength rapidly and whose ultimate aim is not only to have that right fully established, but is to wipe forever from the statute books of at least Connecticut the law enacted in witchcraft days. And, should the final court decision in this State be adverse to the defendant, his legal supporters have agreed to take the case to the United States Supreme Court.

The Charge Against Him
In the warrant on which Mocus was arraigned in the City Court here on Aug. 3 before Judge W. J. Larkin it was charged that Mocus "did blaspheme against God, the Scriptures and the Christian religion."

Mocus was convicted and sentenced to serve ten days in jail and give a bond of \$1,000 to guarantee good behavior for six months.

An appeal was taken, halting execution of sentence. A demurrer was entered, stating, first, that the information laid against Mocus did not set forth the utterances complained of; second, that the statute of 1642 is unconstitutional in that it violated the free speech clauses in the State and Federal Constitutions, and, third, that the terms of the statute are so uncertain as to violate the due process clause in the constitutions.

This demurrer was overruled. The case, on appeal, reached the District Court for trial before Judge Francis T. Reeves and a jury on Sept. 21. Though that part of New England is traditionally religious and in denomination Congregational, the jury was made up of eight men without church affiliations, two Episcopalians, one Methodist and one Catholic.

Mocus took the stand. When he was about to be sworn he was asked if he believed in God.

"Which God?" he asked.
"Do you believe in God?" the question was pressed.

He replied as before, and then, when this had dragged on for several minutes, he said:

"I believe in a Supreme Being, but I do not believe in a Jewish God—the God of the English version of the Bible."

His testimony as to what he said was a repetition of his last lecture and it consumed about four hours. In defending his statement that God was a liar, he quoted:

Genesis, chapter 2, verse 17: "But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die."
"That was God's injunction to Adam in the Garden of Eden," Mocus testified. "And, we find in Genesis, chapter 5, verses 4 and 5: 'And the days of Adam after he had begotten Seth were 800 years; and he begot sons and daughters; and all the days that Adam lived were 930 years, and he died.'"

"I do not make the charge," Mocus continued. "I quote from the Bible. God inspired the writing of the Bible, so that statement therein must be his."

In explaining his utterance of the statement that "this teaching is good only for thieves and robbers," Mocus read from St. Luke, chapter 6, verse 30:

"Give us every man that asketh of thee; and of him that taketh away thy cloak forbid not to take thy coat also."

To justify his reference to God as "Iron Frog," Mocus began by quoting from Job, chapter 11, verse 8.

The witness gave a quotation from what he said was the Lithuanian version of the Scriptures and in which the Creator was described as a turtle.

"Iron frog," said Mocus, "is Lithuanian for turtle."

The Jury Disagreed
The jury was given the case at the end of the second day. The first ballot was seven for conviction and five for acquittal. The second—and last—ballot stood eleven for conviction to acquit.

At the trial the prosecution was aided by former Judge Michael Byrne, who had been brought into the case by Father Sauraitis. When the case again came up before Judge Reeves last Wednesday on a new demurrer neither clergyman nor Judge Byrne appeared. E. B. Reiley, Jr., the prosecutor, elected to try the case without outside aid.

In presenting the defendant's contentions, Mr. Schroeder, who made the principal argument of defense, said he wanted to read this excerpt from the General Statutes of Connecticut: "Sec. 1323—Every person who shall blaspheme against God, either of the persons of the Holy Trinity, the Christian religion, of the Holy Scriptures, shall be fined not more than \$100 or imprisoned in a jail not more than one year, and may also be bound to his good behavior—A.D. 1642-1821, 188, Sec. 1535."

"The Connecticut Constitution, Declaration of Rights, 1818, reads:

"Section 3. The exercise and enjoyment of religious profession and worship without discrimination, shall forever be free to all persons in this State, provided that the right hereby declared and established, shall not be so construed as to excuse acts of licentiousness with the peace and safety of the State."

"Section 4. No preference shall be given by law to any Christian sect or mode of worship."
"Sec. 5—Every citizen may freely speak, write and publish his sentiments on all subjects, being responsible for the abuse of that liberty. Liberty of Speech Enjoined."

"Sec. 6—No law shall ever be passed to curtail or restrain the liberty of speech or of the press."

"The constitution of the United States says: 'Amended Act. 1—Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.'"

included a denial of those parts of Holy Scripture declaring or assuming the truth of witchcraft. This is in harmony with both the logical and ecclesiastical thought of the time, both in England and in Connecticut.

Quotes Sir Matthew Hale

"I have just read a book entitled 'A Trial of Witches at the Assizes, held at Bury St. Edmunds, for the County of Suffolk, on the tenth day of March, 1664, before Sir Matthew Hale, K. T., then Lord Chief Baron of His Majesty's Court of Exchequer, published in 1682. Therein is a record of instructions given to jurors which reads as follows:

"That there were such creatures as witches he (Lord Hale) made no doubt at all; for first, the Scriptures had affirmed so much. Secondly, the wisdom of all nations had provided laws against such persons, which is an argument of their confidence of such a crime. And such hath been the judgment of this kindred as appears, by that act of Parliament which had provided punishment proportionable to the quality of the offense. And desired them strictly to observe their evidence; and desired the great God of Heaven to direct their hearts in this weighty matter they had in hand; for to condemn the innocent, and to let the guilty go free, were both an abomination to the Lord."

"In conclusion, the Judges, and all the court were fully satisfied with the verdict and thereupon gave judgment against the thirteen witches that they should be hanged. And they were executed on Monday, the 17th of March following, but they confessed nothing."

After considerable argument by both sides, Judge Reeves announced that as the case stood he was inclined—if he decided the matter off-hand—to overrule the new demurrer submitted by the defense, which would have resulted in a second trial, but that if the attorneys were agreeable to his suggestion that briefs be submitted, he would decide the case by the time the spring term opens, next March. Feeling that the question involved was too important to be decided then and there, Messrs. Reiley, Schroeder and Lewis joined in the agreement to submit briefs on which they are now working.

CANADIAN PATRIOTIC FUND.

Monthly—W. F. Nobles, \$2.00; John H. Lee, \$2.00; Daniel Kirby (10 mos.), \$2.50; Mrs. R. W. Fink, \$2.50; Geo. J. Rathburn, Westfield, \$2.00; William Murdoch, \$5.00; H. B. Gould, \$5.00; Geo. Coupe, (2 mos.), \$1.00; W. J. Cheyne (2 mos.), \$2.00; Mrs. W. C. Good (2 mos.), \$2.00; Rev. J. C. Berrie (2 mos.), \$1.00; Mrs. H. S. Bridges (2 mos.), \$2.00; J. H. Parker (2 mos.), \$2.00; A. G. Gregory, \$5.00; John T. Driscoll (3 mos.), \$1.50; W. G. Smith, \$2.00; S. M. Wetmore, \$4.00; H. Shillington (3 mos.), \$3.00; W. H. Sharpe, \$1.00; G. M. Robertson, \$2.00; R. F. Downer, \$4.00; D. P. Nobles, \$2.00; Miss A. Vallie Santali, \$2.00; T. H. Smart, \$2.00; A. H. Stammers, \$1.00; C. W. Dickson, \$5.00; H. J. R. McParlane, \$5.00; A. E. Coates, \$2.00; W. S. Edgar, \$1.00; A. B. D. Gandy, \$4.00; H. O. R. Bosley, \$1.00; Mrs. W. Smith, \$1.00; Mrs. P. J. Legge, \$1.00; G. W. Campbell, \$2.00; F. L. O'Regan, \$2.00; W. J. Hill, \$2.00; A. V. Cowan, \$1.00; A. J. Johnson, \$2.00; S. Givens, \$2.00; H. M. Honper, \$5.00; W. R. Mathers, \$5.00; P. J. McCoubrey, \$2.00; R. E. Fitzgerald, \$1.00; John O'Pray, \$5.00.

Kings Daughters Guild.

The regular monthly meeting of the Kings Daughters Guild was held yesterday afternoon in the guild rooms on Chipman Hill, with the president, Mrs. A. Kirkpatrick, in the chair. Mrs. Burlington Hamm was an interested visitor. The members discussed the work of the International Travellers Aid and other emigration matters.

Will Rejoin Unit.

Pte. John LeCain of the 1st Canadian Field Artillery, who has been spending a short leave in the city, will leave shortly to rejoin his unit at the front. Pte. LeCain is a son of John LeCain of the post office department, and spent seventeen months in service before obtaining his leave. Before enlisting he was a member of the mailing staff of The Standard.

FORECLOSURE OF EASTERN S.S. CORP. ENDED

Company to Be Known as
Eastern Steamship Lines
to Be Formed—Bright
Prospects.

Special to The Standard.
Boston, Jan. 5.—The remainder of the property of the Eastern Steamship Corporation, not sold under foreclosure at Bangor Wednesday, was sold at auction here today for \$200,000 to Hayden, Stone & Co., bankers of this city, Montreal and New York, representing the bondholders. The firm is the same which bid in the steamers, wharves, warehouses etc., at Bangor for \$3,366,000.

The corporation, which is in the hands of receivers, will be reorganized under the name of the Eastern Steamship Lines, Incorporated, and re-financed. The outlook for the future of the corporation is said to be bright.

Today is Feast of Epiphany, or "Old Christmas" Day.

Today is the feast of the Epiphany, one of the most important days of the Christians year in the Anglican and Roman Catholic churches, and a holy day of obligation. Services will be held this morning in all the churches of both denominations the world over. By many the feast is called "Old Christmas."

DIED.

WORDEN—On Jan. 5th, at her home, 55 Hazen street, Annie, wife of George H. Worden, leaving two daughters and two sons.
Funeral from her late residence on Sunday afternoon, service commencing at 2.30 o'clock.

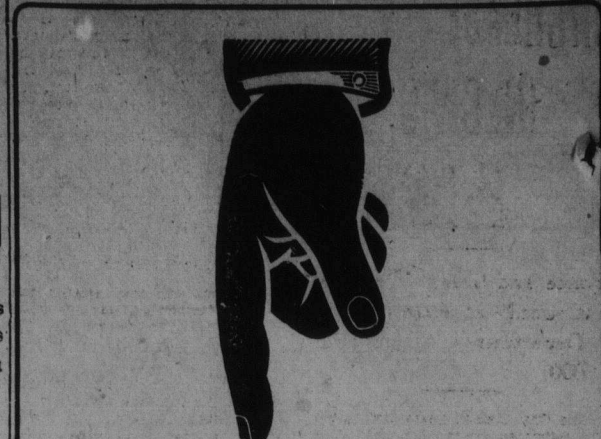
MURRAY—In this city, on January 5, Emma A. wife of John Murray, leaving her husband and one daughter.
Funeral on Monday morning at 8.30 from her late residence, 381 Haymarket Square, to the Cathedral for Requiem High Mass. Friends invited to attend.

ST. JOHN MAIN EXCHANGE.

January 1st, 1917.

Installations and Changes.

M3474-11—Brennan, H. S. Res. No. 8 Queen St.
M3498-12—Dixon, Chas. Res. Glen Falls.
W356-31—Gray, Walter W. Res. No. 230 St. James St., W.E.
M3498-42—Humphrey, Robert B. Res. Glen Falls.
W206-32—Lord, Wm. B. Res. No. 79 Water St., W.E.
M3491-41—London, Miss Gertrude. Res. No. 64 Harrison St.
M3464—M. O. in charge of troops of N. B. Bank of Montreal Building, King St. (Military Tel.).
M2994-41—McAdoo, Mrs. R. J. Res. No. 101 Mecklenburg St. No. changed from Main 2331-11.
M2103-41—Mason, A. J. Res. No. 192 Queen St.
M3250-11—Nixon, C. M. Res. No. 286 Germain St.
M2510—Paterson, C. M. Res. No. 265 King St. East. No. changed from M1592-41.
W330-41—Reade, Miss Roberta. Res. No. 93 Duke St., W.E.
W386-21—Stephens, Allan. Res. No. 58 Albert St., W.E.
M568—Smith, T. Russell. Res. No. 737 Main St.
W884-11—Williams, Capt. J. A. Res. No. 239 Duke St., W.E.
M2743-11—Dryden, L. T. Tobacconist, No. 197 Union St.



WILCOX'S Annual January Clearing Sale Of Men's, Women's and Children's Clothing of All Kinds

That must be moved before Stock-Taking, and as prices are advancing all the time it will be worth your while to take advantage of this great sale and get your necessary wants before it is too late.

**Sale Starts Friday, January 5, for
Ten Days Only**

Here a Few of Our Many Bargains:

MEN'S OVERCOATS AND SUITS At Manufacturers' Prices Suits From \$7.50 to \$24.00 Less 20 per cent. COATS From \$9.50 to \$26.00 Less 20 per cent.	LADIES' SUITS Worth \$35.00.....For \$22.00 LADIES' SUITS Worth \$30.00.....For \$18.00 LADIES' SUITS Worth \$25.00.....For \$15.00 LADIES' SUITS Worth \$20.00.....For \$14.00 LADIES' SUITS Worth \$16.00.....For \$9.98 LADIES' COATS From \$9.00 to \$45.00 At from 25 to 50 per cent. Less Than Regular Prices. LADIES' SILK DRESSES From \$12.00 to \$18.00 Less 20 per cent. LADIES' SERGE DRESSES From \$6.50 to \$10.00 Less 20 per cent. LADIES' CLOTH SKIRTS Worth \$3.75.....For \$2.49 LADIES' CORDUROY VELVET SKIRTS Only \$2.49 LADIES' SHIRTWAISTS Worth \$1.50.....For 98c. LADIES' SHIRTWAISTS Worth \$1.00.....For 59c. LADIES' SILK SHIRTWAISTS From \$1.50 to \$5.50 Less 20 per cent. LADIES' MOIRE UNDERSKIRTS Worth \$1.10.....For 79c. LADIES' SHAKER NIGHTGOWNS Worth \$1.35.....For 89c. LADIES' SILK HOSE, Only 29c. All Colors. LADIES' RAINCOATS From \$5.50 to \$15.00 Less 20 per cent. LADIES' CORSETS From 75c. to \$4.50 At Special Cut Prices LADIES' HOUSE DRESSES Worth \$1.35.....For 89c. LADIES' FLANNELLETTES SHIRTWAISTS Worth \$1.35.....For 89c.
--	---

You Know it Always Pays to Shop at

WILCOX'S

Cor. Charlotte and
Union Streets

INCREASE IN CIVIC ESTIMATES

Police and Fire
Council—Increase
Departments About
1000.

The City Council yesterday estimated the fire departments calling for an increase of about \$1,654 over the estimates of last year.

All the commissioners when the mayor called the estimates as presented lowest he could get along with did not propose to cut their department estimates call for a majority vote to deal with them as they were.

Commissioner McLellan the estimates as presented lowest he could get along with did not propose to cut their department estimates call for a majority vote to deal with them as they were.

On the motion being passed the estimates were passed as presented by the commissioner. Commissioner McLellan then moved that the estimates be taken up, which he and he presented the estimates as follows:

Fire Appropriations

1 Chief	\$2,000
6 Engineers	6,000
1 Engineer at \$85 per month	1,150
1 Engineer at \$75 per month	1,125
19 Drivers at \$70 per month	1,330
2 Drivers at \$80 per month	1,600
1 Motor Driver, \$75 per month	900
1 Chief Driver, \$75 per month	900
6 Tailmen, at \$70 per month	4,200
4 Pipemen, at \$70 per month	2,800
1 Lineman, at \$80 per month	960
Extra Chief Driver at \$5 per month	60

Call men

Prop. Commrs. S. \$1,000

Prop. Clerk's S. \$1,000

Prop. Clerk's S. \$1,000

Prop. Clerk's S. \$1,000

Prop. Clerk's S. \$1,000

Prop. Clerk's S. \$1,000

Prop. Clerk's S. \$1,000

Prop. Clerk's S. \$1,000

Prop. Clerk's S. \$1,000

Prop. Clerk's S. \$1,000

Prop. Clerk's S. \$1,000

Prop. Clerk's S. \$1,000

Prop. Clerk's S. \$1,000

Prop. Clerk's S. \$1,000

Prop. Clerk's S. \$1,000

Prop. Clerk's S. \$1,000

Prop. Clerk's S. \$1,000

Prop. Clerk's S. \$1,000

Prop. Clerk's S. \$1,000

Prop. Clerk's S. \$1,000

Prop. Clerk's S. \$1,000

Prop. Clerk's S. \$1,000

Prop. Clerk's S. \$1,000

Prop. Clerk's S. \$1,000

Prop. Clerk's S. \$1,000

Prop. Clerk's S. \$1,000

Prop. Clerk's S. \$1,000

Prop. Clerk's S. \$1,000

Prop. Clerk's S. \$1,000

Prop. Clerk's S. \$1,000

Prop. Clerk's S. \$1,000

Prop. Clerk's S. \$1,000

Prop. Clerk's S. \$1,000