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When The Telegraph undertook this investigation it first of all set to work to find out if the people appreciated the disadvantages conditions under which the city existed in regard to confusion of time, next what change would be most popular, and lastly what change might be found most feasible. It did not take long to ascertain that the majority of the citizens as well as strangers, groaned in spirit at the existing conditions, but did not know how to better them. Then it was discovered that there was a difference of opinion as to the merits of adopting 70th meridian (Eastern standard) time. And finally, since the positions of the matter have been made in our columns by correspondents who gave the subject careful study, it has come to pass that the people are becoming entirely agreed upon Superintendent Osborne, however, has the movement a splendid impetus, and in an interview yesterday, he even at considerable trouble for us, and recognizing that they are eighty odd miles of railway, he is quite willing to fall in with the wishes of the people. C. P. R. time to Atlantic end of his road, if the colonial also agree to Osborne shows, more standard is the time originally adopted and that when the devised it was

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The true and easy solution of the problem, therefore, seems to lie with our business men, and, as has been said before, if our Board of Trade, City Council and citizens generally conclude to press the matter, it is believed by many to be entirely possible to have the Intercolonial, under its modern management, adopt the 60th meridian standard, which would completely harmonize and unify time throughout the maritime provinces. It seems possible that if the provinces had been alive to the matter in the beginning, this might then have been accomplished, but travel was smaller then, and it's better late than never. It will be noted today that the St. John bankers have fallen unanimously into line in favor of Atlantic standard.

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The French have had a shipping bounty law for some years, applying to sailing vessels as well as steamers, and an instance is cited of a sailing vessel that received under it 75,000 francs (\$15,000) bounty on a ten months' voyage. In fact in the past five years France has paid out more than forty millions of dollars in the way of bounties and postal subsidies for the encouragement of her merchant marine, without obtaining very practical results in the augmentation of her fleets or of her commerce. Under the new law a bounty of 65 francs per gross ton will be allowed on construction, 1 franc 70 centimes per ton for every thousand miles sailed, and 15 francs per 100 kilograms for machinery. There is also a special bounty for steamers eligible for employment as auxiliary cruisers in time of war.

In view of the fact that Britain's merchant marine has attained its present tremendous proportions absolutely without subsidies, it does not seem reasonable to expect that subsidy measures in the case of either France or of the United States will have the effect of building up their merchant fleets to such a solid and substantial industrial basis as the British, any more than has the subsidy system in Italy enabled her to out-rival us in an increasing figure in the world's shipping. It is natural that the contemporaneous announcement of the adoption of such a measure in France, and the inception of such a measure in the United States should have a disquieting effect among the more timid of British shipowners, especially in a period of freight depression, but we believe that British pluck and determination, the colonizing spirit, commercial ability and wealth of empire, will enable the "old red rag" to continue its supremacy on the wave in spite of all comers.

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING.
 This is the time of year when the majority of people go shopping without knowing what they want to buy and when the clerks have most difficulty in telling them what to show people. It is a little late for the purchase of things that people intend making up into gifts, for the time is now short till Christmas, and the majority of folks who are buying things this week want to get the most appropriate thing they can find for the person for whom it is designed, to present just as it is. That point of appropriateness constitutes the whole difficulty between buyer and seller. Very often the seeker does not have any particular choice in any particular line and too often the salesman is negligent in endeavoring to exactly please the customer, here is where the characteristics of the best salesmen have their opportunity to shine forth, not in trying to persuade the customer that what he is offered is just what he wants, but in endeavoring to find for the customer the nearest thing that may meet his views. It is a grand chance for the display of tact as well as patience and character reading. It becomes very wearisome for the clerks and storekeepers, but it is their greatest yearly opportunity to show their genuine abilities.

And as for the shoppers armed with the problem of what to give and what not to give, the great majority with but a limited fund to spare, theirs is the particular task. The modest maiden who can hardly keep from blushing while she inquires the prices of things she wants for him and which she hesitates to criticize; the crusty old bachelor who wants to make some decent tribute to a lady friend, but for the life of him can't think what would prove most acceptable; the paterfamilias who want something useful as well as ornamental for their children and for each other; the juveniles who have been saving up their pennies—all want to buy something, and the shop in which they are best pleased with their best Christmas wishes. Somebody has said that "the

gospel of going without" is a great thing to learn at this time of year, and so it is, although it seems to every novice in its practice to have been created for his special benefit. And so we deny ourselves to practice the Christian maxim of it being more blessed to give than to receive, and trust to the future to reimburse our bank accounts for our own particular benefit.

IMPROVE THE FERRY.
 Correspondents of The Telegraph have at various times of late called attention to the great need for improvement there is in the St. John harbor ferry service. That these complaints have been well founded requires only a brief casual observation on the part of the passenger. It is true that the service might be worse, but it is none the less true that it is not highly creditable to the city that maintains it, especially in view of the fact that it ought to be and might be made a paying institution yielding handsome revenue to the city treasury and proving a pride and delight to the citizens. It is safe to say that if any aldermen in particular were responsible for the lack of improvement of this service they would have a hard contrast for re-election. Indeed it is probable that the only reason existing conditions are tolerated by the citizens is that the time of transit upon which the inconveniences must be endured is so brief.

A passenger, crossing in the rush hours finds that the boats are too small to accommodate the travel, as frequently horses and teams have to wait the next trip. The precautions against accident are conspicuous by their absence. There are no gates or bars across either end, and nothing but a tight chain to prevent a team backing overboard, although it is admitted by employees that teams have backed and broken these chains. The method of mooring is by a loose chain made fast by taking a turn around bits on one side of the bow only, without any windlass device, whatever. The cabins have no ventilation save what may be afforded by the doors and the two-inch crack which extends all along the side, used permanently for escape of water in washing down the decks, but in rough weather sometimes admitting the waves as well. The life preservers are stored so high as to be out of reach. The cabins only contain about 1,000 cubic feet each, and those on the men's side become saturated with smoke very quickly. The ferry-loads on the Charlevoix side is without sewage or water for the closets, and the odor is at all times bad, sometimes intolerable.

This is a little list of grievances which our city fathers ought to find it to their advantage to remedy. They confront conditions not theories in the matter.

TRADE WITH JAMAICA.
 The Kingston Daily Telegraph of Nov. 28, reprinting with complimentary editorial reference, Mr. G. Eustace Burke, the article of that gentleman in his capacity as commercial agent of the Canadian government in Jamaica, which appeared in the Canadian Manufacturer of Nov. 15. The Telegraph, in commenting upon the matter, states that the trade of Jamaica with Canada might be very greatly increased if Canadians would pay more attention as do the Americans to catering directly to the wants of the Jamaica public, and if there were a better and faster steamship service between the two countries. It does not seem the way clear at present for the Jamaica government to offer any more subsidies for that or any other encouragement of trade than it is doing, as the resources of that government are very limited. But it believes that very much more trade might be had by Canadians with Jamaica if our manufacturers and exporters diligently cultivated it. Our namesake, among other things, says:

It is a well-known fact that a considerable quantity of Canadian manufactures and faster steamship service between the United States. And it is noticeable that a good deal of the produce of the West Indies reaches Canada only through America. This plainly shows that, with a better and faster steamship service between the two countries, the commercial men of that colony would soon awake to the advantage of securing a substantial slice of the foreign trade of this island. And it also follows that Jamaica produce would meet with a growing demand in Canada. The population of both countries is increasing daily, and what is of even more importance, the "consuming capacity" of their people will, in ordinary circumstances, increase considerably also. Given a good steamship service, therefore, we could confidently look forward to a considerable amount of business being done with one another by Canada and Jamaica.

ENGLISH VS. AMERICAN PUBLISHERS.
 It is a noteworthy matter that although the United States have now a population of about seventy millions of people, England has only about forty millions. The books printed in England very far outnumber those published in the U. States, while both in number and excellence of production the illustrated high class periodicals generally of Britain far surpass those of the States. A tabulated statement of the number of works produced in book form during last year in both England and the United States, shows an enormous preponderance in favor of England. Last year this year is stated to be 2,686, while in England last year was 3,741.

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St. John, N. B., Dec. 18.

Overcoat Time!

OAK HALL is without exception and without a doubt the Great Overcoat Store of St. John. We give more of sterling quality, at each price quoted, than any other store at same price. We believe you'll save 25 per cent. at Oak Hall whether you take our \$5.00 Beaver Overcoat or our Full Lined \$20.00 Coat.

- We have told you of our Coats at \$5.00 to \$15.00. Today we speak of our higher priced ones.
- At \$16.00 A Self-backed Pattern Light Grey Herringbone Raglanette style, body linings to match and satin shoulder linings.
 - At \$18.00 A Dark Grey Raglanette with 3-4 inch welted seams, cuffs, sleeves, vertical pockets, velvet collar, check body linings, a satin shoulder linings; a Dark Grey Twill, three-quarter length box back with quilted satin shoulder linings and black worsted body linings; also, a Grey Melton with a smooth finished tweed body lining. Any of these Coats are the equal of custom made at \$26.00.
 - At \$20.00 A Fine Dark Grey with self-backing pattern, full facings, 1-1/2 inch welted seams, satin sleeve lining; a beautiful Dark Grey Vicuna, full satin lined.

Have you Had our Fall Style Book?
GREAT OAK HALL
 King Street, Cor. Germain.
SCOVIL BROS. & CO.,
 St. John, N. B.

The various productions shows that in all the important lines England preponderated with publications, but in the topics of humor, sport and nature, woman, history, and war in the Philippines, the Americans attained pre-eminence. It is interesting to note that in fiction England produced last year 1,063 works, compared with 616 in the United States last year, and 890 this year. On the subject of St. James to do everything in his power to effect that very thing. Mr. Adams implied that the demand for the evacuation of Canada by the British was abandoned by President Grant, who was at that time very unfriendly to Sumner, but the lecturer did not explain why President Grant refrained from requesting that Canada be asked to vote for or against annexation. Perhaps the president didn't like to make even that mild request.

THE FARMERS' WINTER FAIR.
 The Maritime Winter Fair at Amherst, which opens today, ought to be excellently patronized by the representative agriculturists of the province. The fact that it is being held at both New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, that eminent men of the governments of both provinces and foremost agricultural educationists will be present, and that the railways are giving reduced fares to those who wish to attend, all go to show that it is an event in which the people may have the fullest confidence. The patrons of this fair ought to be not so much those who are looking for a holiday and recreation as those who mean business and the getting of information. From the facilities afforded for the interchange of views and the ascertaining by farmers of the most authoritative scientific methods of doing things, all who attend should be able to make the cost of their trip a splendid investment. The man who "knows how," in the best fashion, can always command the best price for his efforts. If this fair proves the success it promises, a regular repetition of it will doubtless be spontaneously demanded.

NOTE AND COMMENT.
 Mayor Howland, of Toronto, is desirous of being re-elected. The people appear to think that he has not been a howlin' success.

Dr. McLeod, in his card, says that he is the Conservative candidate. He has not stated the policy of his party. As a matter of fact the party is policy-less.

Our morning contemporary is busy these days explaining away the candid expressions of opinion which are to

be found in its Tory contemporary "Business before pleasure."

The history of Le Journal, as published by La Presse, shows that Sir Charles Tupper and Mr. Hugh Graham were supporting one and hand in glove with the "Castor" of Quebec. A fine combination!

It is quite evident that there is a feeling of friendship existing between newspapers on Canterbury street. An editorial of a weekly appeared simultaneously on the 14th inst. in a morning daily.

The Tory press is telling the St. John Sun some terrible truths about itself and what makes the pills so bitter to our morning contemporary is the fact that one of them says no one believes what that journal states.

The use of spring clothes is said to keep school-boys' mouths shut as a punishment for whispering has been forbidden by the school committee of Taunton, Mass. The plan had been tried in St. John who knows what might have happened?

Mr. Wm. F. MacLeod, M. P., who is going to purchase all the railways of Canada for \$1, is now booming himself for mayor of Toronto. People forget that W. F. owns the World—but it is only paper ownership.

The Montreal Star is silent on the exposures of La Presse regarding the foundation and policy of Le Journal. It is only the reason of this silence is that it shows up Mr. Hugh Graham a bad light. It is even worse than being one variety of the Star for Mac and another for the country.

Dr. McLeod, the purity and probity candidate, has selected as his chief morning contemporary, a journal which its Tory contemporaries state to be relied upon. The reason it is for purity today is because the "muc" is not forthcoming.

Designers of Christmas boxes are minded that sudden shocks somewhat prove fatal.

Our morning contemporary is being "unco guid" in its old age and hypocritically appealing for the election to support the purity and probity candidate. What a pity the Sun was not attacked with this d in 1896, when Hon. George E. Foster the Tory candidate! Why did Dr. McLeod to oppose his own party from prohibition? Because of occasion? Because of Sun's purity is essential party.

the various productions shows that in all the important lines England preponderated with publications, but in the topics of humor, sport and nature, woman, history, and war in the Philippines, the Americans attained pre-eminence. It is interesting to note that in fiction England produced last year 1,063 works, compared with 616 in the United States last year, and 890 this year. On the subject of St. James to do everything in his power to effect that very thing. Mr. Adams implied that the demand for the evacuation of Canada by the British was abandoned by President Grant, who was at that time very unfriendly to Sumner, but the lecturer did not explain why President Grant refrained from requesting that Canada be asked to vote for or against annexation. Perhaps the president didn't like to make even that mild request.

THE FARMERS' WINTER FAIR.
 The Maritime Winter Fair at Amherst, which opens today, ought to be excellently patronized by the representative agriculturists of the province. The fact that it is being held at both New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, that eminent men of the governments of both provinces and foremost agricultural educationists will be present, and that the railways are giving reduced fares to those who wish to attend, all go to show that it is an event in which the people may have the fullest confidence. The patrons of this fair ought to be not so much those who are looking for a holiday and recreation as those who mean business and the getting of information. From the facilities afforded for the interchange of views and the ascertaining by farmers of the most authoritative scientific methods of doing things, all who attend should be able to make the cost of their trip a splendid investment. The man who "knows how," in the best fashion, can always command the best price for his efforts. If this fair proves the success it promises, a regular repetition of it will doubtless be spontaneously demanded.

NOTE AND COMMENT.
 Mayor Howland, of Toronto, is desirous of being re-elected. The people appear to think that he has not been a howlin' success.

Dr. McLeod, in his card, says that he is the Conservative candidate. He has not stated the policy of his party. As a matter of fact the party is policy-less.

Our morning contemporary is busy these days explaining away the candid expressions of opinion which are to

be found in its Tory contemporary "Business before pleasure."

The history of Le Journal, as published by La Presse, shows that Sir Charles Tupper and Mr. Hugh Graham were supporting one and hand in glove with the "Castor" of Quebec. A fine combination!

It is quite evident that there is a feeling of friendship existing between newspapers on Canterbury street. An editorial of a weekly appeared simultaneously on the 14th inst. in a morning daily.

The Tory press is telling the St. John Sun some terrible truths about itself and what makes the pills so bitter to our morning contemporary is the fact that one of them says no one believes what that journal states.

The use of spring clothes is said to keep school-boys' mouths shut as a punishment for whispering has been forbidden by the school committee of Taunton, Mass. The plan had been tried in St. John who knows what might have happened?

Mr. Wm. F. MacLeod, M. P., who is going to purchase all the railways of Canada for \$1, is now booming himself for mayor of Toronto. People forget that W. F. owns the World—but it is only paper ownership.

The Montreal Star is silent on the exposures of La Presse regarding the foundation and policy of Le Journal. It is only the reason of this silence is that it shows up Mr. Hugh Graham a bad light. It is even worse than being one variety of the Star for Mac and another for the country.

Dr. McLeod, the purity and probity candidate, has selected as his chief morning contemporary, a journal which its Tory contemporaries state to be relied upon. The reason it is for purity today is because the "muc" is not forthcoming.

Designers of Christmas boxes are minded that sudden shocks somewhat prove fatal.

Our morning contemporary is being "unco guid" in its old age and hypocritically appealing for the election to support the purity and probity candidate. What a pity the Sun was not attacked with this d in 1896, when Hon. George E. Foster the Tory candidate! Why did Dr. McLeod to oppose his own party from prohibition? Because of occasion? Because of Sun's purity is essential party.