

## Christmas Dinner for Every Poor Family in St. John.

Mrs. Hall Says People Are Exceptionally Generous This Year—No One Will Go Hungry—Lots of Work in Sight.

Mrs. C. F. Hall of the Associated Charities, said to the Sun last evening that she did not see how it could be possible for any family in St. John to be without a Christmas dinner this year. Such a season's work she has never done, nor has the generosity of St. John people ever been shown more freely. Requests have simply showered in on her from all sides for the names of persons in poor circumstances, or of any to whom a good dinner would bring extra pleasure.

And Mrs. Hall has given out all the names she knows—far more than in any previous year—but still there are lots of people ready to make Christmas pleasant for those not so fortunate. The city has been very busy throughout this year more systematically than usual. By keeping in close touch with workers from the different churches, it is hoped that there will be no overlapping, that the gifts will be equally distributed and that no one family will have several sources of supply while others receive nothing.

There is, says Mrs. Hall, quite a lot of poverty in the city this season. There has been during the year far more sickness than usual, the deaths among the poorer classes seem to have been very numerous, and among the families of the unskilled laborers there is want. The employment of unskilled workmen is always

uncertain, but Mrs. Hall is strongly of the opinion that the winter just beginning will be a good one.

Judging from her past experience she foresees that there will be any amount of employment for all who are able to work, as indeed there is plenty to be done now. But the hardest cases to handle are those where the husband is not able to do any heavy work. Mrs. Hall mentioned one such case. The man is sober and industrious, a real good fellow, but physically unfit for work on the streets. Mrs. Hall would be greatly pleased to learn of a position as janitor or in some such line for this man.

An appeal was recently made through the St. John's Sun for a family in need. Mrs. Hall says the response has been most generous, and enough has been received to tide this family over the hard season.

While Christmas is a happy time and a turkey dinner is very nice, Mrs. Hall is not particularly struck on the prevailing fashion of sending such dinners around. She would not for the world put a stop to it, but she says that if the amounts spent for these dinners were put into a fund, much more good could be done by distributing it over the entire season. But then she can't forget that a good square meal at Christmas is something to look forward to—and something to remember.

## GAS EXPLOSION WRECKS CHARLOTTE ST. HOUSE.

Wall of Dr. McAvenny's Dining Room Shattered—Workman's Pick Struck Spark Which Fired Gas.

"My God, the house will be blown in," were the words that sprang to the lips of Foreman Ward of the gas company's crew engaged in locating a leak in front of Dr. McAvenny's house, Charlotte street, on Saturday afternoon as a spark struck by a pick from the iron pipe ignited the escaping gas. All waited in breathless suspense for a space of time which seemed eternal for those awaiting the spark but which was probably confined to a minute or so. Then, suddenly, there came a deep boom from the house, and the noise of falling stone and plaster, splintering of beams and laths followed, as the exploding gas burst its way through the dining room wall into the house.

An extraordinary feature about the case was that the ignited gas did not follow the course of the pipes now supplying the house, which go under the vestibule, but travelled around to the Horsfield street side of the house, a distance of about 70 feet, following an old and disused gas service, and when stopped by the masonry wall blew a hole clean through this and tore down plaster within a radius of ten feet of the hole.

Dr. McAvenny was standing in the room above at the time, and when he heard the explosion he feared that some of the men outside were hurt, as he knew there was no one in the dining room, and rushed outside to ascertain the truth. A few minutes after this a second but less violent explosion occurred under the vestibule, but only plaster was blown down.

Dr. McAvenny went inside and was surprised to see the dining room work adrift. He went up No. 1 station and the contents were much damaged and the hose and chimney responded very quickly and soon put out the blaze. Dr. McAvenny said the fire service was of the best and the response remarkably quick. The explosion played one queer trick in the dining room; it demolished everything in its vicinity in the dining room except a china closet filled with fragile glass and china goods, and though this and its contents were much nearer the old gas pipe than other objects that were destroyed no harm was done to them.

## NEWLY MARRIED.

She was newly married, and did not know a little bit about housekeeping or shopping, and she was giving her very first order. It was a crusher, but the grocer was a clever man, and was used to all kinds of orders, and could interpret them easily.

"I want two pounds of paralyzed sugar," she began.

"Yes'm. Anything else?"

"Two tins of condensed milk."

"Yes'm."

He set down pulverized sugar and condensed milk.

"A bag of fresh salt. Be sure it is fresh."

"Yes'm. What next?"

"A pound of desecrated codfish."

He wrote, glibly, "desecrated cod."

"Nothing more, ma'am? We have some nice horse-radish just in."

"No," she said, "it would be of no use to us; we don't keep a horse."

Then the grocer sat down and fanned himself with a washboard, although the temperature was freezing.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Dec. 17.—A dispatch received here from Boston reports the outbreak of a revolution there. It says that the streets were barricaded and that fierce fighting took place. The military employed artillery, and many persons, including subjects of the Ottoman empire, were killed. The dispatch says that a similar state of affairs prevails in Po.

Electrical trains are to be run between Dover and London for a time. It is thought that they will prove satisfactory and cheap, and they are to be given a thorough test.

## BODY OF MRS. ROBERT MCGUIRE FOUND.

Bride Drowned at Musquash Last October Found on the Beach Near Where Accident Occurred.

After floating about the waters of Musquash harbor for over two months, the body of Mrs. Robert McGuire, who was drowned in October last while out sailing with her husband, was found yesterday morning on the shore by Mr. Burchill, within a mile of the spot where the accident occurred. At first the identification was not made, but when Wm. Cunningham, brother of the late Mrs. McGuire, identified the clothes on the body of the corpse, all uncertainty was ended. It was conjectured from the state of the body, and the inference drawn from the fact that the body was found, that the body had drifted ashore about a week previous to the discovery.

Word was at once sent to Mrs. McGuire's family in the city and also to the Calvin Austin, and is at present in Boston. He will reach Musquash today in time for the funeral, which will be held at 2 o'clock this afternoon.

It will be remembered that the accident which resulted in Mrs. McGuire's death took place while she, her husband and his sister Kate were boat sailing in Musquash harbor early in October. A squall overtook the boat, and Mrs. McGuire clung to the boat, and was eventually saved. Mr. and Mrs. McGuire were flung clear, and the husband in struggled desperately to convey her to the shore, but the boat, having gone down the beach, that part of the rescue was abandoned. Mr. McGuire lost consciousness, his grip relaxed, and although he was picked up by the boatmen his wife had been drowned. A particularly sad feature was the fact that they had been married but a month or two and were spending their first vacation at the home of Mrs. McGuire's father, Wm. F. Cunningham of Musquash.

## LIFE SAVERS RESCUED CREW.

NORFOLK, Va., Dec. 15.—After a struggle of forty-eight hours with wind and waves during which the crew had no light the Belgian steamer Antigonewent ashore at Little Island, about 22 miles south, shortly before four o'clock this morning. No lives were lost owing to the adroit work of the crews at the life-saving stations at Little Island and False Cape. The Antigonewas now hard aground about two hundred yards off shore, and it is believed probably the vessels will be a total loss. All night out of sight. A party about four o'clock showed signs of distress. The beach patrol answered and soon the crews from Little Island and False Cape were on hand. A line was gotten aboard the vessel at the first shot, but not until nine o'clock this morning was the first man sent ashore in the breeches buoy.

By one o'clock when the wind had increased, only three men had come ashore, from then on, however, men came ashore more rapidly. Eighteen times the car brought its load of human freight and then captain Calmetta got in and came ashore with the ship's papers.

The Antigonewas left Mobile on Dec. 1, loaded with lumber for La Rochelle, France, by way of Norfolk for coal.

\$200,000 WORTH OF FINE FURS DESTROYED

NEW YORK, Dec. 17.—Two hundred thousand dollars' worth of fine furs were destroyed by fire and water early today in the establishment of Max Pilschke & Co., wholesale furriers and manufacturers of automobile garments on the ninth and tenth floors of the ten-story building at 37 and 39 East 41st street. Other tenants suffered heavy damage from water.

## R. L. BORDEN ON THE PENSION BILL AND WESTERN QUESTIONS

Opposition Leader Was Heard at His Best at the Banquet Given in Toronto on Thursday Last—A Portion of His Speech.

The banquet to R. L. Borden, M. P., leader of the opposition, given in Toronto on Thursday evening is said to have been one of the most successful ever held in that city. Among those who took part were representatives from nearly every province, including the premiers of Ontario and British Columbia. The reports say that Mr. Borden has seldom been heard to better advantage. Following is the portion of Mr. Borden's speech which dealt with the Northwest question and the indemnity and pension bill:

On arising to deliver his address, Mr. Borden was loudly cheered, and when the applause had subsided he spoke as follows: The inspiration of your presence and your enthusiasm makes my task tonight an easy one. This banquet was tendered to me during the campaign of a year ago, but for obvious reasons I was unable to accept at that time. Since then many things have happened. We met defeat in the general election of 1904, we have passed the public life of this country. The conservative candidates made plucky and splendid fights in every instance. Mr. Smith, in Wentworth, overcame great odds, and his victory is consequently a matter of congratulation. His presence in parliament is desirable in the interest of the conservative party, but especially in the interest of the country, as he is a business man of great ability, enterprise and experience, who possesses also a very thorough knowledge of public affairs and public questions, such as transportation and especially coal storage, and is a recognized authority in the house.

At the past session, parliament was called upon to consider a government measure providing for the establishment of two new provinces in the Northwest. I need not recapitulate tonight the extraordinary circumstances attending the introduction of that bill. It seems to have been prepared and even presented to parliament without the knowledge of two very important members of the administration. Its most notable provision was not submitted to Mr. Borden, and the members of the opposition were not consulted. It was a matter of great importance, and I was fully consulted on every detail of the bill. This was especially remarkable, as Mr. Borden had been invited to draw up the preamble of the bill, and he had freely accorded to the administration not only his own able assistance, but that of his officers as well.

The bill was introduced on the 21st of February. Dissensions in the cabinet, the resignation of one minister and the threatened, if not actual, resignation of another, were the result of the bill. It was a matter of great importance, and I was fully consulted on every detail of the bill. This was especially remarkable, as Mr. Borden had been invited to draw up the preamble of the bill, and he had freely accorded to the administration not only his own able assistance, but that of his officers as well.

Two charges have been made against me. In certain quarters my position has been denounced as weak. In others I am accused of intolerance and bigotry. I have no fear of the people of the Northwest, and I have no fear of the people of the Northwest, and I have no fear of the people of the Northwest.

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of the opposition by his party. He says: "The opposition, it is hoped, will see the necessity of rejecting this bill and providing by subscription by members of the party such compensation for labor and lost time as the leadership may deem to require."

Does he really believe that this is desirable? Might it not be apprehended that such a salary, if available at all, would be supplied by the corporate and moneyed interests which, in Mr. Smith's opinion, and in the opinion of others as well, are likely to have, independently of this, a sufficiently predominating influence in any political party?

According to Mr. Smith the leader of the opposition is supposed to be under a sense of obligation to the government because parliament has attached a special indemnity to the position which he holds for a moment, but which I trust will ere long be held by the leader of the present government or one of his colleagues.

DENIES SUBSERVENCY. I utterly repudiate any such sense of obligation. If this measure has been passed under any such impression, or with any such belief, I take this public opportunity of warning the government that the sooner it is repealed the better.

But what does Mr. Smith say of the sense of obligation of a leader to private corporate moneyed interests from which he accepts a salary? Gentlemen, whatever course may be best, it is not this.

"The independence was plainly compromised in the last session," said Goldwin Smith, and he added the following:

"Mr. Borden must not be surprised if the feebleness of the opposition to the government measure of last session is sacrificed to the prospect of a salary for himself depended on the continuance of the government. The suggestion may be as reasonable, but when a man puts himself in an equivocal position as Mr. Borden does by accepting a salary, equivocal motives are sure to be ascribed."

For such insinuations, whether uttered by a man of Goldwin Smith's high position or by the lowest political heeler in the country, I have nothing but measureless contempt. It would be just as decent and just as fair for me to suggest to Mr. Smith's pensioners that the prospects of a salary for himself depended on the continuance of the government. The suggestion may be as reasonable, but when a man puts himself in an equivocal position as Mr. Borden does by accepting a salary, equivocal motives are sure to be ascribed."

THE INDEMNITY QUESTION. The special indemnity to the leader of the opposition has caused much criticism. Part of this has come from those whose good or bad opinion I do not very much regard, but some of it has come from quarters which entitle the views thus expressed to most attentive and respectful consideration. Neither the prime minister nor the leader of the opposition is known to the law of the country except by reference in the statute to the salary of the one and the special indemnity of the other. Under the conventions of the constitution the prime minister occupies a most distinguished position, is invested with enormous powers and discharges extremely important functions. Certain not unimportant functions are assigned by the leader of an opposition under the same constitutional conventions. Let me say at once that I never suggested or initiated in any way the idea of a special indemnity to the leader of the opposition. The question was raised among some members in the house during the past session. When it was brought to my attention I endeavored to have it dropped, but it was not to be so easily dismissed. I have never said the round robin to which so much reference has been made, but hearing that it alluded to the leader of the opposition, I was obliged to say at once required that such allusion should be eliminated and was assured that it was eliminated. The question was then taken up by a committee of the conservative members and was referred to the caucus and representing all sections of the country. That committee decided that the proposal should be adopted and it was adopted accordingly. I have never said the round robin to which so much reference has been made, but hearing that it alluded to the leader of the opposition, I was obliged to say at once required that such allusion should be eliminated and was assured that it was eliminated. The question was then taken up by a committee of the conservative members and was referred to the caucus and representing all sections of the country. That committee decided that the proposal should be adopted and it was adopted accordingly.

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## WANTED

"If you want work, or if you desire to increase your income during spare time, write us now, and we will give you profitable work in your vicinity. We pay well for services rendered. PELHAM NURSERY CO., Toronto, Ont."

MEN WANTED — Reliable men in every locality throughout Canada to advertise our goods, tack up show-boards on trees, fences, along roads and all conspicuous places, also distributing small advertising matter. Salary \$800 per year, or \$75 per month and expenses \$3 per day. Steady employment to good, reliable men. No experience necessary. Write for particulars. EMPIRE MEDICINE CO., London, Ont.

## MONEY TO LOAN.

H. H. PICKETT, B. C. L., Barrister, Solicitor, etc., Canada Life Building.

More than one man has been called crazy for advertising largely, but no one seems to remember his aberration after he makes a comfortable fortune. —Paper and Printing Journal.

## FATAL EXPLOSION AT ROSSLAND, B. C.

One Man Killed and Many Injured by Explosion of a Ton of Gelinite—Damage \$50,000.

ROSSLAND, B. C., Dec. 16.—At two o'clock this afternoon about a ton of gelinite in a thawing house of the Centre Star Mine exploded through some unknown cause, killing John S. Ingram, formerly chief of police here, and injuring several scores of people. Ingram was in charge of the powder, and death removed the only possible source of information as to the cause of the explosion. His body was recovered from the debris badly mangled. Lockhart, assistant diamond drill operator, who was at work near the Centre Star offices, was badly cut about the head and legs, but will recover. Several members of the office staff and men in the compressor building were hurt by flying glass or being thrown violently against the machinery.

Buildings in the immediate vicinity were twisted out of shape and windows all broken. The Big War Eagle boarding house is badly damaged, some of the inmates being injured slightly. In the city the shock of the explosion caused much consternation, and did a large amount of damage. Nearly all of the plate glass windows on Columbia avenue were smashed, many people receiving cuts from fragments. Merchants had Christmas goods displayed on the streets, and the damage caused among these. The amount of glass destroyed is enormous, and heavy importations for repairs will be necessary.

The Centre Star, War Eagle and Le Roi mines will be shut down for a few days because of the injury to steam and air pipes, and the compressor machinery and practically wrecked buildings containing them.

The damage caused is exactly appraised, but it is thought it will probably reach \$50,000.

"OZONE SOLUTION"—SPECIAL OFFER.

There is just one way by which you can get a package of "Celery King" free with a bottle of "Ozone." That is ask your druggist for "Solution of Ozone, the coupon kind." Each bottle of this contains a coupon, for which we send you a full twenty-five cent package of "Celery King." Never take "Ozone" without "Celery King" if you want the best results. We are putting coupons in our "Ozone" good for "Celery King" because no other dealer or firm in the world has the right to manufacture "Celery King" but ourselves, and no other remedy in the world will give such good results. "Ozone" kills the inside germs and "Celery King" is a tonic laxative. Ask your druggist for "Solution of Ozone, the coupon kind," manufactured by the Public Drug Co., Bridgeburg, Ont.

## SAD DROWNING OF YOUNG BOY

CHARLOTTETOWN, Dec. 17.—A sad event occurred yesterday afternoon near Murray River bridge, when the year old son of Wm. McPherson, Glen Williams, was drowned while crossing the channel. The little lad saw a couple of boys skating on the opposite side of the river and started across the channel. The ice there, however, was very thin and gave away. When the other boys saw the danger they went to the rescue, one boy plunging in after him, but their attempts were unavailing, so they put to the shore for help. In a few minutes quite a number gathered, but the body could not be found. Efforts to recover the remains were made again today, but without success, and as the current is very strong it is likely the body has drifted some distance.

## SERIOUS FIRE AT AMHERST, N. S.

AMHERST, N. S., Dec. 17.—At 11 last night fire was discovered in a small building at the west end of Park street, owned and occupied by Harry Pomeroy as a grocery. Although three-quarters of a mile from the fire station, the department drowned out the fire, but the interior of the building was destroyed and the stock ruined. The damage was about \$700; covered by insurance. Origin of the fire is unknown.

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