

THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24, 1904.

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S. J. McCREADY, Editor.  
S. J. McCREADY, Bus. Mgr.

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**Semi-Weekly Telegraph**  
ST. JOHN, N. B., AUGUST 24, 1904.

### THE FISCAL QUESTION AND HOME RULE.

That the Irish are about to become once more masters of British politics, and that Mr. Chamberlain will win the Nationalists to the support of his fiscal views, pledging in return a great extension of local autonomy for Ireland, if not Home Rule, is the interesting theory put forward by the regular London correspondent of Harper's Weekly. This correspondent is intimately acquainted with British affairs, and might be expected to have scant sympathy for the Chamberlain movement, writing as he does for a publication which views the ex-Colonial Secretary with scant favor. At all events, the theory he puts forward is interesting, and none the less so because Harper's editor professes the belief that Mr. Chamberlain has shot his bolt and failed. The London correspondent, on the other hand, foresees much chance for Mr. Chamberlain and more for the Nationalists, in spite of the fact that the Liberals are now steadily gaining strength in England.

The Nationalists, for nine years, have been unable to dictate, for the Unionists have been steadily more than equal to the Liberals and Nationalists combined. The opposition of the Irish party to certain measures has been strong and skilfully applied at times, but it has not held that prize of small parties—the balance of power—and since Lord Rosebery's ministry went to pieces no government has depended for its life upon the Nationalists. To the Nationalists all other questions are subordinate to that of Home Rule. But the Liberals of today are not the Liberals of Gladstone's time, and if they were successful at the next election no one believes they would introduce another Home Rule bill in the House of Commons. Hence, Harper's correspondent concludes, the Nationalists are not tied to the Liberal formula. Indeed, as the Nationalists lean toward protection, they would prefer an alliance with the Unionists, who have abandoned coercion and passed the Irish Local Government Act and the Irish Land Purchase Act. The Unionists control the House of Lords, which means that while the Liberals could not guarantee the carrying out of a pledge to Ireland, because of the House of Lords, such a guarantee could be given by the Conservatives. The correspondent not only points out that the Conservatives could "deliver the goods," as he expresses it, but adds his belief that they may soon be ready to offer to do so.

Of the 670 members of the Commons, 382 are Unionists, 204 Liberals and eighty-three Nationalists. Of the Unionists about 230 are believed to stand for either Mr. Chamberlain's policy or Mr. Balfour's policy of retaliation. Thirty have gone over to the free-traders, and 120 have not yet committed themselves. On questions other than the fiscal policy the government's majority over the combined Liberals and Nationalists is about 100, and on the fiscal question, if the adherents of Mr. Balfour and Mr. Chamberlain voted together, the government's majority would be forty or fifty. The Liberals and Nationalists, together, would have to win sixty new seats in order to acquire a working majority, and the Liberals alone, to outnumber the Nationalists and protectionists combined, must capture 110 constituencies.

Now for the next step. The correspondent takes note of the recent by-elections, and says that the tide sets strongly toward the Liberals. He predicts a free-trade victory. But he does not believe the Liberals will win decisively enough to make them superior to the Nationalists and protectionists together. He prophesies that the Nationalists will be found to hold the balance of power and that neither free-traders nor protectionists will be able to take office without having made terms with them. If this situation arises, he argues, the Nationalists will deal with the party from which they can get most for Ireland, and they would prefer to deal with the Conservatives, not only because they have a protectionist leaning, but because any pledge they might get from the Conservatives would have behind it the Conservative majority in the House of Lords. Thus he is led to ask what course Mr. Chamberlain would take, controlling as he does, far more Unionist members than Mr. Balfour. He believes that Mr. Chamberlain, to whom the fiscal policy issue is all important, would not hesitate to make a treaty with the Nationalists. The Nationalists are willing to do any-

thing to advance the Home Rule cause. Mr. Chamberlain is willing to do anything to carry his fiscal policy.

The correspondent realizes that the alliance he forecasts is difficult for many reasons. He attempts to explain how the obstacles may be surmounted:

"I do not of course mean that as the price of Irish support in getting Parliament to adopt protection and colonial preference, Mr. Chamberlain would be prepared to bring forward a home-rule bill. That would be going a little too far even for a man who by this time must be pretty well used to eating his words. But I do not question that under the circumstances I have imagined and in the event of the Irish holding the balance between the free-traders and the protectionists, Mr. Chamberlain would be ready to take a long step in the direction of home rule, either by a complete re-organization of the Dublin Castle system or else by a large extension of 'local autonomy'—that blessed phrase which is yet destined to give Ireland home rule in fact, if not in name. But could he hope to carry the Unionist party with him on such an issue? Well, he is so skilful and domineering a leader and the Unionist party is so furiously protectionist, that it is not by any means impossible. Already the Unionist papers are throwing out hints to that effect."

He quotes the London Daily Telegraph, which supports Mr. Chamberlain, as saying, in a leading editorial, that a great and growing number of politicians professing devotion to the Union, put fiscal reform before Unionism, and that a great number of Tories feel their Home Rule sympathies reviving. He regards this utterance of the Telegraph as foreshadowing "one of the most ironically curious situations that English politics have ever known." But while Mr. Chamberlain is anxious for an election, Mr. Balfour is in no hurry. And though mild Mr. Balfour can also be firm.

### THE CHANGES.

In the old days Bonaparte and the French were regarded and remembered as the great menace to the peace and integrity of the British Empire. To men of middle age the great antagonist of England and all that England stands for has always been Russia. Men of middle age can recall many occasions when war and peace were in the balance, and they feared the scale would incline toward war. Canadians who remember the Crimea, or who have heard stories of Sebastopol, recall how often "Russia" was the word. Often the Indian frontier was menaced. Sometimes the British were stopping an other gap which had invited the Russian advance. Few Canadians but can recall some period in their lives when the shadow of the Muscovite was dark and threatening. It was this feeling which caused Canadian sympathy to flow toward Japan from the earliest days of the present war. Japan had become Britain's ally; but more powerful was the thought that Russia had so long been Britain's enemy. The cherished schemes of the Russians ran counter to the cherished schemes of the British. It is not hard, then, to trace our growing interest in Japan's successful grapple with the Czar. Japan is pouring out blood and treasure to protect and advance Japanese interests, but already, in exposing Russia's weakness and reducing her, in six months, to the status of a third rate naval power, Japan has rendered Great Britain a service of incalculable value. Should one attempt to estimate that value one should have to count first of all the men and the millions Japan has already used up in Manchuria. And that would be but to begin.

The war is but six months old, and for this year at least, Russia has been fought to a standstill. Eight or nine months ago Russia appeared to justify her reputation—she was enormous. And her prestige was enormous. A man of affairs who had business in a St. John newspaper office some time before war was begun, came to see a map which was to be printed next day. It showed the territory which has since been the battleground—China and Manchuria, and the Eastern waters. The citizen said it would be wondrous space to publish it. "They won't fight," said he, "and people here won't care even if they do." He changed his opinion, even before the day some British merchant ships were seized or sunk and talk in England became warlike. But when his comment on the map was made war was doubtful, and well-informed opinion was that while Japan might win a series of initial successes in Korea, and even in Southern Manchuria, she must be speedily overborne by the weight of Russia. On all sides it was pointed out that a naval victory early in the war was Japan's only hope. Every statement of Japan's chances was coupled with another about the tremendous strength of Russia, in Europe and in Asia. Japan was generally referred to as rashly undertaking a war which must be as bad as hopeless from the outset. This was eight months ago, two months before the Japanese torpedo boats struck at Port Arthur.

Today there is no Russian fleet, and it is conceded that Russia cannot reconquer and hold any of the territory from which she has retired. Even the Siberian railway is useless for all her great plans unless she controls Port Arthur where is its only useful outlet.

The Russians will require a breathing spell and a period for repairs when they find the way out of the Manchurian trouble. There will be a fleet to rebuild, and while that is being done the fleets of the first class Powers, which are now being enlarged with great rapidity, will be on a scale which Russia cannot approach without years of sacrifice and tremendous out-

lay. The Russian army will require reorganization. The entire Russian system will have to be reformed. Russia today has many elements of great strength. The nation is not beaten, but only checked and shaken. But the check and the loss of prestige have been so great that Russia's projects in Asia must wait or be abandoned for a very long time. Meantime Japan's great strength will grow. And while Russia is repairing damages the British will strengthen the Indian frontier in one way and another until the menace to India from the North will become inconsiderable.

The wisdom of a British alliance with Japan, at the time it was made, was regarded by many as doubtful. No doubts are expressed now. And Russia's plight today leads the world to think more and more of the value of Great Britain's unchallenged sea power.

### A PITIFUL RECORD.

With a shock of pity and regret one learns that in New York during one week in July more than five hundred children under five years of age died. The appended table shows how many children under five years of age have died there of intestinal complaints each week since the beginning of July:

Week ending:	
July 2	295
July 9	417
July 16	417
July 23	439
July 30	384
August 6	331
August 13	317

Last year some weeks ran as low as 175, and the average was little over 200. The excessive mortality this summer is believed to be largely due to an unusual amount of rainy weather.

"It is hard to account for the great mortality this year," said Dr. Cronin, of the Health Department. "The heat and the humidity have not been any greater this year than last—indeed, have been less—and I feel convinced that the milk supply is being brought to the city under more healthful circumstances than ever before, that the milkmen and grocers are keeping it at the required temperature, and that our inspectors are taking a genuine interest in their duties. The cause is probably to be found in the continuous rains. It is hard on children when they cannot get out doors from one end of the day to the other. Those tenements are a stuffy and miserable place for babies to be shut up in when the atmosphere is damp. A grown-up person on his vacation, tramping the woods finds that his stomach is equal to greater tasks than when he is staying indoors most of his day. In exactly the same way children lose their ability to digest their food when they are shut up. The weather has been better lately and the children's health has improved accordingly."

Dr. Cronin says that parental ignorance and over-feeding of the children are largely to blame for much of the sickness, and adds this significant warning:

"We figure that 40 per cent. of the infant deaths are among the babies who are fed on condensed milk, patent baby foods, and milk which is bought at random of unreliable dealers. Patent baby foods, as well as condensed milk, are useful at times, chiefly when used in conjunction with other foods, but they build up the baby a padding which is nothing but padding, a tissue which burns up before a fever with astonishing rapidity."

### A SPELLBINDER.

Complaint is sometimes made, even among gentlemen of the legal profession, that the age of great forensic eloquence, like that of Chivalry, is past. Stories that are told of brilliant addresses by learned counsel, moving the jury to laughter or tears at the will of the orator, are told of a bygone period, and of circuit riders who are generally regarded as without peers in the ranks of later day advocates. Who among us has not carefully treasured the well-thumbed Gems of Oratory of his schoolboy days, in whose pages dwelt joy and inspiration? And who has not lamented that there had not arisen in his own time and neighborhood one of those rare souls whose silvery and magnetic eloquence swayed the hearts and minds of the people?

With joy, therefore, one turns to the columns of the Carleton Sentinel and discovers that the race is not extinct. The lawyers of St. John may be commonplace, and those of other provincial towns mere children in the art of creating public sentiment; but up in Victoria county the past is restored, and the spellbinders of the golden age have their laurels threatened by a new Demosthenes. The Sentinel, happily, furnishes the evidence. It quotes the following peroration of an address to a jury by a lawyer at the Victoria county court:

"He (the defendant) is not the kind of a man who would cover his face with a mask, and when the silvery moon had hid its glory and splendor behind the dark curtains of the sky, would steal into your house and feloniously burglarize it; he is not the kind of man that would break into your place

of business and dynamite your safe; he is not the kind of man that with the slow and stealthy step of the foot-pat would sneak up behind you on the street of a dark night, feel you with a slung shot and relieve you of your watch, chain and other valuables. No, he is not that kind of a man; for these require courage—the courage which he does not possess. But, he is the kind of a man who if president of a bank would loot it, who would rob the sacred trust of the widow and the orphan that had been reposed in him, and who, if left alone to watch by the bier of one who had been his nearest and dearest friend would pilfer the pennies from off the eyes of the corpse. Gentlemen, he can't smoke, he doesn't drink so far as I know; falling to the seductions of the wandering woman has never been charged against him, but those who in innocent confidence place reliance in his honor, his honesty and his probity, rest, indeed upon a broken reed. This is the sanctimonious, church-going, family-praying defendant, I now leave to be dealt with as he richly deserves by an indignant and honest jury."

With a rude shock one awakens from the spell of the orator to learn from the Sentinel that the jury gave the plaintiff a verdict for \$10. No classic orator burns in the soul of a Victoria county jury. Their award was ten dollars. It was worth twelve.

### A PUBLICIST AT ONE HUNDRED.

Senator Wark, whose first of a series of articles written for the Montreal Witness was republished in The Telegraph some weeks ago, contributes another to that journal, dealing now with "Britain's Wheat Supply and Canada's Output." It is not very prominently displayed, and one may guess that the Senator's ideas do not accord with the free trade views of the Witness. The Senator traces the growth of the demand for foodstuffs in the United Kingdom, and argues against the making of another reciprocity bargain with the United States. He believes Canada should grow and send by Canadian or British ships to England all the wheat needed there. He says Canada should be represented in an Imperial parliament.

"A parliament in which the provinces are not represented is not the body that should legislate for the provinces. I trust, therefore, that the present Imperial parliament will soon be succeeded by one in which every province of the empire will be fairly represented; then the interests of the provinces will receive proper attention, and there will be no room for complaints. I trust such a parliament will be long in aiding our sovereign."

Under the old reciprocity treaty, he argues, "the Canadian farmer carried what food he had to spare to the point on the boundary nearest to his farm, where he found a person ready to pay him for it, and pass it into the United States free of duty, and if it ever reached Britain the Americans had all the cost of transporting and handling it. They now see in our Northwest the prospect of a very rich country. Many of them are coming over to share in it, and some are expressing a wish for a new reciprocity treaty, but it is to be hoped that our parliament will adopt means to retain our wealth in the empire until all our wants are provided for." He is unable to see that we would gain anything by another treaty. The Senator properly knows that Canada is not at all likely to have to pass upon the reciprocity question at all soon. The United States congress will not offer any terms, such as Canada would consider, at least for a long time to come. Until sentiment across the line has undergone a mighty change—one great enough to overthrow the power of protected interests at Washington—reciprocity will not become a live issue.

### AT LONG RANGE.

It is somewhat surprising to find the New York Evening Post accepting as wholly accurate the early reports that Admiral Togo fought his action with the Russian fleet at distances varying from five to eight miles. It has been stated that the shell which killed the Russian admiral was fired by a Japanese vessel eight miles distant, but the report lacks definite confirmation, and in spite of the use of telescope gun sights and improved range-finders it is most unlikely that much of the fighting was carried on at any such distance. If the reports of the officers on both sides should agree that the battleships were more than five miles apart during the effective firing, the information would be indeed astonishing. The Post considers that the long range reported is the most impressive feature of the engagement, aside from the accuracy of the Japanese fire.

"Togo," the Post says, "seems never to have approached nearer to his victims than a distance of five miles, except with his torpedo boats, and generally he was a good eight miles away. Kamimura was closer to his prey, particularly when his ships closed in on the Rurik like a pack of wolves around a dying horse; but none the less he kept at a very respectful distance, and, like Togo, relied on his heavy guns. When one considers the distance represented by five miles—as far as from Tenth to One Hundred and Tenth streets—it seems almost incredible that three twelve-inch shells could have hit the Czarowitz within five minutes. At eight miles one cruiser, as seen from another, is not much more than a toy ship." And for that reason one is inclined to

believe many of the shells which found the target were discharged at half the distance named. Several of the American ships at Santiago carried 12-inch or 13-inch guns. Few hits were made with the big guns, although the sea was calm and the ships, therefore, were steady, and the range as a rule was from one mile to three. In ocean target practice no range approaching eight miles is used. The Japanese may have improved greatly upon the American gunnery, and the Japanese admiral desired to fight at long range, as he had more heavy guns than the Russians and did not wish to have his own battle line crippled. But eight miles would seem too great a range at which to experiment in a battle upon the result of which hung so much. Shooting at land batteries or bombarding a city is another matter.

### DISCHARGED AT FIFTY.

A somewhat startling result of competition appears in a brutally worded order issued by the manager of a large manufacturing plant in New Jersey, dismissing all men more than fifty years of age from the company's employ. The manager told these men they were useless and must make way for younger men. Many of these "useless" men have families depending upon them. Few, perhaps, have saved any money. Very few, at least, have enough to live on for the remainder of their days. The older man the more difficult it is to obtain a new situation at fair wages. A man at fifty cannot readily learn a new trade. Discharge, even for an unjust cause, is a great handicap. The effect of a general adoption of such a policy would be little short of frightful.

No doubt the tendency of keen competition is to crowd the elderly man out, but that all men of fifty are to be summarily cast aside is inconceivable. The man who is able and willing to work should be permitted to do what he can, no matter how many his years, if work be necessary to him.

The labor unions in some places have encouraged discrimination against elderly men by insisting that all men doing a certain class of work should receive the same pay. The unions do not intend to drive the old men to work. Indeed the idea is rather to protect them, yet a scale of pay according to the ability of the workman would seem absolutely necessary in many branches of employment. Some day the hard working man who has toiled until he is fifty will be able to quit with a competence, no matter what the nature of his employment. Until that day comes the able-bodied workman who is in their prime would seem bound to meet the employer half way in permitting any willing man to earn what he can, even if he be three scores and ten. Men of fifty are not to be shunned as useless as long as they are willing to provide for themselves and their families. If they were, the younger men would have to work all the harder.

### INSANITARY.

The safety board yesterday made a discovery which many citizens made some time ago. It is that the sanitary conditions of the country market have much to be desired. The question came up quite unexpectedly yesterday. The aldermen were dealing with a dispute among those holding market privileges, when an alderman asked the market clerk if the place were not unsanitary and was promptly told that conditions are wretched.

Periodically there are agitations about the slaughter houses and the market, and periodically the public receives assurances that something has been done to improve conditions which have frequently been described as shocking. As a matter of fact something really was done some time ago to alter affairs in the market for the better, but the work was not thorough. Of late neglect has rendered some parts of the place most offensive.

The committee appointed by the safety board will do well to make a tour of inspection on Saturday night, and if their examination is thorough they will feel like recommending some drastic changes, including, perhaps, some special attention from the police on days when the crowd is greatest. Vigorous measures by the safety board cannot be taken too soon. The place in which so many people buy their meat should be made as unobjectionable as possible.

### LOST OPPORTUNITIES.

People from the United States who come to St. John and visit the various suburban resorts express surprise that greater advantage is not taken of the wonderful facilities there are for enjoyment, especially in summer. If they go out to Millidgeville and see the beautiful natural surroundings of the headquarters of the Royal Keenbeccas Yacht Club, and its unsurpassed cruising ground, they are filled with wonder that the citizens are content with a means of transportation which is so slow and uncertain and uncomfortable. Why, they ask, is it not possible to go in a comfortable street car to Millidgeville at any time of day? Why should it cost thirty cents to go from King street to Millidgeville and back—and then endure a long wait for a carriage at each end of the line? Why, indeed? Were there a regular trolley system between the city and Millidgeville, with a five-cent fare, the patronage would be very large throughout the summer. The picturesque shores, the broad sweep of water, the pretty islands, and all the opportunities for pleasure so

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near to the city—and yet so far from its noise and activity—would lure the citizen and the tourist, and give to all the means of rare enjoyment at a nominal cost.  
What is true of Millidgeville is relatively true of other places near the city. As a business proposition one would expect an enterprising street railway corporation to extend its lines and increase its revenue. What is successfully done in other cities, and some of less population, may be done in St. John. It will be done some time, but the delay is long.

### NOT KNOWN HERE.

The Boston Globe learns that New Brunswick, like the great west, "is being rapidly Americanized." It further learns: "Here the spirit of reciprocity is more pronounced than in the western provinces. The Dingley tariff, the people say, killed the time industry and the fisheries would be greatly benefited by freer trade relations. The people have begged for reciprocity many years, but finally become sullen and silent, while, of all Canada, New Brunswick has clamored loudest against the anti-dumping clause of the revised tariff."

The Boston editor will nevertheless have to keep his ear to the ground for some time longer before he hears the tramp of Canadian delegations rushing in search of reciprocity. The "silent influences" inspired largely by Americans, which he sees working for reciprocity, are not so apparent here as they seem to be in Boston.

### NOTE AND COMMENT.

The Dominion trade returns for July are not quite as satisfactory as those of July of last year.

The Japs have destroyed another Russian cruiser. Russia's eastern squadron will soon be a thing of the past.

The safety board will no doubt learn today whether an exclusive franchise excludes or encourages competition in the lighting of Carleton.

Shanghai will not harbor the Russian refugee war ships any longer. The Chinese have evidently taken the hint from Tokyo, or London.

The Boston Journal says that the Grand Army left a million and a half of dollars in Boston, and argues that conventions of that sort are worth having.

The lumberman has seen better days, but if the weather continues favorable he will be buying more pianos and easy chairs this fall.

It is said that "a storm of profanity" was the reply of General Stoessel to the Japanese request for the surrender of Port Arthur. Explosives of that sort do not kill—even at close quarters.

Fredericton's drill hall is to be repaired in the near future, the Gleaner is assured by Mr. Alexander Gibson, M. P. Isn't it about time some assurances were given about the St. John drill hall?

In 1883 Port Arthur was a village of mud huts. In 1883 it had 6,000 inhabitants exclusive of soldiers. Today there are about 40,000 men in the city and about 140,000 more trying to get in and likely to succeed any time.

The Russians admit that affairs at Port Arthur are desperate by order of the commander of the ships in the harbor to escape or destroy their vessels where they lie. He will destroy them, no doubt, for escape seems impossible. The garrison is still fighting, but it is fighting for a lost cause.

## KINGS COUNTY TEACHERS' INSTITUTE

This Year's Session Will Be Held at Hampton Station Sept. 22 and 23.

The Kings County Teachers' Institute will be held at Hampton Station on September 22 and 23. Secretary W. W. Biggar is now preparing the programme and it will be sent out to the teachers throughout the county in a few days.  
Every teacher in the county should endeavor to attend the institute, as it is the only chance they have of exchanging ideas on the various ways and means used for the better teaching of the subject they have to deal with.

## OBITUARY

**Mrs. Colin Pittblado.**  
Mrs. Jane Eleanor Pittblado died Wednesday at the hospital in Dartmouth. She was the widow of Colin Pittblado, of Wolfville, and second daughter of Rev. William Summerville, of Berwick, aged 69 years. During years that Mrs. Pittblado lived in Boston she gave her whole life up to city missionary work, and she was a devoted Christian worker.

**James Drummond.**  
Sussex, N. B., Aug. 21.—(Special).—James Drummond died at his home at 230 O'Clock this afternoon, aged 66 years. He had been ill for a long time. He was employed by the I. C. N. as section foreman since 1883. He leaves a widow, four sons and three daughters, all grown up. Mrs. Andrew Miller, of this place; Mrs. John Corbett, of Moncton, and Mrs. R. M. Smith, of Hawthorne (Mass.), are the daughters; Jasper, of Penobscot, is the only son here. The others are in the States. Mr. Drummond was widely known and highly respected. He was a member of the Baptist church here.

**Mrs. Wm. R. Burns.**  
Mrs. Mary Burns, wife of Wm. R. Burns, died Saturday at her home in Dorchester (N. B.), under peculiar and circumstances, her death following only a few days after that of her three weeks old baby. Mrs. Burns was a daughter of the late Lott Connell, of Cliff street, this city. Besides her husband and seven children, she is survived by her mother and her sister, Mrs. Nellie Connell, of this city, and her brother, Louis Connell, of Amherst. The bereaved husband is a brother of T. M. Burns, secretary of the St. John board of health. He is government instructor in tailoring in Dorchester penitentiary.

**Mrs. Wm. H. Fowler.**  
The death of Martha, wife of W. H. Fowler, manager and director of the St. John Milling Company, occurred yesterday morning at her home, 34 Orange street. She had been ill only since last Tuesday. Mrs. Fowler was Miss Pearson, daughter of the late William Pearson, of this city, and is survived by two sons and one daughter, besides her husband. The children are Mrs. W. B. Howard and Alexander L. and W. L. Fowler, all of this city.

## HONORED BIRTHDAY OF DR. WM. BAYARD.

The 91st anniversary of Dr. William Bayard's birth fell Saturday, and the venerable physician was the recipient of many congratulatory cables, telegrams and gifts. Telegrams were received from Mrs. Geo. F. Smith and family, St. Andrews; S. R. Thompson, Montreal; Mrs. Lynch, Digby, and Lady Tilley, St. Andrews. Several cable messages were received from members of Dr. Bayard's family in England.  
Throughout the day many visitors called to tender their best wishes. Quantities of flowers were sent, and several hand some gifts were received from Mrs. C. J. Coster, Lady Tilley and members of the medical profession in Montreal and elsewhere.