

THE EVENING TIMES.

ST. JOHN, N. B., DEC. 26, 1905.

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A. M. BELDING, Editor.

HON. R. PREFONTAINE

Political animosities lose their influence in the presence of death, and men of all parties speak today with regret of the very sudden passing of the Hon. Raymond Prefontaine. Living, he had bitter political foes, for he was a very vigorous and aggressive politician, and of late was the premier's fighting lieutenant in Quebec province; but now that he is dead men recall only his great ability and the success attending his career.

Since he has held the office of minister of marine and fisheries, Hon. Mr. Prefontaine has thrown himself with great enthusiasm into the work of that department. He was particularly interested in the improvement of St. Lawrence navigation, and in the question of a Canadian naval reserve. He had gone to England in connection with these matters, and the cables indicated that he made an excellent impression upon official and social London. His visit to Paris was for pleasure, and the termination is doubly sad. He is dead, in the fulness of his manhood, and in the midst of the prosecution of labors of great value to his country.

The fine personal qualities of Mr. Prefontaine won for him many warm friendships, including that of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, who will sorely miss so strong a man from his cabinet. The late minister was not well known in this province except by reputation. Among those mentioned as a possible successor in the office he has filled with such marked ability are Hon. Mr. Lemieux, who was with him in Paris at the time of his death, and Hon. Mr. Templeman of British Columbia.

AFTER CHRISTMAS

Some remarks made by a city clergyman in his sermon on Sunday evening might be paraphrased in this way:—

"Tomorrow is Christmas. No one must be permitted to go hungry on Christmas Day. Why on Christmas Day? Why should anyone go hungry on any day? After Christmas, we say, we will get down to business. Why not get up to business—and let it be the business of the God we worship? Then in truth would be realized the kingdom of peace and good will on earth."

This is pertinent and suggestive. Christmas Day is past, but the inequalities, the suffering, the pressing problems of life remain. In one home in this city yesterday there was mourning over the death of the bread-winner. In another all the children but one were taken away because it was feared that one had contracted a contagious disease, and instead of union and happiness there was separation and fear. There were doubtless other cases of similar, if not equal hardship. Today, families that fared well yesterday because of the manifestation of the Christmas spirit, are facing the old problem of want, means and urgent wants. In many cases there may be cause for blame as well as pity, but those who suffer most are the innocent. The man or woman who is animated by the spirit of loving service has ample room for his exercise at all times of the year.

IN RUSSIA

It is apparent that the Russian revolutionists are not making the headway they expected. Even in Moscow the troops command the situation. Russia is not France, and the same degree of general enthusiasm cannot be aroused. The great mass of the people may want better government, but they do not recognize it in anarchy. An armed revolution to be successful must be suddenly accomplished. This has not been the case in Russia, and so long as the army remains loyal the odds are against those in revolt. They have to fight famine as well as the army, and the comfort and even the life of their families are at stake. It is weary fighting under such conditions. The most loyal passions appear to have been aroused among some classes of the people, but this would only make the more moderate hesitate before casting in their lot with these. The situation is a terrible one, but if the government can depend upon the loyalty of the troops it is safe for the present, and if it proceeds with a programme of genuine reform will command the support of a majority of the people. Everything depends upon the army.

THE OPEN DOOR

Japan and China have signed a very important treaty, which opens Manchurian ports to the world's commerce, and assures the position of Japan in that country. Sixteen ports are opened to the world's trade. A Washington despatch gives other details, as received by cable at the state department as follows:—

"China consents to lease to Japan the Liao Tung peninsula, at the southern extremity of which are Port Arthur and Dairen."

"China consents to Japan the control of the railway on the peninsula northward as far as Chang-Chung. This is one of the spurs which connects with the Russian Siberian railway system, and the point named probably will mark the division between Russian and Japanese control."

"China also consents to Japan the right to build a railway from Antung on the Yalu River to Yonkden. It is provided, however, that at the end of a certain period, the road may be purchased by China."

This treaty will be of great value to the commercial nations of the world. Manchuria will no doubt be the scene of rapid development, offering a growing

market for the products of other countries. Doubtless Canada will share in the exploitation of this new market.

Emphasizing the influence the country at large has upon Wall Street, the Wall Street Journal says—The largest share of the financial business of the United States is carried on in New York. But it neither creates the wealth of the country, nor does it exercise an influence over the public opinion of the country in any proportion to the volume of its transactions. What is it that has been giving energy and spirit to the markets of Wall Street? The answer is that it is the maintenance of the depressing effect of the revelations of misconduct in the administration of business affairs, so that while men are amazed and shocked they have not lost confidence? Is it not the feeling that the people at large are sound, and that the public opinion of the country is in a healthy state of revolt against these things?

The plumbers of Toronto may have a hard winter. The News of Friday says: "Some one hundred and twenty men plumbers and supply men will face a High Court judge—and a jury, it they insist on it—next month. The charge will be the same as that which was preferred against a dozen of their fellows a month ago, and it will be supported by the same evidence. A commitment was made by Magistrate Denison this morning, after Crown Attorney Curry had proved the liability of the defendants for anything that the associations may have done, with the addition of enough evidence to warrant his action."

Whatever the balance of the winter may produce in weather conditions, we in St. John have reason to be glad that December has been so gracious in its treatment of the coal bin, while it has at the same time given us excellent sleighing and a healthful temperature.

It was perhaps fitting that the bulls and bears of Wall Street should find enjoyment on Christmas day in watching two business engaged in a brutal contest. On other days of the year the bulls and bears rend each other, or the unfortunate lambs that come up to be slaughtered.

The Baltimore American makes this remark: "These are sixteen million school children in this country, which fact makes sixteen million mothers who the system of education should be the best and most practical which the resources of the age and of the nation can afford."

The committees appointed by the Northern Presbyterian and the Cumberland Presbyterian Churches of the United States to arrange the details of the union of these two church bodies will meet in St. Louis, Dec. 28.

Hon. Dr. Pappey contradicts the rumor given currency by the Sun that the provincial government is considering the question of an early appeal to the electors.

The result of the conference between the coal operators and the representatives of the miners will be awaited with universal interest and some anxiety.

From all parts of the country come reports of good Christmas trade. The country is prosperous.

All was not peace and good will in New York and Chicago yesterday.

MR. PREFONTAINE

(St. John Daily Sun.)

News of the sudden death in Paris of Hon. Raymond Prefontaine, minister of marine and fisheries, comes as a shock to the large circle of Canadian friends and acquaintances of that distinguished public man. It was not known that Mr. Prefontaine's health was seriously impaired. Before he left Canada, he had been exceedingly active in dealing with the affairs of his department, as he had been during the three years of his administration. He had been giving special attention to the conditions of St. Lawrence navigation and to the development of his plan for "a Canadian navy," as the proposed establishment was sometimes described. Reports of his speeches in England and his statements to interviewers dealt with these activities. Lately Mr. Prefontaine's movements and addresses in Paris have been reported in the despatches and it would appear that he has been rather busy.

Whatever fault might be found with Mr. Prefontaine's methods and principles, he could never be accused of want of energy. He was a man of remarkable activity, enterprise and resources. Academic politics had no interest for him. He did not take part more than party emergencies seemed to demand in the emotional controversies to which some of his leading associates are partial. Mr. Prefontaine was essentially practical. His municipal, provincial and federal politics were practical, as distinguished from sentimental politics. He managed men, made use of new influence, kept his opponents constantly on the watch, and accomplished many purposes.

DIED ON HIS BIRTHDAY

PITTSBURG, Dec. 25—J. D. Flynn, well known in telegraph circles over the country, through his connection with the Baltimore & Ohio and the Western Union Telegraph Companies, died at his home today of pneumonia after three days' illness. Mr. Flynn was born in Cleveland on Dec. 25, 1846.

THE EVENING TIMES, ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1905.

Open till 8 o'clock.

St. John, Dec. 26, 1905.

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Men's Overcoats, Regular \$5.00 to \$15.00,
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"Ontario Beef." Lamb, Mutton, Pork, Veal.
Turkeys, Geese, Ducks, Chickens, Fowls.
Moose Steak, Venison, Quail, Prairie Hens, Black Duck,
Brant, Squabs, Partridge, Hams and Bacon.
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Christmas Sale of
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We have a few Secretaries and Combination Desks, which we will sell at a small margin above cost in order to clear. These desks are made of Quartered Oak and real Mahogany. Call and take advantage of this great offer. Remember, all other lines are being offered at a Big Discount.

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NEW YEAR'S GIFTS.

We have a large stock of goods suitable for New Year's Presents, which we will sell at 25 per cent. discount.

JAMES A. TUFTS & SON,
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CHRISTMAS

IN NEW YORK

Fully 200,000 Persons Fed by
Charity --- Two Christmas
Fatalities.

New York, Dec. 25—Christmas day in New York was marked by the customary universal suspension of business and the usual family reunions and generous outpouring of public and private charity. Fully 200,000 persons partook of the bountiful Christmas fare provided in all the city hospitals and asylums, in missions and other benevolent institutions supported by private charity and at the annual distribution of dinners by the Salvation Army and the Volunteers of America.

At the Grand Central Place the distribution of Christmas dinner baskets by the Salvation Army began early in the morning and continued until the evening. Nearly 5,000 families, or about 25,000 persons, had been relieved. In addition to this, hundreds of bundles of clothing for the poor and adults were distributed. It was announced that throughout the country the army had relieved more than 200,000 persons.

At the Bowers mission more than 2,000 human derelicts were fed, and as many more were entertained at the city lodging house. Five thousand quoniam feasted at the expense of Randolph Guggenheim at the "Newboys' Club" house in East Fourth street, and the usual dinner for the little fellows was served at the Newboys' lodging house.

Congressman Timothy D. Sullivan dispensed Christmas cheer and presents of pipes and tobacco to nearly 5,000 men at the headquarters in the Bowery. At the Manhattan State Hospital on Ward's Island more than 4,000 insane persons partook of a Christmas dinner, and in the evening participated in the annual distribution of presents, followed by the customary ball in the amusements hall. A tragic interruption of the Christmas festivities occurred at the home of Mrs. Paul Raymond, when her step-son, John Muscov, and his friend, Andrew Casman, who had been invited to join a family reunion, were found dead in bed this morning. The men, who recently had arrived from Russia, were unacquainted with the use of illuminating gas, and blew it out when they retired last night. Another fatality of the day was that of five-year-old Sadie O'Neill, who was burned to death by her clothing catching fire from a Christmas tree, at her home in East 102nd street.

JACK LONDON HIT

(Boston Transcript.)

Mr. Jack London, who lives on royalties furnished him by the capitalist publishers of books sold to the "capitalist" class, is going around with a blood and thunder lecture that "annihilates the capitalist right between the eyes." Naturally he doesn't mention publishers specifically; he's too shrewd for that, but he does say that the "capitalist" class is the cause of all our ills. He says that the difference between black slavery and white slavery, I once heard him say to an audience of alleged workmen, "is simply this: a black slave used to be worth five hundred dollars, while you cheap devils down there on the floor aren't worth fifty cents a carload"—whereas the white slave roared. Nobody roars when Jack London raves. No, not even when he describes the cave man as living in pillowed luxury as compared with the American workmen. Such absurdities aren't laughable.

I wonder where Jack London got his fanciful notions about the cave man. Was the cave man quite proof against cold? Was he sure that an obliging bear or a thoughtful mammoth would happen along whenever he chanced to be hungry? Could he rely on killing the bear or the mammoth instead of only getting killed? Had he always agreeable personal relations with other cave men? It has hitherto seemed to me that the life of a cave man left much to be desired, and I'd try my luck with the American working man any time rather than take the trouble to crawl back along the trail of forty centuries and ignominiously turn cave man.

On the whole it strikes me as queer that people should flock to hear an excited rant like Jack London try to tell the affairs of the universe. He can write stories such as these, but that's no warrant for his lived sociology. If he's bound to lecture, and apparently there's no holding him, he will confer a delicate favor upon the American public by confining his remarks to things he understands—such, for instance, as divorce for the purpose of re-marriage.

MAKING MEN GOOD BY LAW

(New York Commercial.)

Right now we are being treated to the spectacle in Washington of hundreds of bills introduced for "regulating" the business of the country and forcing men and women by law to be honest. And in the newspapers, might easily believe that virtue and honor and integrity have gone to seed, that every man, as Walpole said, "has his price" and that he and his country have seen their best days. But somehow, government "fours" refuse to decline a thousandth part of a mill under this bad outlook, and millions of dollars worth of business continue to be done daily on the nod of a head, the raising of a finger or the scratch of a lead pencil. A folded and sealed scrap of paper will still float around the globe in an iron ship and come safe to the eye for which it was written—but would it, if the average man were dishonest?

The fact is, mankind is vastly better than it seems. It does not need to be made good "by law."

Sneak thieves relieved Chas. J. Ward of the One Mile House of the Christmas dinner Saturday. Two turkeys and a goose, which he had in an ice chest outside the house, were stolen. There was time, however, to buy another "problem" for the Christmas dinner and this was done.

The concert party from the steamship Parisian gave an entertainment in the Seamen's Institute last night. The concert was very much enjoyed. Messrs. Sanctuary, Wilson, Potter, Brady, Jewop, Watson, Coulter and Joyce took part in the programme.

The position of assistant to the register is a position of some importance. The death of J. Boyd Littlehale, has not been permanently filled but the work is being done by Mr. Hester, Mrs. Helen Littlehale.

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This year we have many new and handsome patterns. Curling Coats make very acceptable Xmas Gifts.

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Felt Pull-out Klondyke Laced
Boots, - - - \$3.00

Oil Grain Leather, long leg,
Felt Pull-out Boots, \$3.00

Oil Grain Leather, 14-inch leg,
Felt, Stationary Laced Boots, - - - \$2.50

Oil Grain Leather, 10-inch leg,
Felt Boots, - - - \$2.25

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New Jewelry in all the latest novelties.
New Watches in complete variety.

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New Sterling Silverware, Silver Plated Ware, Cut
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