(Founded in 1879 by W. J. Herder.)

The Evening Telegram

THE EVENING TELEGRAM, LTD., PROPRIETORS.

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Wednesday, January 21, 1925.

The Post Office Scandals.

The discovery some weeks ago of discrepancies in the accounts of certain outport post offices and the additional cases reported in the **Evening Telegram** yesterday have resulted from the investigations begun by the Government shortly after they assumed office, in compliance with the clearly expressed demands of the electorate. As to the amount of these shortages or to what extent the Postal Service is affected it is impossible to say at present, as the investigation is not yet complete, but in the cases referred to **it has been found that the irregularities cover a period of years.**

What is of far greater importance than the discovery of the actual amount of these shortages is to ascertain how it was possible for them to go on undetected for so long, and to this question the investigators are giving their closest attention. In justice to those upon whom suspicion rests at present, and in order to check the evil once and for all at its source, no stone must be left unturned or no avenue left unexplored in tracing the guilt, if guilt there be, to the responsible parties.

If there is one Department more than another in which the officials must be above reproach and the system thorough it is in the Postal Service. It is the means used for the transmission of huge sums of money belonging to private individuals during the course of a year in addition to their correspondence, and it is essential that there should be no feeling of doubt as to the efficiency of the service or the integrity of the officials. The disclosures have considerably shaken public confidence in both respects, and it will require a thorough probing and possibly a vigorous shaking up and a reorganization before it is restored. In the meantime the loss both in revenue and reputation is to the country.

The existing state of affairs is not the growth of a year but of years. The whole public service has been used by politicians as a haven of rest for those who have "toiled" in their interest, with the result that its efficiency has been seriously impaired. No Department has suffered more in this respect than the Postal Service, and to make matters worse, they have not hesitated to use its facilities to serve their ends. As a result of such juggling it is not surprising that the whole service is open to criticism.

So far as those who have been primarily responsible for the supervision of the postal system throughout the Island are concerned, their chief laxity seems to have been in the matter of supervising and equipping the outport post offices. It would be incorrect to say that there has been no supervision, and it would perhaps be wrong to say that the requests for help from outlying settlements have been altogether disregarded, but this much we do say, that we have seen correspondence addressed to a former Minister of Posts, in which the postmaster implored that help might be sent him, and that the means be allowed him whereby he could carry on and save himself from landing in difficulties. So far as the writer was concerned the communication might have been addressed to the Sphynx. And he landed in the hole, right up to his neck!

The responsible officials of the Postal Service during the time that it was allowed to fall into disrepute have much to answer for, but what we are unable to understand is why the Auditor General's Department did not discover these shortages long ago. The Department is maintained at considerable cost by the community for no other purpose than to detect irregularities of this kind. Section 43 of the Audit Act states that "The deputy heads of the several departments, or the officers, clerks or other persons charged with the expenditure of public moneys, shall respectively audit the details of the accounts of the several services in the first instance, and be responsible for the correctness of such audit." If this Section means that no responsibility rests with the Auditor General it would seem that there is no purpose served in maintaining such a department, but we are unable to read such a meaning into the Act. While we agree that the audit in itself is unable to prevent dishonesty we submit that its chief purpose is to detect it.

Reorganization of Work at Methodist College

This morning the pupils of the Methodist College met their teachers at the Gower Street Sunday School and accounted for their school books which were lost or saved from the conflagration on Monday night. It was found that three out of every four books had gone up in the flames. Principal Harrington addressed the pupils, regretting the loss and expressing the hope that the whole school would be able to resume study by Friday. Notice of when the schools are to assemble will be given in the papers. Out of the ruins the ledgers and account books which were in the Principal's room have been recovered. The boys gym is intact as is also Miss Leslie's room. The desks in this department will be available for use elsewhere. Yesterday the College Board were offered in addition to the Presbyterian Hall, the Congregational Lecture Room, and the Guards Rooms, the Synod Hall, through Rev. Canon Bolt; the Star of the Sea Hall, through Mr. P. J. Cashin President; the Grenfell Hall, through Hon R. Watson, Chairman and the Canon Wood Hall, through Rev. J. B. Elliott. Whilst it is not yet definitely decided which of the many offers received will be accepted, it is probable that the Kindergarten will go to the Presbyterian Hall and classes one and two to Victoria Hall. Arrangements have been made for accommodation of 400 pupils of the upper classes at the Normal School and it is probable they will assemble there tomorrow afternoon so that as little delay as possible in their studies for the C.H.E. will be made.

Supreme Court

(Before Full Bench.)

The Attorney General vs. Strong & Mursell.

Mr. R. Cramm for the Attorney General asked that the matter be struck off the docket as a settlement (a claim for $1700 B.P. Tax) had been settled between the parties. It was ordered accordingly.

In the matter of the Companies Act and In the matter of Samuel Harris, Ltd. in Liquidation.

Howley, K.C., for liquidator; Wood, K.C., for the Government; L. E. Emerson for the Bank of Nova Scotia; C. E. Hunt for the Imperial Tobacco Co., Ltd., and other unsecured creditors.

Mr. Howley, K.C., for the liquidator moves for an order sanctioning the sale of the land, buildings, stock in trade, furniture, fishing gear and other chattels of the above named company at Grand Bank, Lamaline and Garnish, and of the interest of the above named company in the book debts, and in some eight vessels.

Wood, K.C., for the Government does not object.

Mr. Hunt for certain unsecured creditors consents.

Mr. L. E. Emerson for the Bank of Nova Scotia consents, subject to amended form of order. C.A.V.

During the hearing of the above matter affidavits were read to the effect that $8,000 was a fair valuation for the book debts. And that no tenders had been received for the lands buildings and stock in trade. Tenders totalling $23,000 were received by the liquidators for seven of the vessels and another the R. L. Borden, was valued at $4,000. An offer of $60,000 was made for the premises including the vessel. Of this amount $35,000 would go to the Bank of Nova Scotia.

In the matter of the Churchill Engineering Works, vs. Horwood Lumber Co.

This case was heard yesterday and judgment was entered for defendant.

The above matter is a claim for $1632.53 due from the defendants to the plaintiff for work done and materials provided by the plaintiff at the defendants request.

C. E. Hunt appeared for the plaintiff; L. E. Emerson for defendant.

Phone 650—Hello, two tickets for "An Arizona Cowboy," please. What section? Either will suit.—jan21,1i

Complete Protection for Lobster

According to a newspaper despatch a proclamation was published by the government of Newfoundland on December 2 decreeing a close season on lobster fishing for three years. A drastic step, we should consider, but no doubt the authorities there have weighed the importance of perpetuating the fishery against the economic dislocation resulting from closing the industry completely. Basing opinion upon conditions in Canada we doubt the wisdom of such a sweeping policy. Rather would we urge a principle of compromising the urgency of the fishery with the necessities of fishermen. However, that is none of our affair. We simply make the observation in view of the diminishing catches of lobster on our own east coast and the possibility that measures may be under consideration by our own authorities to right the situation.

The close season in Newfoundland is bound to re-act to the immediate economic advantage of our lobster industry. There may be a tendency to stimulate production to take advantage of the market formerly catered to by Newfoundland. This immediate prosperity would not be objectionable were it not for the knowledge that four years hence Newfoundland will again be in the running with increased resources. We may have overfished during the period of Newfoundland's recuperation. It may be that Newfoundland will have ultimately gained at the expense of our own fishery.

It is reasonable to assume that having re-established her industry by abnegation Newfoundland will not later allow fishing on a scale that will tell upon the resource. It is in the period when the Newfoundland fishery is closed that we are liable to be avaricious and harmful. Precautionary measures to see that the taking of lobster does not over-reach a judiciously-fixed maximum, would seem to be especially urgent just now. This has been needed in the past but the new urge to catch lobster may furnish the proverbial last straw.—Canadian Fisherman.

KHAKI PUTTEES — Knowling's have just received another shipment of Khaki Puttees and are selling Boys' for $1.20, and Men's for $2.00 a pair. G. KNOWLING, LTD.—Jan21,3i,eod

Presentation Convent Ladies' Association

A very successful card party was held in the schoolroom, Cathedral Square, last evening, and was attended by over one hundred people. The usual game of "Auction" was indulged in, and a dainty supper was served by the ladies of the Association. Prizes were awarded to the lucky ones, Mrs. W. E. Bearns, Miss Mary Meaney and Mr. L. Kennedy.

The proceeds, which amounted to a very nice sum, will be devoted to the building of a new school in the very near future.

Reserve your seat at Hutton's for "An Arizona Cowboy."
jan21,1i

Practical Appreciation of Firemen's Services

ST. JOHN'S, Jan. 20.

C. H. Hutchings, Esq.,
Inspector General.

Dear Mr. Hutchings.—The congregation of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church wish to express to you their appreciation of the heroic work performed by the Firemen at last night's fire.

We feel that so far as our property was concerned it might have ended disastrously had it not been for the good work performed by your men.

Please accept the enclosed cheque.

Yours sincerely,
(Sgd.) C. U. HENDERSON,
Secretary St. Andrew's Church.

INSPECTOR GENERAL'S REPLY.

ST. JOHN'S, Jan. 21.

C. U. Henderson, Esq.,
Secretary St. Andrew's Church,
City.

Dear Mr. Henderson.—I am in receipt of yours of yesterday's date enclosing cheque for $100.00, and on behalf of the members of the Fire Department beg to thank you most sincerely for this very generous recognition of any services which may have been rendered by them in protecting St. Andrew's Church during the fire at the Methodist College Hall.

Yours sincerely,
(Sgd.) CHAS. H. HUTCHINGS,
Inspector General Constby.

A great time at the Star Hall Monday night, Whole Holiday, Jan. 26th. Take it in please and try for the handsome Gold Elgin Watch.—jan21,2i,w,f

Magistrates Court

A drunk and disorderly was fined $2.00 and costs.

An old offender who has made numerous appearances before court for vagrancy was up again this morning charged with being drunk and stealing a brace of rabbits. He was convicted and sent down for thirty days.

A defendant in an assault case was convicted and fined $10.00.

"An Arizona Cowboy"

The scenery, in connection with the presentation of "An Arizona Cowboy" was placed in position at the Synod Hall last evening, and all preliminary preparations are now completed for the final performance of this delightful four act comedy drama on to-morrow night. Specialties of a high-class order have been arranged including selections from the "Prince's Orchestra."

Don't miss "An Arizona Cowboy". Final performance.
jan21,1i

PEPYS BEHIND THE SCENES

Jan. 20th.—Up betimes and abroad, the weather still cold, yet not so cold as yesterday, for which God be thanked. On my way to Water Street, to look at the Methodist College building, and is, indeed, a pitiable sight, being naught left but the shell of what was once a fine building. Meeting Povey he tells me how he learns that the House will meet about the 2nd se'ennight of February, which do show that the Cabal will keep its promise to have an early session. Little news to be had of such legislation that may come before the House, but I do learn how there is like to be a Bill about the curing of fish, which do seem, if true, to be very necessary. My wife this day being dressed in a silly dress of some flowery stuff, and very short, no longer than the knees allmost, makes me so madd that I did forbid her to venture abroad in it, and did threaten even to lock her in her room should she disobey me. So with much protestation, she changes her dress, and methinks I have the right method of handling the wretch, and better if other husbands did likewise. This night, alone to the Masons' dance, having a mind to enjoy myself and so do leave my wife behind. Indeed, a mighty pleasant evening, and despite my yeares I feel that I could dance through the night, nor do my rheumatics trouble me at all, which I am thankful for.

"The Merry Cobbler"

AT HOLY CROSS NEXT WEEK.

After weeks of careful rehearsing under the able coaching of Percie Jardine, everything is now in readiness for the staging of "The Merry Cobbler" by the Holy Cross Dramatic Troupe on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday nights of last week.

Some of the dramatic critics who were present at the rehearsals are confident that the "Merry Cobbler" will not only eclipse the former successes of the Holy Cross players, but it will also establish a new standard of merit in local theatricals generally.

The Play, which is a Comedy Drama, is written with a refreshing originality, and provides something of a departure from the usually accepted style of stage drama. The story is woven around the fortunes of a young emigrant, and with the many moments of tense interest, there is a feast of songs and dances which cannot fail to charm, while a runaway horse is only one of the many thrills which the play furnishes.

The title role will be in the hands of Mr. Jardine, who is particularly adapted for the part, by reason of his musical ability, and the leading feminine roles will be sustained by Misses Molly Horan and Winona McDonald of "Rose Of My Heart" fame. The rest of the caste is particularly well balanced, so that the production will lose nothing in the interpretation.

The tickets are selling very quickly, and everything points to a record entertainment.

Light the Alarm Boxes

The difficulty of locating an alarm box in the night time, again exemplified in the case of the Methodist College Hall fire, suggests the advisability of having guide lights, preferably a red globe, placed on all the boxes. This suggestion has been made before in the columns of the **Evening Telegram** and we again urge that it be acted upon.

Sailing Delayed

The S.S. Sable I. which was to sail this morning delays leaving port owing to the weather forecast which predicts a storm. The ship will call at Rose au Rue to take on board a quantity of whale oil, and it was thought advisable not to risk making there during a storm.

Firemen Called Out

A still alarm at 5.35 last evening brought the Central Fire apparatus to the store of James Phillips, Water Street, but their services were not needed as the blaze was quenched before their arrival by the prompt action of Mr. Phillips. The fire was caused by a blow torch which was being used to thaw out some water pipes. Mr. Phillips threw a coat over the fire which was smothered before it gained any headway.

Enquiry Postponed

A court enquiry into the causes of the derailment of a freight train near Manuel's Bridge was to be conducted before Mr. McCarthy, J.P. yesterday afternoon, but the trainmen who were called to give evidence were unable to appear.

Llewellyn Club

The Llewellyn Club Smoker which takes place to-morrow night at Canon Wood Hall promises to be very enjoyable. Mr. C. E. Hunt will deliver an address and though no announcement of the subject has been made there is no doubt but that it will be full of interest. During the evening refreshments will be served.

GIRLS' FRIENDLY SOCIETY—A Special Meeting of the G. F. S. Associates will be held in the Club Rooms on Friday, 23rd inst., at 11.30 a.m.—1i

Personal.

We regret to learn that Mr. J. Tobin has been unable to referee in the recent hockey matches owing to injuries sustained by his knee coming in contact with a sharp piece of metal and inflicting a painful wound.

AT HOME—Mrs. Francis McDougall will be "At Home" at her residence, Waterford Bridge Road, on Thursday afternoon, January 22nd.—jan21,1i

TO-DAY'S MESSAGES.

CHURCH UNION.

TORONTO, Jan. 21.

The standing by Churches of the Presbyterian congregations, in their vote on entering the union was, up to noon to-day, 767 for and 204 against.

PRIVY COUNCIL ALLOWS APPEAL OF TORONTO HYDRO ELECTRIC.

LONDON, Jan. 21.

The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council to-day allowed the appeal of the Toronto Hydro Electric Commission against the decision of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court of Ontario, which upheld the validity of the industrial disputes investigation Act (The Lemieux Act). The appeal was allowed without costs. The effects of this judgment is likely to be far-reaching. The committee claimed that the industrial disputes investigation Act was not within the competence of the Dominion Parliament under the British North America Act.

CANADIAN SYNDICATE SUBMITS PROPOSALS FOR FRESH FISH TRADE WITH BRITAIN.

OTTAWA, Jan. 21.

A scheme to utilize ten ships of the Canadian Government Merchant Marine for the carriage of perishable food products from Canada to Great Britain, is being submitted to the Government by Major Hugh Green, head of a Canadian Syndicate, interested in the fishing industry. In view of the depletion by the ravages of naval warfare of the historic fishing grounds off the Dogger Bank, British fishermen have been compelled to go further and further afield in search of the sea food for which there has always been a tremendous market in Britain. The proposal of the Green Syndicate apparently is that it guarantees a profit on the operation of Government Merchant Marine ships to the number of ten as a start, provided the Government equips the boats with up-to-date refrigeration adequate for the carriage of chilled food products. The Syndicate is satisfied that such products marketed in Britain unfrozen, can be sold at a profit sufficient to guarantee a profit to the Syndicate, and a cargo rate sufficient to remunerate the Government Merchant Marine for the operation of vessels.

NEW YORK TRAFFIC DISLOCATED BY SNOWSTORM.

NEW YORK, Jan. 21.

A violent snow and sleet storm which for New York City was the second big one of the season, to-day tossed a mantle over the north eastern section of the United States, and then romped seaward. One man, blinded by the blizzard, walked into a trolley in Brooklyn and was killed. Eighteen persons or more were injured in a collision of open air elevated trains in Uptown Manhatten. There was no reported loss of life out of town and little property damage, but the storm was sufficient to threaten cities with a paralysis of transit facilities, to isolate inland communities, throw trains off their schedule, delay the arrival of ocean steamships, and set an army of snow shovellers busy. A few women fainted in subway traffic jams here. Some citizens of Buffalo were compelled to walk instead of trolley to business and the Commissioner of Public Works asked for $76,000 for snow removal. A rum runner's speed boat was tossed high and dry and empty upon the Jersey Coast.

LEAGUE TO SUPERVISE GERMAN ARMAMENTS.

GENEVA, Jan. 21.

The supervision of German Naval Armament now has passed to the League of Nations, in consequence of a communication received to-day from the Conference of Allied Ambassadors, stating that the Inter-Allied Commission for naval control of Germany was officially dissolved September 30, 1924. The communication explains this dissolution was conditional upon the understanding that the inspection of war materials used both by the German Navy and Army will be carried on by the Inter-Allied Military Commission in conformity with the Versailles Treaty. The communique adds that the notification is in co-relation with Article 213 of the Treaty, which declares that as long as the instrument remains in force Germany will permit any investigation of armaments which the Council of the League of Nations may judge necessary.

AIRMEN FOG BOUND.

PARIS, Jan 21.

A French air mission of two planes which is attempting a flight to Lake Tchad, Central Africa is still fog bound in France according to a telegram received here.

PRIVY COUNCIL DECISION SERIOUSLY AFFECTS B.C.

VICTORIA, B.C., Jan. 21.

The finding of the Privy Council that Dominion Industrial Disputes Investigation Act is illegal leaves British Columbia with absolutely no conciliation machinery to avoid strikes, according to J. D. McNiven, Deputy Minister of Labor when his attention was drawn to London ruling.

WORLDWIDE APPEAL ON BEHALF OF ST. PAUL'S.

LONDON, Jan. 21.

Interest is aroused in a project undertaken by the Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's to safeguard the Cathedral for generations to come has led to their making an appeal not only to the British Empire, but to Anglo-Saxons throughout the world to assist in preserving the great national memorial threatened by crumbling inside the massive piers which cannot support the dome. The task is to inject cement under pressure into the piers which when built were filled internally with rubble.

LENINE'S DEATH ANNIVERSARY OBSERVED.

MOSCOW, Jan. 21.

All Soviet Russia was in mourning to-day, the first anniversary of the death of Nikolai Lenine, whose memory among the communists is venerated as a founder of the Soviet regime. Official Soviet buildings at home and abroad were ordered draped with red flags fringed with crepe, and all stores, theatres and restaurants were directed closed. The sale of liquor was forbidden.

OFFICIALS IMPLICATED IN INDIAN MERCHANT'S DEATH.

LONDON, Jan. 21.

Seven officials have been arrested at Indore, British India, including the Aide De Camp of the Maharajah of Indore in connection with an affair in Bombay a week ago which resulted in the death of a wealthy merchant Adbul Kadir Baula, says an agency despatch from Bombay.

YANKTON ASHORE IN BOSTON HR.

BOSTON, Jan. 21.

The steamer Yankton went ashore early to-day on Dixs Late Ledge, a sandy bar in the narrows of Boston Harbour. The navy yard was notified by radio from the coast guard cutter Tampa, and the owners of the vessel were asked to send a tug to her assistance. Three tugs were standing by at eight o'clock. The Yankton was said to be in no danger. The Yankton, which has had a long and varied career as a steam yacht, naval vessel and passenger boat, is plying between Boston, Halifax and St. John's, Nfld.

A Double Victory

J. B. ORR CO., LTD., who are serving Arbuckle's Breakfast Coffee at Messrs. Bowring Brothers Grocery this week, yesterday served delicious bread made from VICTORY Flour. The customers who had the pleasure of trying same were loud in their praises of the bread, and in many cases ordered a barrel of VICTORY to be sent to their homes at once. When ordering your next barrel insist on getting VICTORY. Please bear in mind that this Flour is guaranteed equal to any number one Top Patent Milled.

Canada and the Birthrate

Toronto Mail and Empire: Dr. Headlam's remarks on the disparity between the birth-rate of French-speaking Canada and the birth-rate of English-speaking Canada may be the means of rousing interest in the question and promoting efforts for the redressing of the balance. French-speaking Canada is to be praised, not blamed, for its high birth-rate. English-speaking Canada is not to be praised for its low birth-rate. The best element in the growth of the country's population is the native element. One good native-born Canadian is of more use to the country than are two immigrants.

BORN.

On Jan. 20th, a son to Mr. and Mrs. W. Clarke, 42 Bannerman Street.

At the Grace Maternity Hospital on Jan. 19th, to Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Fowler, Topsail, a daughter.

At the Grace Maternity Hospital, on Jan. 18th, to Mr. and Mrs. Thos. Pottle, a daughter.

DIED.

On Jan. 20th, after a lingering illness, Richard Dowden, aged 74. Funeral at 2.30 p.m. to-morrow, Thursday, from Messrs. Lawrence Bros. Mortuary Rooms, Gower Street.

In Memoriam

In loving memory of Peter Stewart, Chief Engineer of S.S. Beverley, who was lost somewhere at sea on or about Jan. 21, 1918.

It's lonesome here without you dear,
And sad the weary way;
For life is not the same to me
Since you were called away.
Inserted by his Widow.

IN FOND AND LOVING MEMORY of my dear father, James Barrett, who lost his life on the ill-fated "Beverley" 7 years ago.

We sit and think of you dear father,
While tear drops dim our eyes;
You could not say good-bye to us
Before you closed your eyes.
May heavenly winds blow softly,
In that wild and lonely spot;
Though the sea divides your grave from us
You will never be forgot.
Inserted by his daughter, Laura.

IN LOVING MEMORY of our dear son James DeLacey, who died at the General Hospital, January 21st, 1921.

May the sacred heart of Jesus have mercy on his soul.
—Inserted by his mother.

IN FOND AND LOVING MEMORY of our dear daughter, Lillian King, who died January 21st, 1923.

To-day brings back sad memories,
Of that sad and bitter blow;
That was cast upon our homestead,
Just two years ago.
Days of sadness will come o'er us,
Tears in silence often flow;
For memory keeps you ever near us
Though you died two years ago.
Time may pass and years roll on,
Whatever be our lot;
As long as life and memory last
You'll never be forgot.
—Inserted by Mother and Father.

MINARD'S LINIMENT FOR ACHES AND PAINS.

NEWFOUNDLAND SKI CLUB NOTICE.

Monday being a Whole Holiday, it has been suggested that we have a cross-country run to Torbay, having lunch there, and returning in the afternoon, provided a sufficient number of members are willing to go. Those wishing to go, please communicate with MR. MAURICE TAYLOR, not later than Thursday, 4 p.m.
jan20,2i

"The Merry Cobbler"

A GRAND COMEDY-DRAMA BY

The Holy Cross Dramatic Troupe!

JANUARY 26th, 27th, 28th,

HOLY CROSS SCHOOLS.

Charming Comedy, Romantic Story, Great Plot, Delightful Specialties. Admission 50c.

MOUNT CASHEL BAND IN ATTENDANCE.
jan17,19,21,23

NOTICE!

I have secured the services of a **Competent Piano & Organ Tuner and Repairer** with an English and Continental experience. Work guaranteed.

Charles Hutton

Reliable Piano and Organ Store.
s,w,tf

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ADVERTISE IN THE EVENING TELEGRAM.