

THE WEATHER.

Maritime—Strong winds and gales, southerly to westerly, rain, then turning sleet at night with light snowfalls or flurries.

Washington, Dec. 29.—Forecast: Northern New England—Rain or snow followed by clearing; colder Wednesday; Thursday fair. Winds for North Atlantic, fresh southwest and west gales.

Toronto, Dec. 29.—An important depression, which has developed since last night, is now centred over the Georgian Bay, causing snow and rain over Ontario and the Maritime Provinces, and snow in Quebec. In the west the weather is fine and quite cold.

Temperatures.

	Min.	Max.
Prince Rupert	28	40
Victoria	40	44
Vancouver	38	42
Kamloops	28	38
Edmonton	9	10
Battleford	28	38
Calgary	4	22
Medicine Hat	6	26
Moose Jaw	18	28
Winnipeg	18	28
Port Arthur	6	22
Parry Sound	24	34
London	17	37
Toronto	24	26
Ottawa	24	26
Montreal	24	28
Quebec	10	26
St. John	18	26
Halifax	6	36

—Below zero.

Around the City

New Year's Reception

The Beaconsfield Conservative Association will hold a reception in their rooms, Dufferin Row, on New Year's afternoon. All residents of the Parish of Lancaster are invited.

His Name Should Have Been Able.

A soldier named Graham of the 26th Battalion met his mother rather lively in the Armory yesterday afternoon. Graham had partaken of too much "red eye" and became troublesome. He was taken in charge by a guard and before he was landed in the "clink" it took seven of his fellow soldiers to handle him.

Acknowledgements

The treasurer of the Playground Association wishes to acknowledge \$5 collected by Miss Heffer for the St. John Girls' Association; also \$2.50 collected by Mrs. C. F. Woodman for the same purpose.

The children of the King's Daughters wishes to acknowledge with thanks the gift of \$25 from Mrs. C. F. Woodman.

Bent on a Bender.

Jack Bent, a resident of Drury Lane, a small street running between Union and North street, made matters rather unpleasant in his home last evening. When he arrived at his home he was enraged and after smashing the door he entered the dwelling and it is said managed to beat up the women in the house. After doing all the damage that suited him he adjourned to a bar room in the near vicinity where he was found by the police and given in charge.

Christmas Tree and Treat.

The children of St. Stephen's Church Sunday school had a Christmas tree treat last evening. In spite of the storm a large number of little ones were in attendance. The hall was nicely decorated for the occasion and the children thoroughly enjoyed themselves. After supper had been served a play entitled "The Book of Daniel" was given by the children, dressed appropriately in costume. The play was followed by a short programme of songs and recitations by the scholars. After the programme had been carried out a number of prizes were presented to the scholars making the best attendance during the year, and on behalf of the officers and members, Captain McArthur, of the 26th Battalion, was presented with a Jaeger vest.

Patriotic Fund Meeting

Hon. H. B. Ames, honorary secretary of the Canadian Patriotic Fund, expects to visit New Brunswick between January 6 and 11. His Honor the Lieutenant Governor has called a meeting of committees and representatives from the Canadian Patriotic Fund in St. John and elsewhere throughout the province at the Board of Trade rooms in St. John for the afternoon of Wednesday, January 6, at which Mr. Ames is expected to make an address on subjects relating to organization and administration of the Canadian Patriotic Fund, and will also hold a conference with those representatives who may be present. His Honor would like to see as many as possible of the different branches of the Canadian Patriotic Fund throughout New Brunswick represented at this meeting.

At Seaman's Institute.

Despite the inclement weather there was a fair audience at the Seaman's Institute last night to enjoy an excellent concert given by members of the crew from the Allan Line steamship Sicilian. The programme included songs, choruses, readings and sketches and was voted one of the best that has been given in the institute. Tonight promises to be a big time for the sailors as the men from all the ships in port are invited to be present and receive their Christmas presents. A mammoth Christmas tree has been arranged and it is heavily laden with comfort bags and many other useful presents for the Jack Tars. It is expected that over five hundred sailors will be present and it always proves one of the most enjoyable evenings during the year.

Complimentary Reception

The Fishermen's Protective Association of Lorneville will tender a complimentary reception and smoker to Hon. Mr. Baxter on Saturday evening, the function taking place in Coronation Hall. All friends and supporters of Hon. Mr. Baxter are invited to be present.

AGREABLY SURPRISED AT EXTENT AND EXCELLENCE OF PORT FACILITIES HERE

Montreal Harbor Commissioners Greatly Pleased with Dock Accommodations at St. John—Expect Large Grain Traffic through here this winter—Asked to come here by Hon. J. D. Hazen, Commissioners say their visit should result in closer co-operation between Montreal and St. John to secure Canadian Trade for Canadian Channels.

"St. John has much better harbor facilities than I expected to find here," said Farquhar Robertson of the Montreal Harbor Commission, who, with his fellow commissioner, Col. E. A. Labelle, arrived in the city yesterday for the purpose of inspecting the harbor facilities here. "I was very agreeably surprised at the extent and excellence of the docking arrangements here," added Mr. Robertson.

"That new wharf which has just been completed on the West Side is a splendid piece of work, and reflects great credit on the contractors," said Col. Labelle, when asked his opinion respecting the character of the wharf construction here.

"It is a good thing that the new wharf is ready for this winter's traffic. It has been made obvious already, and I think there will be greater need of it before the winter is over. Taking into account the enterprise, methods and facilities of the C.P.R., a large grain traffic should be handled through St. John this winter, provided, of course, steamers can be secured to carry the grain across the ocean. This is the only thing that can stop a big volume of grain business coming through St. John this winter. Steamers for the Canadian service are rather hard to get, because the Imperial government has been obliged to commandeer so many ships.

"The Imperial government will take large quantities of supplies, horses, etc., from Canada this winter, and that traffic will be largely handled through St. John."

Steady Increase of Traffic.

The harbor commissioners remarking of the rapid and steady increase of traffic through the ports of Montreal and St. John expressed the opinion that with the increase of facilities, these ports would not only get an increasing share of Canadian traffic, but would capture a good deal of traffic from the Western United States. "Of course," said Mr. Labelle, "it is likely that a certain portion of Canadian grain will always seek an outlet through American ports. But the volume of traffic flowing through Canadian channels and Canadian ports is bound to increase. We are constantly adding to the harbor facilities at Montreal. We present we have elevator capacity for 6,000,000 bushels of grain, and with an addition to be completed next year we will be able to store 7,000,000 bushels.

Our Elevator Accommodations.

Speaking of the elevator accommodations here the commissioners said they thought they were fairly good, the new C. P. R. elevator being modern in every respect, and that they could take care of a much larger volume of grain than had come through St. John in the past. They said they had been informed that the I. C. R. would build a fine elevator here in the near future to replace the one destroyed by fire.

In regard to the use of electric cranes on docks, the commissioners said they had been installed on some of the docks in Montreal, but that they were not extensively used.

W. G. Ross, chairman of the Montreal Harbor Commission, being modest to pay a visit to St. John, but on Monday he was suddenly taken ill and his physicians forbade him to leave his home.

Col. Labelle and Mr. Robertson arrived here on the C.P.R. train and were met at the station by Hon. J. D. Hazen and J. C. Chesley, agent of the Maritime Department here. They were the guests of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries at luncheon at the Union Club. In addition to the two harbor commissioners, the other guests were Senator Curlew, Hon. John E. Wilson, Mayor Prink, Messrs. L. P. D. Tiley, M. L. A., C. B. Lockhart, M. L. A., P. W. Grannan, M. L. A., F. B. Ellis, F. W. Thomson, J. C. Chesley and D. King Hazen.

In the afternoon the commissioners were taken to the West Side, and given an opportunity to inspect the harbor facilities in the government wharf. They were accompanied by Hon. Mr. Hazen, Mayor Prink, Commissioner Russell, Senator Thorne, Senator Daniel, J. C. Chesley and others.

Today at ten o'clock the commissioners will be taken for a trip about the harbor in the government steamer Curlew and will also visit Courtenay Bay to inspect the works in progress there.

This evening they will leave for Montreal to be at home for the New Year.

Boys Allowed to Go.

Early yesterday morning between three and four o'clock while Patrolman Briggs was going his rounds he came across Joseph Baine, aged ten years, wandering about Mill street. Not being able to give a satisfactory account of himself, the youngster was placed in a cell and kept behind the bars until yesterday afternoon when he was taken before the police magistrate. The boy's mother is a Russian and cannot speak the English language and the services of an interpreter had to be engaged to make her understand what the magistrate said to her. The woman explained that her husband went west about two years ago and left her with a couple of young boys. She believes that her husband is dead, and since he left her she has been obliged to keep boarders to make a living. She claimed that she could do nothing with her son as he left the home in the afternoon for the purpose of selling papers and did not return all night. The magistrate allowed the boy to go home with his mother.

Comments Harbor Plans.

"St. John has a fine harbor, and I think the plans for the new docks which have been or are to be built are about the best that could be devised," observed Col. Labelle in reply to a question.

"When the proposed programme of dock building on the west side is carried out you will have fine facilities for handling a big volume of traffic. In addition to fine docks, there will be splendid wharves, yards, on the area which the C.P.R. plans to reclaim."

"The making of a new harbor at Courtenay Bay will probably be somewhat expensive, but the harbor facilities on the west side can no doubt be developed at moderate cost. The amount of dredging required to be done in the old harbor is small compared to the dredging which has been done at Montreal. The Montreal Harbor Commission has spent nearly \$4,000,000 dredging the harbor basins and sites for docks."

Greatest Grain Shipping Port.

Speaking of the traffic through the port of Montreal during the past summer season Mr. Robertson said that while the import business had fallen off since the outbreak of the war, the

export business was much larger than usual. During the season 71,000 bushels of grain were shipped from the port of Montreal as compared with about 45,000,000 bushels the previous summer. Montreal is now the greatest grain shipping port on the continent. Contrast the 71,000,000 bushels shipped through Montreal with the grain traffic through American ports for last year, as shown by official figures in Mr. Robertson's possession:

Montreal, 71,000,000 bushels; New York, 39,000,000 bushels; Baltimore, 31,000,000 bushels; Galveston, 23,000,000 bushels; Boston, 13,000,000 bushels; Portland, 6,000,000 bushels; St. John, 5,000,000 bushels; Newport News, 2,500,000 bushels.

Of the 71,000,000 bushels of grain shipped through Montreal during the summer season of navigation about 50,000,000 bushels were shipped to about 11,000,000 in the United States. It is not so long ago that not one-eighth of the grain raised in and exported from Canada went through the port of Montreal. Last summer about one-third of the Canadian grain available for export went through Montreal.

In addition to the regular liners running to Montreal 139 tramp steamers were loaded at the port last summer. Of these tramp steamers 160 took full cargoes of grain; 13 cargoes of hay and oats; 7 were loaded with horses; 8 with flour and 6 with motor vehicles.

These two matters were the only business before the meeting and adjournment was made in order that the commissioners might accompany the Montreal Harbor Commissioners in their inspection of the harbor facilities.

Gifts for the Athletic Lad



Good, healthy exercise is the making of the boy or girl of any age, and presents that make for strong, robust bodies are both practical and sensible.

Here are a few suggestions, but call at our Sporting Department and let us help you make selections:

Dumb Bells, 20 to 30 cents the pair.
Indian Clubs, 50 cents to \$1.35 the pair.
Punching Bags, \$1.95 to \$9.00 each.
Punching Bags, with Platforms, \$11.50 each.
Boxing Gloves, \$2.15, \$2.70, \$3.25, \$4.00, \$4.25, \$4.50, \$4.80, \$5.50, and \$6.50 the pair.
Exercisers, light, \$2.00; heavy, \$2.50 each.

W. H. THORNE & CO., LTD. --- Market Square and King Street
OPEN EVENINGS UNTIL CHRISTMAS

The Slater Shoe Store

Is Going Out of Existence

In keeping with the new policy of the Slater Shoe Co. they are closing up all their retail stores and rather than remove the stock to the Montreal warehouse a

Gigantic Clearing-Out Sale

will begin on Tuesday morning at 9 o'clock.

15,000 dollars worth of high class footwear at less price than the cost of manufacture.

Be On Hand Early

Monday Dec. 28

Getting in shape for the **Big Sale**

Will be closed all day

SAFE -- SANITARY -- SERVICE

The importance of having proper Metal Ash Barrels to hold ashes is very evident.

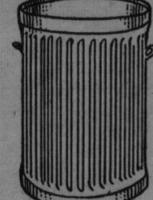
The recent fires and loss of life have fully demonstrated the great need of care in handling Hot Ashes.

Galvanized Ash Barrels

Our Price is \$2.50 Each

Lots of Six or more \$2.25 each. We will number or initial them if desired without extra charge.

Emerson & Fisher Ltd.



The Free Hemming Sale of Household Linens and Cottons Will Start on Monday, January 4

Real Leather Suit Cases At Exceptionally Low Prices

Our special value \$4.50 Case is made of real leather, full thickness, with iron frame and valance, polished brass locks and belts, solid handles the new swing style, heavy solid leather corners strongly riveted on, leather straps in body and cover, lined with checked cloth; tan and brown colors in sizes 22, 24 and 26 inches. Only to be had from us at this specially low price. Each \$4.50

Also our special value \$5.50 Suit Case. The same as described above with several additions, such as shirt or shirt waist pocket in cover and two heavy outside straps all around. We are very proud to be able to offer such an up-to-date and substantial case at such a low price as \$5.50

SPECIAL SHOWING OF IMPORTED SCOTCH WOOL RUGS for Driving, Travelling and Motoring.

These are values we cannot duplicate at the present prices and now is the time to provide for the cold weather when an extra rug while sleigh driving or automobiling will add greatly to your comfort.

REVERSIBLE PLAIDS, fringed ends. Each \$1.50 to \$5.85
PLAIN COLOR ONE SIDE, PLAID THE OTHER. Each \$3.00 to \$14.50
PLAIN COLORS BOTH SIDES. Each \$5.00 to \$10.00
REVERSIBLE PLAIDS, both sides different \$3.00 to \$14.50

MEN'S FURNISHINGS DEPARTMENT.

This is the Hosiery for Cold Weather

Ladies' Plain Cashmere Ribbed Hose—Black Pair 25c. to \$1.25
Ladies' Ribbed Cashmere Hose—Black Pair 25c. to 75c.
Ladies' Tan Cashmere Hose Pair 40c.
Ladies' Plain Black, All-Wool Cashmere Hose—Seamless feet, double toe and heel. These stockings are the best value to be found in the city, 3 pairs for \$1.00 Pair 35c.
Misses' Black or Colored Cashmere Hose—Plain or ribbed Pair, according to size, 25c. to 65c.
Children's Colored or Black Cashmere Hose Pair, according to size, 30c. to 60c.
Gaiters, Overstockings.

HOSEY DEPT.—ANNEX.

Warm Gloves for Winter Wear

Ladies' Leatherette Gloves—In white, grey, black, brown Pair 30c., 50c., 60c., 75c., \$1.25
Ladies' Silk-Lined Leatherette Gloves—White or black Pair \$1.10
Ladies' "Vivella" Wool Gloves—White, grey, navy, brown, black Pair 50c.
Ladies' Mercerized Gloves—White, natural, grey Pair 40c.
Ladies' Wool Gloves—Two-dome; grey, fawn, black Pair 70c.
Ladies' Scotch Knit Gauntlet Wool Gloves—Grey, black, white Pair 50c., 75c., 80c.
Ladies' Angora Gloves—White, black, navy, grey, brown Pair 55c., \$1.10, \$1.25
Ladies' Angora Gloves—Grey, white, black Pair \$2.00
Ladies' Kid Mocha-Lined Gloves Pair \$2.00 to \$2.50
Ladies' Fur-Lined Gloves Pair \$2.00 to \$4.50
Misses' Wool Gloves—Assorted colors Pair 20c. to 35c.
Boys' Wool Gloves—Grey and heather Pair 25c. to 75c.
Boys' Lined Kid or Mocha Gloves Pair 90c. to \$1.10
Ladies' Mittens Pair 30c. to 75c.
Children's Mittens Pair 15c. to 50c.
Infants' Angora Mittens—White or grey Pair \$1.10

GLOVE DEPARTMENT—FRONT STORE.

Manchester Robertson Allison, Limited

TO ENTERTAIN SOLDIERS ON NEW YEAR'S DAY

City Commissioners Will Provide Dinners For Men of Overseas Contingent.

The city commissioners met in short session yesterday afternoon and decided to entertain the non-commissioned officers and men of the 26th Battalion here on New Year's Day.

Those present were Mayor Prink, Commissioner Wilmors, Police and Russell with the common clerk.

Mayor Prink thought the city should do something for the soldiers before they left for foreign service and he believed that New Year's Day would be the best for that purpose.

It was decided to entertain the non-commissioned officers and men on the first day of the New Year and it was left with Mayor Prink to make all arrangements for the dinner which will be given the soldiers and His Worship will also provide for securing the necessary funds.

The commissioner of public works was empowered to purchase a new lathe for the mechanical department. It is to be much larger than the one at present in use and will cost \$500 but \$150 will be allowed for the old lathe.

These two matters were the only business before the meeting and adjournment was made in order that the commissioners might accompany the Montreal Harbor Commissioners in their inspection of the harbor facilities.

WEST SIDE SOLDIERS WELL ENTERTAINED

Ladies of Ludlow Street Church Provide Good Time—A Large Attendance.

About 175 men, consisting of members of the Royal Canadian Corps and West Side members of the 26th Battalion, as well as of many others interested in the work of the church, were entertained in the schoolroom last evening by the ladies' Relief Society of Ludlow street church, Rev. W. R. Robinson presided and extended a hearty welcome to the soldiers and their families. Staff Quartermaster-Sergeant Patterson responded, expressing appreciation of the kindness of the ladies in inviting them to come. A good time was spent by all. An interesting programme of songs and recitations was provided by local talent, several of the soldiers helping to make the time pass pleasantly in this way. After refreshments had been served, the ladies presented a play as a remembrance from the church. During the evening Mrs. C. E. Belyea, president of the Relief Society, gave a short address. Before leaving the men gave hearty cheers for the ladies of the church and the pastor. The entertainment was voted by all to be one of the best of the kind yet held. On Sunday week there will be a special soldiers' service; special music will be provided, and the choir will include some of the soldiers.

Had Merry Xmas.

Dr. Townsend, superintendent of the Jordan Memorial Sanatorium, is at the Royal. Speaking of Christmas at River Glade the doctor said a merry time was had by all. The Christmas programme was very successful and the patients expressed themselves as having the time of their lives. There are twenty-three patients at the institution.

STYLES

You do not have to go to the big cities to see big city styles. You can find them in F. A. Dykeman & Co's store and anything that is seen there it can be counted correct. They are showing a lot of very handsome evening gowns in most fascinating styles at the most attractive prices that have ever been known. Although they are big city styles, they are small city prices. They run from \$8.00 to \$20.00. Those that are \$10.00 and \$12.00, trimmed with marabou, made from palette silk are without doubt the last word in evening dress style.

Important Theatrical Notice

The Famous Players' production of "The Better Man" at Imperial Theatre will be presented today and Thursday, including Thursday evening up to nine o'clock. Those who intend taking in the New Year's Eve theatricals at the Keith house may enjoy this splendid four-reel Broadway play the seven o'clock show and be on hand for the orchestral programme that will intervene before the amateur production of the military play "Ours" commences. Tickets for the Belgian-Red Cross benefit are selling rapidly, the High School Alumnae members are delighted.

Horse races at Clifton New Year's Day at two o'clock.

PARK HOTEL, KING SQUARE.