

AROUND THE CITY CITY BREAKS ALL RECORDS FOR GOOD HEALTH IN YEAR

Few Large Fires in Year. A local fire insurance man said yesterday that the underwriters here had had a fairly good year. Outside of the Sackville blaze there were few large fires in the province, though there had been the average or more of small fires.

New Immigration Officer. D. H. Waterbury, superintendent of Dominion Public Buildings, has been in Fredericton making an inspection of the office recently opened there for the accommodation of A. B. Wilnot, Dominion immigration officer for the province.

Wins Royal Approval. On Monday evening at the tea table beside his plate Byron C. Tapley found letters from two queens, one of these gracious messages was from Buckingham Palace from Her Majesty Queen Mary, and the other in mourning envelope dated from Sandringham, Norfolk, from the Queen Mother, Alexandra, both letters expressing appreciation of Mr. Tapley's work, "Sonata Britannica."

The Waech Night services. Watch night services were held in a number of city churches last evening and in most cases there were good attendances. The services were marked by special music and brief addresses. As midnight marked the entrance of the new year, the bells of the churches pealed forth and after a short interval the members of the congregations filed out, the majority going to their homes and the balance proceeding to King's Square to mingle with the crowds there.

The First 1913 Joke. While the handsome and talented young men who compose The Standard's writing staff were grinding out copy about three minutes after twelve o'clock this morning the telephone bell rang. The young man who answered the call heard a sweet feminine voice, with a ripple of mischief in it, enquire: "Is this 1913?" "No," replied the unsuspecting newspaper writer. "This is 1746, you have the wrong number." "Well, just look at your calendar," was the message which came over the wire. Thus was the first 1913 joke recorded.

Inspecting Farms. Jas. Gilchrist left yesterday for Queens county to inspect some farms with the idea of having them taken over by the farm settlement board of which he is secretary. A. W. Hay, chairman of the board, and A. B. Wilnot, the Dominion immigration officer for the province are on the North Shore inspecting farms there, which sons of native farmers wish to purchase with the assistance of the board. It is understood that the properties are at Blackville, Bathurst and other places. One family which wishes to return from the states to the North Shore have applied to the board for a farm in Gloucester county.

Entertained Children. The Young Ladies' Guild of St. Monica's Society entertained the children of the sewing classes which are conducted by the guild, yesterday afternoon in the rooms of the I. L. and B. Society. The young ladies provided a Christmas tree abundantly laden with gifts and dainties for the children, and made the afternoon a very pleasant one for the youngsters. A programme consisting of reading by Miss Greaney, solos by M. Kelly, Miss McGrath and Miss Donovan was carried out during the afternoon. The entertainment was in charge of Miss Clare O'Connor, Miss Geraldine Hogan, Miss Keeffe, Miss Kelly, Miss Coll, and Miss Alice Ward. The officers and executive of St. Monica's Society were present at the entertainment.

Sunday School Christmas Treat. The annual Christmas entertainment of Waterloo street Baptist Church Sunday school was held last evening. Rev. F. A. Newcomb, acting as Santa Claus, presented each child with a gift from the tree. The teachers and scholars of the adult class instead of placing presents for each other on the tree gave offerings for the poor. A pleasing feature was the presentation of an illuminated address from the church and Sunday school to Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Smith on the occasion of their thirty-eighth anniversary of their wedding day. Rev. F. H. Wentworth, the pastor, made the presentation. Little Irene Westworth presented Mr. and Mrs. Smith with a bouquet of white carnations.

THE BOARD OF TRADE HAD BRIEF SESSION

Only Routine Matters Dealt with—Committees Reported Progress—No Announcement as to Secretary.

The board of trade met yesterday afternoon in their rooms, the president, J. M. Robinson presiding. Only routine matters were dealt with at the meeting. The committee named at the last meeting in reference to the immigration question reported progress. Greetings to the board were received from the Toronto board of trade. The question of the appointment of the new secretary to the board was not discussed at the meeting.

Will Close Saturday. It is announced that the firm of Manchester Robertson Allison, Ltd., will close their stores on Saturday evening during the months of January and February. The Saturday hours of business during these months to be from 10.30 a. m. to 5 p. m. It is hoped that the patrons of this firm will endeavor to arrange their Saturday's shopping during the hours mentioned.

The St. John Business College classes will resume work Thursday, Jan. 2nd.

Deaths During 1912 Far Below Preceding Year—Very Little Contagious Disease Reported to Board of Health.

In comparison with the preceding year, 1912 shows a gratifying decrease in the number of deaths occurring in the city. For the twelve months ending yesterday the total number of deaths of residents of the city was 688, as compared with 737 for 1911, making the death rate for last year smaller by 69 than for the preceding year.

The deaths for the past year, and also for 1911 by months, was as follows:

1912. January 62, February 48, March 63, April 62, May 65, June 53, July 44, August 63, September 51, October 46, November 54, December (recorded to yesterday), 63, Total, 668.

1911. January 55, February 57, March 79, April 72, May 57, June 53, July 38, August 32, September 54, October 65, November 46, December 61, Total, 737.

As regards contagious and infectious diseases the city has been remarkably healthy. For the past year the number of cases reported has been

A PLEASANT CELEBRATION

Members of St. John Power Boat Club Farewell Old Year and Welcome 1913 by Concert.

The headquarters of the St. John Power Boat Club was the scene of a happy event last evening, when the members gathered in the club house to farewell the old year and welcome the new.

The Temple Band paraded from their hall to the club house at 10 o'clock and opened the programme with the playing of O Canada. Commodore S. P. Gerow occupied the chair and on the platform were the vice and rear commodores and the fleet captain.

The following programme was carried out: O Canada; selection, band; solo, Fred Ramsey; mandolin and banjo, Bond and Bagnell; monologue, Jas. Bond; solo, Ed. O'Hara; bone selection, Tom Roberts; selection, band; comic song, Allan Bailley; bell selection, Bond and Bagnell; solo, Robt. Carson; selection, band.

At 11 o'clock the members sat down to a banquet in the dining hall. After the different toasts had been responded to and full justice was done to the good things, those present paired out doors, where a large bonfire was lighted on the surrounding hills, and the year was ushered in by the firing of cannon. During the evening the commodore presented the club with a large steel engraving of Nelson's famous signal, "England's this day expects every man to do his duty."

CHRISTMAS TREAT IN MISSION CHURCH

Happy Gathering of Children in Church of St. John Baptist—Christmas Tree and Prize Presentation.

The annual treat was given the children of the Mission church yesterday when a hundred and forty assembled in the schoolroom of the building. They were greeted by a tree laden with presents and each child received one or more useful articles. The distribution was made by Mrs. Roland Frisk.

Supper was served at 5.30 after which prizes for the work done by the Sunday school pupils through the year were awarded as follows:

- Senior boy's prize: Harry Ellis. Senior girl's prize: Elizabeth Hamilton. Class Prizes. 1st boy's prize: Douglas Blair. 2nd boy's prize: George Campbell. 3rd boy's prize: Thomas Logan. 4th boy's prize: Ralph Horzman. 5th boy's prize: Thomas Hamilton. 1st girl's prize: Florence Polkins. 2nd girl's prize: Ornel Welch. 3rd girl's prize: Vera Langley. 4th girl's prize: Hattie Hepburn. 5th girl's prize: Mary Logan. 6th girl's prize: Mildred Langley.

PERSONAL

Mrs. E. A. Haines, of Norton, is the guest of her father, William Gray, of Main street. Dr. Likely, of New York, is spending a few days with his brother, Joseph A. Likely, of this city. Mr. and Mrs. James B. Secord, Apohaquin, announce the engagement of their daughter, Grace Mildred, to Mr. Frederic P. Nicholson, of the I. C. R. Montreal, the marriage to take place the 15th of January. Mr. and Mrs. David Lynch, St. John, are visiting Mrs. Lynch's parents, Mr. and Mrs. M. B. Keefe. They are receiving many congratulations on their recent marriage.—Halifax Recorder. Dr. and Mrs. W. A. Christie have gone to New York to spend New Year's. They will be away for a week. Wilnot G. Miller is spending some days in St. John.

ICE MEN GO TO WORK BUT HARD ON THE ICE DEALERS.

Mild Days Easy on Coal Bin But Hard on the Ice Dealers.

Unable, So Far, to Cut for Storage, as Ice is Altogether Too Thin for General Use.

The mild weather this winter has played hob with the plans of the ice-man. Usually the companies have been able to start cutting for storage before the New Year, but at present there is very little ice available that is more than three or four inches thick, which is altogether unsuitable for storage. Some of the companies are cutting the thin ice to supply the demands of their customers at the present time, as in spite of a heavy cut last winter most of them had run out of ice. The manager of one company said there had been a great increase in the demand for ice last summer as compared with previous years, and that the business of supplying ice was growing in importance, though it is a well known fact that owing to the cool weather here in summer the people do not use half as much ice as an American city of the same size.

WILL INSPECT ALL "MOVIES" IN THE PROVINCE

Factory-Inspector will Start on Tour in Few Days to See if New Regulations are Obeyed.

The provincial factory inspector, John Kenny, Jr., will in a few days make a tour of the province for the purpose of inspecting all the moving picture houses, and seeing that they comply with the provisions of the new act governing such institutions. All these theatres are required to have a license, and must be fitted up so as to admit of the patrons escaping readily. Mr. Kenny says the act has been sent to all the proprietors of such houses, and that as they have had time to comply with its provisions, he will prosecute all who have not taken out licenses or otherwise complied with the law.

SCOWMEN REFUSE EMPLOYERS OFFER

They Stand Out for Rate of \$3.00 per Day—Organized into Local of Longshoremen.

The scowmen who went on strike the other day have been organized into a local of the international Longshoremen's Union, and will have the support of the longshoremen of the port in their efforts to secure better conditions. An officer of the new union said yesterday that the offer of the employers to pay them by the hour would not be accepted by the men, as they lost enough time as it was going to and from their work. Often they had to turn out at five o'clock in order to get their breakfast and reach Indiantown in time to go to work at seven, and in the evening when they returned home they had to walk a long distance to see the foreman at the dock, where they would go to work next day.

It was said that the members of the longshoremen's union would refuse to transfer the docks from the pier to the wharf if the difficulty was not speedily adjusted.

The companies have offered to pay the men 33 cents an hour while standing out for \$3.00 a day, parts of the day to be paid for on the basis of the present arrangement.

Be Early at Nickel Today.

The Nickel has a superb programme as the advertisement indicates, for the beginning of 1913. Everything is new and bright—a good laughing and interesting holiday bill. The Francis and DeMarr duo will have new songs and funny stuff, and Signor Manetta will continue in his magnificent numbers. Please bear in mind that the Nickel will be open for the beginning of its programme at 1.30 sharp, and again at 6.30, in order to fulfil the requirements of the new regulations— which the house management and staff will rigidly enforce—early visits of patrons are urged. Furthermore in fairness to the theatre and waiting patrons it is expected those seeing one whole show will not stay for another round of the programme but will leave promptly to make room for others. Start the year right by being a good fellow—male or female.

Velvet Corduroys.

F. A. Dykeman and Co. have received an express shipment of scarce goods in St. John which will gladden the hearts of many women and children, who have been waiting for the material. Velvet corduroys have been almost impossible to get at any price and they are now able to supply the demand in black, navy, brown and fawn, at 57 and 96 cents a yard.

Carleton's Theatre.

The Empress Theatre in City Hall, West End, has a rattling show with which to usher in this most promising year. A bumper matinee at 1.30 and an evening again a great bill for the evening.

The Star Has Two Holiday Sessions. Star Theatre, North End, will be open this afternoon and evening with brand new holiday pictures. This is the little house with the big show that saves you car fares.

A special turkey New Year's dinner at Bond's.

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It will be found advantageous to inspect our stock get our prices before purchasing any of the above.

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SLEDS—SLEDS

The largest and best assortment we have shown both boys and girls, a comparison of value will show you our prices are right: BOY'S SLEDS 30c., 60c., 75c., \$1.25, \$1.50, \$2, \$2.50, \$3, \$5. GIRLS FRAMERS 40c., 50c., 75c., \$1, \$1.25, \$1.50, \$2, \$2.50, \$3. EMERSON & FISHER, LTD., 25 GERMAIN STREET. PHONE 2820

A Happy New Year to All Our Friends and Patrons. All M. R. A. Stores Will Close at 6 p. m. Saturday During the Months of January and February.

To The Man Who Wants An Overcoat. This Exhibit Will Appeal With Striking Force. There's a feeling of satisfaction and comfort in wearing an overcoat you know is becoming and fits well. It will be easy to own such a coat if you choose from our fine showing. Men who wear M.R.A. overcoats invariably stand out in the average crowd. So because our models reflect the genius of high class designers impossible to put into ordinary garments. Come and see how fashionable M.R.A. overcoats are and how nominal the cost of the coat you want. MEN'S WINTER OVERCOATS UP TO \$27.00. CLOTHING DEPARTMENT. Manchester Robertson Allison, Ltd.