

Mr. English On Fogs.

Editor Evening Telegram.
Dear Sir,—On page 22 of Mr. McGrath's astounding book the author makes an effort to combat "the erroneous impression" that the shores of Newfoundland are "enveloped by fog and enshroued by ice." A very laudable desire on the part of Mr. McGrath; but his method of proving the impression false is not very logical. Here is what he says in proof of his contention: "As a matter of fact, St. John's, near the southern extremity, lies in the same latitude as Paris, and its most northern point is in that of Edinburgh." Can the author expect people to accept such a schoolboyish argument as a proof that "the country has been maligned with regard to her climate." What in the name of common sense have the relative positions of Paris, Edinburgh and Newfoundland to do with the presence or non-presence of ice or fog on our coasts? Mr. McGrath also says in the same paragraph above quoted, "This true isothermal lines curve somewhat differently." What does such freakish writing mean? This said that words are meant to conceal our thoughts. In Mr. McGrath's case the conviction is rather forced on me that he had no thoughts at all, either to conceal or publish.

On page 181 of this book Mr. McGrath attempts to explain the occurrence of "silver thaw." He says that it is caused by rain falling with a low temperature, being congealed as it descends and depositing itself on every object which obstructs its passage in a condition of translucent ice." That Mr. McGrath is not a very close or intelligent observer of natural phenomena is quite plain. Mr. McGrath should know that if the rain or moisture were to be frozen as it descended it would fall in the form of snow or hail and not in the form of transparent ice, as in "silver thaw." The ice that clings to trees and other objects as "silver thaw" is formed after it has attached itself to the object in the form of perfectly limpid water. Any person may notice water dripping from the very objects over which the silver thaw is in the very act of forming.

The explanation of the phenomenon is this: Water at the freezing point must still give up a certain amount of its latent heat before it can be reduced to the condition of ice. Every pound of water at 32 degrees Fahrenheit gives up 144 units of heat before it becomes ice. Very cold rain on reaching an object which can rapidly abstract its latent heat to the necessary degree, forms the familiar silver thaw. By a very simple experiment Mr. McGrath may produce the effect of silver thaw for himself. Let him take a potato some frosty day of night and place it where it can be thoroughly frozen. Then let him plunge the potato into a basin of cold water. He will see that almost immediately the tuber becomes coated with a film of ice resembling silver thaw. To account for the prevalence of fogs Mr. McGrath falls back on the ancient theory of the commingling of the cold water from the north with the warm water of the Gulf stream. The idea, of course, is borrowed from old histories, but as usual with Mr. McGrath he leaves it to be inferred that it is his own knowledge.

I do not believe that fogs are caused entirely by the mingling of cold and warm waters. In fact it is my opinion that most of the fogs on our coasts are derived from other causes. I have not yet entirely elaborated my theory, but I may say that in it the land itself plays a very important part.

Mr. McGrath says that Newfoundland is colder than European countries. Does he mean to say that it is colder than Lapland, for instance which is a European country? On page 181 of the reliable book we are told that "The aurora borealis is a mighty display of what is known as the Northern Light." I am sure we are all very grateful to Mr. McGrath for that bit of information, but we should like to know what he would call, say, just a small display of Northern Lights. I could adduce abundant evidence of a more or less technical kind from "Newfoundland in 1911" to prove that Mr. McGrath got himself hopelessly beyond his depth when he attempted to elucidate certain subjects that require to be treated by one possessing a deeper and broader intellectual development than has Mr. McGrath. To mention just one subject, I may name political economy. Mr. McGrath may make a first class purveyor of abuse and a good politician editor, but as a political economist I would not rank him high. He does not seem to have the powers of even a third rate reasoner. I am compelled, Mr. Editor, to let the natural history section of this review stand over for another paper. There are so many and such woeful blunders in this book of blunders that one can scarcely know where to take them up.

ARTHUR ENGLISH.
St. John's, Dec. 9th, 1911.

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In Memoriam.

JOSIE FAGEN.

In cold December, just as the lifeless trees and snow-covered hills gave token of the close of another year, the people of St. Joseph's, Salmonier, witnessed the close of a young life, Josie, beloved daughter of John and Catherine Fagen. Scarcely 19 years, this victim of the terrible plague, consumption, was only two years ago a pupil of St. Joseph's school. A general favorite was Josie, ever ready to help those who might have any worries, and always most careful not to hurt the feelings of others. And in this short space not even her nearest friends would recognize in the wasted form the cheerful bright young face of two years ago. Only her most familiar friends had the privilege of knowing her sterling qualities, and only those could feel sufficiently the loss of one whose example was always edifying. Humility was her leading characteristic, and when added to this the qualities of a devout Catholic and a sympathetic heart, it would not be exaggerating to say she was one of those whose chief object in life was to do good for others. If the knowledge of her virtues has not extended over the whole parish it is for the simple reason that it was mostly in her own home circle, in the school room and on the playground they were put into practice; and it is this fact that adds to the rarity of her character. In the feast of the Immaculate Conception, Dec. 8th, she was taken from her earthly home and laid in her last resting place. There was not one amongst the large crowd of mourners that attended her funeral whose heart was not filled with sympathy for the bereaved parents, sisters and brother. And who amongst them knew of the bright hopes cherished in that young breast, but never realized on earth. But let us hope they are realized beyond expectation in that land where virtue is recognized at its true worth.

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Curlers' Meeting.

A meeting of the Curlers took place last night for the election of candidates. Mr. J. R. Bennett presided and received twenty-six new members. The various sub-committees were also appointed. Auditors: J. J. Maher and W. J. Edgar; House Committee: J. A. Branscombe, C. R. Duder and F. R. Bradshaw; Ice Committee: A. H. Salters, F. Crane and T. Winter; Entertainment Committee: T. H. O'Neill, F. Chicomani and H. W. LeMessurier; Curling Committee: C. R. Duder, W. Joyce, H. Jardine, F. W. Hayward, also the captains of the four divisions and President, Mr. A. H. Salter was formally presented with a set of Curling stones by Mr. John Jackson, the gift of Andrew Kay & Co., of Mauchline, Scotland.

Church Decorated With Fish

Christopher Wren's beautiful old Church of St. Magnus the Martyr, near the famous Billingsgate fish market, where, until one of them ran into a visiting Westerner and accidentally upset a basketful of wet fish over him, the porters were supposed to use the worst language in the world, has just celebrated a remarkable "Harvest Thanksgiving." The decorations of the church consisted almost entirely of real fish. Such decorations have never before been known in a London church. The silver of the lordly salmon mingled with the green of the common mackerel. The fashionable lobster and oyster met their poorer brethren the wrinkle and the whelk. More than forty varieties of fish had part in the scheme. During the service much income was burned presumably for desodorizing purposes. After the service the fish were sent to Guy's Hospital. Nothing was the matter with it; it went there for the patients.

Arrested at Railway Station.

A drunken man who wanted to go out by train to Conception Bay last evening was turned out of the station and not allowed to get on board. He gave trouble and made quite a commotion till the police came along and arrested him; he was taken to the lockup.

The Kamfjord Arrives

The S. S. Kamfjord arrived last night from Sydney with a cargo of coal after a run of 50 hours. The ship will likely make one more trip here with coal and this will finish her charter for the season. She will more than likely load fish for Europe, as she did last year, after discharging.

MINARD'S LINNET CURES DIPHTHERIA.

Sting of the Sea.

Some Tragedies of Trawling Off the British Coast.

For the deep sea fishermen the sting of the angry waves is as bitter to-day as ever it was. Only a few weeks back a fleet of fishing vessels sailed out from Lowestoft and into a great storm; but when they came back again three were missing, and are now definitely reported as "lost."

Trawling is simply chock-full with great and wonderful stories—mostly tragedies, though. Last year the trawler Gothic, of Hull, met a blizzard, was crippled by a heavy sea, and began to sink. A Grimsby vessel came to the rescue, and four out of the crew of eight had been saved by the crew of the small boat when that was smashed. To save the other, floated lines attached to buoys were used.

The skipper of the Gothic fastened the line round the waist of the steward. The steward hesitated, but only

for a moment. He jumped into the sea immediately, and was hauled across to the Grimsby trawler with all possible speed. But the icy waters killed the poor man, and it was a dead body which was dragged into the boat.

Even more tragic is the story of the foundering of the Grimsby steam trawler Celtic a year or so ago. Her tall shaft broke in a storm, and sent the propeller through her stern, so that she quickly filled with water.

The crew took to the boat, and were pulling away, when they were horrified to see the cook despairingly beckoning them from the sinking ship. He had been forgotten! At once they turned back, but before the boat could reach him the trawler went down, carrying the man to his fate.

For sheer weirdness, there is nothing to beat the story of the Plymouth fishing boat Fear Not.

Her crew consisted of the owner, William Rowe, and his seventeen-year-old son. One sunny June after-

noon the boat came back into the harbor, steered by the son, while Rowe sat upright upon a thwart, with his arms folded. But as neither of them moved, or answered to other fishermen's cries, a boat went alongside, and it was found that Rowe was dead, and his son in a trance.

Later on the son recovered somewhat, and explained that his father had died suddenly at sea, and all he could remember afterwards was steering the boat for Plymouth as though in a dream.

An extraordinary night of horror was the lot of the crew of another trawler, the Washington, wrecked off the coast of Iceland two years back. She struck a reef near the shore, and for a whole night lay exposed to the fury of a blizzard.

The mate tried to swim ashore, but failed. At four o'clock in the morning, one man, who had complained of the cold, died. The second engineer went raving mad. He refused to come out of the galley and was never seen

again. Two men were washed away and drowned, and another was dashed against the bulwarks and killed. Next day, when the sea went down, the survivors were rescued by the Icelanders by means of a line.

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