

THE WEATHER.

Forecasts: Maritime—Moderate winds mostly south and west, fair, not much change in temperature. Washington, Feb. 28.—Forecast: Northern New England—Generally fair Thursday and Friday; moderate to fresh shifting winds.

Toronto, Feb. 28.—Pressure is abnormally high in nearly all portions of the continent, and the weather in Canada is everywhere fair and for the most part moderately cold.

Table with 2 columns: Location, Temperature (Min. Max.). Locations include Dawson, Prince Rupert, Victoria, Vancouver, Kamloops, Edmonton, Battleford, Calgary, Medicine Hat, Winnipeg, Port Arthur, Toronto, Kingston, Ottawa, Montreal, Quebec, St. John, Halifax.

Around the City

Y. M. C. A. Notes. The increased number of classes this year at the Y.M.C.A. has necessitated the installation of a new boiler in the heating plant. The first of a series of six talks was given last evening by Mr. Book, before the members of St. Luke's and St. Mary's Bible classes.

Horse Caused Damage. A horse which ran away on Canterbury street yesterday afternoon, dashed across King street and broke one of the metal electric light posts in front of Manchester Robertson Allison, Ltd. The horse was captured near the Victoria Hotel.

Lieut.-Col. Cooper's Lecture. The members of the Men's and Women's Canadian Clubs will have a musical treat before the lecture on "Equality of Service," as Lance Corporal Ralfe, the Australian singer, who is a member of the battalion, has agreed to sing several numbers.

Fire in a Barn. About eight o'clock last night the fire department was called out by an alarm from Box 151. The fire was in Charles Jones' barn on Hazen street, near the corner of Pond. The bulk of the blaze was among hay in the loft, but with a couple of well directed streams the fire was soon under control. Three horses in the stable were rescued. The building and contents were damaged considerably.

Boy Badly Injured. About noon yesterday a fifteen year old boy, Harvey Nordstrom, was badly injured on Pond street, being run over by an automobile with John Durbin of City Road the chauffeur. The boy was coasting down the George street hill while the automobile was going along Pond street. Before the car could be stopped it went over the boy. Young Nordstrom was picked up unconscious. Dr. G. O. Baxter was summoned and ordered the injured boy's removal to the General Public Hospital. As the result of an enquiry at the hospital last night it was stated that the boy was in a serious condition and was still unconscious. It was not known, however, if his skull was fractured. An investigation is said to have resulted that no blame is attached to the driver of the car.

February Building Permits. Building Inspector James Carleton granted four permits in February, the buildings being valued at \$88,300, compared with five permits in the same month last year, the value of the buildings being \$5,300. The buildings this year are: Jas. F. McIntyre, wooden dwelling, Broad street, \$ 800; Michael George, wooden tenement, Brussels, 3,000; Wm. E. Emerson, wooden dwelling, 2,500; Dominion government, freight shed, Sand Point, 30,000.

Injured at West St. John. Charles Thomas, employed at the West Side had his right ankle injured last night while at work. He was removed to the General Public Hospital where he is resting as comfortably as can be expected. He resides at 73 Erin street.

Confined to House. The many friends of Austin Wetmore will regret to learn that he is confined to the house as the result of falling from a loss of hay at Rothsay on Tuesday afternoon. It was at first thought that his injuries were more serious, but fortunately he escaped with minor contusions.

Owing to the war many articles are being given to a greater extent than formerly. Gundry's experience shows a strong demand existing for Cigarette Cases, Signet Rings and Military Brushes. A grand selection of these articles is always kept in stock. The famous Wrist Watch is also shown in many styles.

FRENCH MEMBERS LIKELY TO INSIST THAT MR. VENIOT OR MR. DUGAL BE MADE PREMIER

David W. Mersereau, of Sunbury, Prominently Mentioned for the Position of Minister of Agriculture—Inner Circle of Party at Present Plans to General Congress at Fredericton on Tuesday—Is New Brunswick to Become an Adjunct to That Portion of Quebec Under the Sway of Laurier and Bourassa?

The political pot is beginning to boil merrily in connection with the formation of the new cabinet at Fredericton. In fact there will be a hot race for the various portfolios in the new administration.

A general pow-wow is on the tapis for Fredericton on Tuesday and Wednesday next, when the members of the inner circle who were in conference at the Royal Hotel here last evening will lay before the general congress the plans they have mapped out. E. S. Carter has sent out the call for the gathering of the faithful at the capital and the successful and defeated candidates have been invited to attend.

Mr. Mersereau's Claims. The latest candidate mentioned for cabinet preference is David W. Mersereau, one of the successful members for Sunbury. Mr. Mersereau's many friends are advocating his candidature for the position of minister of agriculture. It cannot be successfully denied that Mr. Mersereau has strong claims. He is a new man, who was not connected with the iniquitous legislation of the old gang. He is more or less of an independent and his friends realize that he has a mind of his own and will not be easily led by the bosses of the party outside his county. The Standard is no advocate of his candidature, but this newspaper has been reliably informed that he would make as strong a cabinet minister as the opposition could possibly put forward insistently. It is understood that he has been assured of the loyal support of the defeated quartette in York county who were outstanding figures at the conference here.

Objects to Carter or Veniot. But Mr. Mersereau has other ideas in connection with the making of the new cabinet. He does not propose to stand for any move to give cabinet rank to either E. S. Carter or P. J. Veniot. His friends say that he has taken this decided stand and will not tolerate any proposal to include either of these gentlemen, no matter from what source it may emanate.

That E. S. Carter will have the support of the St. John and York wing of the party in his claims for cabinet preference is openly stated by the followers of the defeated Liberal organizer. The statement in both the Telegraph and the Times expressing appreciation of Mr. Carter's services and voicing the desire that he be given a prominent post in the new administration is considered as very significant. The statement was doubtless inspired by Mr. Carter's friends and probably had his personal endorsement.

Mr. Veniot, Mr. Carter's bosom friend and companion, is reasonably sure of landing one of the portfolios—preferably public works, while he is still imbued with the idea that he would make a desirable premier. It seems that the race for the premiership will be a close one between Messrs. Veniot, Carter, Foster and Robinson, with the former having the strongest claims in view of the large and influential number of French members supporting the new government. Mr. Carter may possibly agree to forego his claims for the leadership, if he is afforded the opportunity to become provincial secretary, or he may insist that he be given both positions.

Tweeddale Also Gunning. Mr. Tweeddale of Victoria is still pressing his claims for the minister-ship of agriculture and is not undaunted by reason of the fact that his friend Mr. Mersereau is in the field for this job. Mr. Burgess, the colleague of the windy Victoria politician is ready to support Mr. Tweeddale's claims and will bring all the opposition he can muster in order to nip in the bud the ambitions of the railway magnate from Sunbury.

North Shore Aspirants. Other successful candidates, particularly on the North Shore, are working quietly, yet effectively, in their endeavors to secure some of the coveted portfolios. Dr. McGrath of Newcastle had his ears and eyes open when he heard there was a likelihood of the new government establishing a portfolio of public health and the word from the shiretown of Northumberland is that the doctor feels he has equally as strong claims as Dr. Roberts for this new billet.

GASOLINE FREELY USED IN BULLOCK'S MORNING OF FIRE

Investigation Commenced in Police Court Yesterday Afternoon.

FIRE CHIEF BLAMES GASOLINE FOR BLAZE

Belle McNair Tells of Oil Being Used for Killing Water Bugs, Followed by Explosion—Kitchen Filled with Flame.

The investigation into the fire in the residence of John F. Bullock, 157 Germain street, on January 20th, was commenced before Magistrate Ritchie in the police court yesterday afternoon. S. B. Bustin was present in the interests of Mr. Bullock and S. A. M. Skinner represented Miss Belle McNair, a domestic who was severely injured in the fire.

George Blake, chief of the fire department, testified that he responded to the alarm, and felt sure that the fire was the result of a gasoline explosion.

John M. Jenkins gave evidence that he was passing on Canterbury street when he heard the explosion and the screams of a woman. He sent in an alarm from box 28 and then hastened to the Bullock house. He saw fire breaking out in the rear of the lower hall.

Miss Belle McNair, a domestic employed in the house, testified that she was washing dishes about eleven o'clock on the morning in question. Mrs. Bullock had told her that Mr. Bullock had said there were water bugs in the kitchen and that she was going to get some gasoline for the purpose of exterminating them. Mrs. Bullock obtained some gasoline in a pitcher and poured some of it down the pipe in the sink; she also put some behind the hot water boiler.

Miss McNair said that she was in front of the stove five minutes afterwards when she heard an explosion and the blaze came out about two feet from the front draft of the stove. There was also a blue blaze all over the kitchen. Her clothing caught on fire and she ran out to the yard, and with the use of snow put the fire out. She then entered the house and went up stairs with the assistance of a man. Dr. Inches attended her and ordered her removal to the General Public Hospital. She had been in the hospital being treated for three weeks. Miss McNair still showed the effects of her injuries.

The investigation was adjourned to resume again tomorrow afternoon at 2.15 o'clock.

FOUR ON THE HONOR ROLL YESTERDAY

Recruiting Slumped Somewhat in St. John—The 19th Reviewed—Military Notes.

- HONOR ROLL. John Anderson, St. John. 16th Field Ambulance. Armand Corben, Madawaska county. John Gilbert, Madawaska county. 165th Battalion.

Recruiting fell away yesterday in St. John. But four men were signed on for overseas service. One of the men will be examined by the doctor this morning. Several transfers were put through by the Engineers yesterday. It appears that there were three or four of the 257th Railway Construction corps' men left behind when the battalion sailed. These men were yesterday transferred to the Canadian Engineers. They were: Murray Crothers, Charles Hunt and John Valley. Walter Christie of the 62nd Battalion was also transferred to the Engineers.

Canadian Engineers. The following men enlisted with the Canadian Engineers during the week ending Feb. 24th, 1917: G. F. Terley, St. John, machinist; Walter K. Dunn, St. John, shoemaker; Phillip Goguen, St. John, bricklayer and plasterer; Alfred Dupuis, St. John, telephone linesman; Andrew Henderson, Moncton, machinist; James Rea, Moncton, boiler-maker; Arthur Murray, Moncton, telephone mechanic; Bamford Coates, Moncton, carpenter; Geo. Nowlan, Douglas-town, carpenter.

In addition to the above, one man from Moncton, a building contractor by trade, enlisted, but did not wish his name published for the present. Besides being an excellent class of tradesman, these men are a splendid type physically, six of them ranging from 5 ft. 10 in. to 6 ft. 1 in. in height. Two applications were also received for transfers from other units to the Canadian Engineers.

You Needn't Cook With Coal. It is really a very expensive culinary fuel at present prices, particularly as the range must be kept burning whether in actual use or not. Polks are beginning to learn that oil is very practical and economical for cooking purposes, especially when used in the PERFECTION Wick Blue Flame OIL COOKING STOVE. which is clean, odorless, ample, safe and sanitary. The tall, blue chimney—with its steady, even draft and perfect automatic oil supply, gives you—almost the moment the wick is lighted—a powerful, easily controlled working flame. The Perfection comes in 1, 2, 3 and 4 Burner Styles, with or without legs, and can be supplied with Ovens, Broilers, Toasters, Griddles, Sad-Iron Heating Discs, etc. OIL STOVE SECTION SECOND FLOOR See Our Market Square Window. MARKET - W. H. THORNE & CO., LTD. - KING STREET

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Mr. Winchester's Case. Street Superintendent Albert Winchester was still under suspension last night, and when asked about the matter Commissioner Fisher had nothing further to say than that Mr. Winchester was not on duty yesterday. He would not say whether he would carry out the orders of the council or not, or if he did reinstate the suspended official, when this would be done. Another curious feature of this case is that while Mr. Winchester was supposed to be under suspension he has been receiving his pay every fortnight as usual. A Dizzy Trio. The total number of arrests yesterday by the local police were three men who are charged with being drunk.