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"The Thrift, Shamrock, Rose and Wine, The Maple Leaf forever."

**Semi-Weekly Telegraph**  
**and The News**

ST. JOHN, N. B., JANUARY 1, 1913.

## THE PROVINCIAL FINANCES

The provincial government, even by its own exhibit, continues to increase the public debt, and while it does so it neglects the more important of the public services. Any New Brunswicker who cares to look at the facts in the face will see in the annual statement of the provincial finances, published in the Royal Gazette yesterday, convincing truth of the soundness of many of the criticisms directed against the government since Mr. Fleming became a member of the administration.

Thanks to a large territorial revenue, and to an increased return from other sources over which the government had no control, the income for the year ending October 31, 1912 was \$1,417,722, the largest ever recorded in New Brunswick. Yet, even by following its own peculiar system of bookkeeping, the government's figures show that it spent all of this record-breaking income, and more. There is a paper surplus of \$8,672, but while the interest charges in 1911 were \$245,193, they rose in 1912 to \$268,323. No elector will miss the significance of that; and no elector reading and pondering it will help recalling Mr. Fleming's wild lamentations over the extravagance of the old government, and his repeated and solemn pledges that his administration would be prudent in financial matters. While Mr. Fleming's revenue is greater by \$447,823 than the revenue of 1907, yet no discerning and fair-minded man who has followed this administration's treatment of the public purse would say that it is a record.

For the sources of revenue in 1912, there was an increase of \$90,293 in the Dominion subsidy as compared with 1907, an increase for which the old government was mainly responsible, inasmuch as it was successful in securing better terms from the Dominion. And in this connection it should be remarked that it was the plan of the old government to set aside a portion of this increased subsidy as a sort of sinking fund to reduce the debt of the province. The present government has neglected anything of that sort.

The succession duties in 1912 were \$44,857, while in 1911 they amounted to only \$5,000. The government shows a capital expenditure of \$197,123 of which it is asserted that \$178,028 was spent on permanent bridges. How "permanent" some of these bridges are is a matter to be determined hereafter; but it is a well-established fact that this government has been in the habit of charging to permanent bridges much money that should be set down as ordinary expenditures. What is really being done is shown by the fact that the interest charge was increased by \$13,128 during the year.

The present government won office largely on its promises to give New Brunswick good roads. Instead of giving the province good roads it produced a political road law, which kept the patronage under government control while it continued neglect of the roads. Most of the money spent on road repairs has been wasted. What was needed was a non-political road policy, and the beginning of the construction of permanent roads. Further than that, although its revenue has increased very largely, the government spent \$5,000 less on agriculture in 1912 than it did in 1911, and its treatment of this most important of the public services from the beginning has shown that it has no real agricultural policy. There is an increase of some \$2,000 in the expenditure on immigration, but the increase has gone largely to new office holders, or to increased salaries for old ones, and it has been made clear that the administration's immigration policy is still in a feeble and tentative stage.

The principal increase in revenue, which

comes from Crown lands, and which is landed in some quarters as evidence of the statesmanship of Mr. Fleming and his associates, is not regarded with appreciation by those who look to the future and who realize that if the forest wealth of New Brunswick is subjected to the present drain year after year our greatest asset, our greatest source of revenue, will be seriously impaired in the near future. This government decreased the size of the timber, and under its Crown land administration the public lands have been cut with very little regard either for the law or the future welfare of the province.

To continue this reckless exploitation of the Crown lands is deliberately to pursue a visibly unsound policy, to spend principal instead of interest, and to invite disaster. At a time when every well regulated state is conserving its timber, and when the evidence in favor of conservation is written large all over the continent, New Brunswick, more dependent upon its forests than any other of the nine provinces, continues to diminish its greatest asset in order to pay the political debts of an administration which came into office professing a determination to keep down expenditures and to demand good service for every dollar spent.

## THE MARCH OF THE PLAGUE

The bubonic plague, the "black death" of the Middle Ages, is making slow, but so far, sure, progress around the globe. The entire western coast line of South America is now infected. On the eastern coast the infection is distributed in spots and does not follow a continuous line. How soon these spots may be connected in a chain of continuous infection is a question that is giving serious thought to those who are familiar with the sanitary conditions in these regions. There is grave danger of the plague coming to the southern ports of the United States. The conditions in Tampa, Mobile, New Orleans, Key West, Savannah, and Charleston are most favorable to the concealment and spread of the disease. If once it is established in the South among the negroes, it will become as rapid in its advance and as fatal in its results as it ever was in any period of the world's history.

The present epidemic of bubonic plague, is the fourth of which we have record. This began in 1894 in the south Western Province of Yunnan, on the borders of Thibet. It spread through many places in Japan, China and India and was rampant in the sacred city of Mecca. Cleanliness is said to be next to godliness, but they are very far apart among the pilgrims to the shrine of Mahammed, and the plague found the conditions favorable among the worshippers. It is not certain today that there are no cases of the plague in the Pacific Coast of the United States, and it is known that the plague has been carried to Porto Rico and Cuba. The disease is advancing along the highways of commerce, as it did in the past, with the difference that today its progress is over the sea routes rather than by land. In the past it travelled with the caravans by the overland routes; today it depends for its distribution, chiefly upon the rats that infest the ships.

The rat is today the great carrier of the plague. All ships that anchor in British ports are obliged, if they come from infected regions, to affix a special disk to the cable and to ropes attaching them to wharves, to prevent the rats from going ashore. The rat is an arch-enemy in the twentieth century. He should have passed away with the days of stone-hatchets and flint arrow heads. Yet today he ravages excesses those of any former day. It is estimated that one rat destroys a bushel of grain every year. The Journal of the American Medical Association says:

"The rat is a menace to us physically. He also threatens us commercially. Travelling in the bodies of ships, and dogging the commercial highways of the world, he is the veritable 'old man of the sea' whose appearance in the community is the sign of impending pestilence and the resultant commercial disaster. Bubonic plague is essentially a disease of commerce, and not only does harm through the human sacrifice which it claims, but also, because of the great fear it engenders, levies a heavy commercial tribute. A rat will consume approximately a bushel of grain in a year."

It is time and more than time for men to start a war of extermination against this rodent. As a plague-bearer it threatens every port in the world, and the opening of the Panama Canal will offer it new and enlarged opportunities for its unclean activities.

**TAXATION REFORM—WHAT IT MEANS**  
Sir James Whitney has done the cause of tax reform a great service, unwittingly. A few weeks ago it was expected that there would be in the Ontario legislature a compromise between the Liberal and the Conservative groups which favor the extension of improvements from taxation, and that the Whitney government would accept a measure agreeable to the advance views of both parties. Sir James Whitney has put a stop to that. He has refused to take any forward step, and he has whipped into line enough of his regulars to make his decision good.

But it is a Pyrrhic victory. The Ottawa Citizen, whose proprietors own the Hamilton Spectator also, immediately opened fire on the Premier. The Ottawa Journal, another influential Independent, Conservative newspaper, promptly seconded the Citizen's motion to the effect that Sir James Whitney must retire if the public is compelled to choose between him and the principle of tax reform. In saying this the Journal spoke up for the very principle Sir James has negated, that is, local option in taxation matters; and in doing so it answered, for Ontario and New Brunswick, some of the common objections which are urged against modern taxation methods. It said:

"Let the taxpayers in each community decide for themselves. They're no fools when it comes to parting with their money. Somebody in Toronto, Sir James, we think, suggested that farmers don't favor

the idea that building a should be less taxed than land. The Dominion Grange says they do. But if they don't, they don't have to, merely because local option may be granted. They would have the say. They could vote down all such propositions if they didn't like them."

The principal newspapers of Toronto, on both sides of politics, favor taxation reform, either outright, as in the case of the Toronto Globe and Toronto Star, or less directly, as in the case of the Toronto News and Toronto World. The issue is very much in the public eye in Ontario, which has followed Western Canada in giving close attention to the bearing of assessment and taxation upon the happiness and prosperity of every community.

Mr. A. B. Farmer, of the Tax Reform League, who spoke recently in St. John before an audience which should have been one hundred times as large as it was, speaks frequently in Toronto on this issue, and a few days ago he brought to the attention of an audience there certain facts which must be of interest everywhere. He cited hundreds of recent sales of property, the first class consisting of houses of less than \$5,000 in value, the second of property valued between \$5,000 and \$10,000, the third between \$10,000 and \$20,000, the fourth more than \$20,000, and the fifth vacant land. Of the properties valued at less than \$5,000, the assessment value was equal to seventy-three per cent of the sale price; of the properties valued between \$5,000 and \$10,000 the assessment value was equal to sixty-two per cent of the sale price; of the properties valued from \$10,000 to \$20,000 the assessment value was equal to forty-six per cent of the sale price; of the properties valued at more than \$20,000 the assessment value was equal to fifty-seven per cent of the sale price; the assessment value of 138 parcels of vacant land sold was equal to fifty-five per cent of the sale price.

In other words, the houses of lowest value, occupied by working men and other persons of moderate means, were assessed at about three-quarters of their value, while vacant land is assessed in the same city for about fifty-five per cent of its value, and costly central property is assessed only two per cent more than vacant land. The persons least able to pay are those who pay most. Such an assessment system encourages speculation in land, and the holding of it for profit, while it penalizes the laboring man and the small business man.

The Toronto Globe says that Mr. Farmer's figures indicate that residential improved property is too heavily taxed and that land is taxed far too lightly. The Globe says, further:

"It is in the taxation of workmen's houses that the greatest benefit would be conferred by a partial exemption of improvements. Workmen's houses are scarce, and land suitable for them is held at prices absurdly high. An increase of the taxation on that vacant land would force it into the market at reasonable prices and permit the desirous of home-building to secure the necessary land. Upon their buildings the taxes would be lighter than on the land, and this would induce the sale of the land. Such an assessment system encourages speculation in land, and the holding of it for profit, while it penalizes the laboring man and the small business man."

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country is prosperous, for their whole agitation for tariff reform was built upon a passing commercial depression in 1901-2. Free Trade cannot of itself confer plenty on a nation, but it can and does open Britain's ports to the world, enabling her to participate in the prosperity of all nations. The protectionist, by foolishly imposing an artificial barrier between the people and the world's produce, would deny them the right to exchange their work for the best value which the world has to offer.

Tariff reformers tell the workmen that they can make more work for them by shutting out foreign goods, and they talk lightly of tariff wars. They forget that just because Britain has such extensive commerce, she is particularly vulnerable. Compared with her shipping, the shipping of any other country is a pigmy. When the engineers have been removing the natural barriers to trade, building roads, constructing canals, leveling mountains, making ships, Free Trade statesmen have been removing artificial barriers to trade, and by refusing to impose protective duties they made effective the work of the engineer. The invention of the steam engine and of the steam ship made free trade a reality, and forever reduced the idea of protection to an absurdity. Protection is always an attempt to make ineffective the work of the engineer. Britain is prospering more than any other nation on earth today because her statesmen and engineers have worked hand in hand. Progress from the beginning has been due to the triumph of the engineer over natural protection. The contribution of British statesmen towards Britain's progress has been largely their determination not to impose protective duties. The whole world is under obligation to the British people, that they had the economic sense to value and preserve this policy.

**SEVENTY-FOUR YEARS YOUNG**  
His Honor Chief Justice Parker received from all quarters on Friday congratulations upon the completion of his seventy-fourth year, and to these The Telegraph would add its own. The bench and the bar of this province have enjoyed the activities of many men of distinction, and at seventy-four the present chief justice is now, as he long has been, in the van of Maritime Province jurists. Men of judgment in his own profession, as well as his fellow-citizens at large, unhesitatingly recognize the learning, the penetration, the judgment, and the dignity, which have marked his discharge of his important duties. So ably and so easily does His Honor fill his position, and so leniently his Father Time dealt with him, it would be gratuitous to discuss the merits of possible successors. None is required.

**THE HUNGRY FORTIES**  
Mr. Fisher Unwin has recently published a book—"The Hungry Forties"—the record of the starvation of the English people under the Corn Laws. The information has been collected by personal observation and correspondence with all over the country. It tells the story of "what the poverty meant to their sections." Of this startling book two editions of 200,000 have been sold.

The history of the British Corn Laws dates from the fifteenth century. During the Napoleonic wars grain prices were naturally high (110s per quarter in 1801) and the landlords did well. With peace came a fall in prices, and Parliament, which then consisted of what may be described as two Houses of Landlords, the lower largely in the pocket of the upper, enacted in 1815 a Corn Law altogether prohibiting importation when wheat fetched less than 80s per quarter, at which figure, or at any higher figure, it was duty free. The Corn Laws were subsequently mitigated by the introduction of a sliding scale. In 1828 the duty varied from one shilling per quarter with wheat at 78s, to 20s. 8d. with wheat at 60s, thereafter rising by a shilling for every shilling by which the price of wheat was less than 60s. In 1848 came Sir Robert Peel's repeal of the Corn Laws, to take effect in 1849. But the sufferings of the two preceding years caused the duties to be suspended before that date.

It was a remarkable situation that confronted the politicians of that period. There was no hesitation about a principle. Indeed the two rival parties disputed with one another as to the honor of originating the policy of Free Trade. It was by the principles of Free Trade that Peel and his lieutenants justified tariff-reform; and they indirectly sapped protection in general by dwelling on the mischiefs of minor forms of protection in particular. Even Lord Palmerston denounced the arrogance and presumption of dealers in restrictive duties "setting up their miserable legislation instead of the great standing laws of nature."

In introducing the proposals for the reform of the customs tariff, Peel made the Tories shiver by openly declaring that on the general principles of Free Trade there was no difference of opinion; that all agreed in the rule that we should buy in the cheapest market and sell in the dearest; that even if the foreigner were foolish, enough not to follow suit, it was still for the interest of Britain to buy as cheap as it could, whether other countries would buy from it or no.

Great Britain stands alone among the great commercial nations of the world in having adopted Free Trade as the fundamental principle of her economic policy. Gladstone declared after efficient terms commerce during the nineteenth century was largely due to this liberalizing principle. He said: "Under this code, our race, restored to freedom in mind and hand, and braced by the powerful stimulus of open competition with the world, has, upon the whole, surpassed itself and every other, and has won for itself a commercial primacy more evident, more comprehensive, and more solid than it had at any previous time possessed."

This code maintains that in order to secure the greatest possible mass of goods in the world as a whole, it is expedient to acknowledge that there should be no restriction in the

exchange of goods or services either between individuals or communities. The principle is implied in the very notion of exchange, and it is remarkable that politicians have been able with fallacies to blind men to its reasonableness. In every case of voluntary exchange each party gains something that is of greater value to him, than that with which he parts; and consequently in every exchange, both between individuals and between nations, both parties are the gainers. Since both parties gain through exchange, the more facilities there are for exchange the greater the advantage to every individual all round. Any trade restriction is always an expense to the country imposing the restriction. The restriction may be justifiable, but it must justify itself with a full realization of the expenditure. The game may be worth the candle or it may not, but at least it is well that we should know how far the candle is being burned.

The people have short memories, and past evils are soon forgotten. The evils that are present are pressing, and those that are past are felt no longer. It is upon this fact that the Unionists have built in their endeavor to reintroduce protection; but the experience of Britain has been too recent and too tragic for them to make much progress. The "hungry forties" is a most persistent memory, and Free Trade has been an increasing distance between Britain and her rivals, and given her an industrial position she will not consent to surrender for the benefit of any privileged class.

**THE INSOLVENCY OF BROTHERHOOD**  
That all men should be alike or equal, by any standard whatever, is contrary to all the facts of human nature and to all the conditions of human life. Galton estimates the number of men of genius in all history at four hundred. An important fraction of these were related by blood. The "men of the time" he rates at four hundred and fifty in a million. These latter he defines by saying that a man, to be included among them, "should have distinguished himself pretty frequently, either by purely original work, or as a leader of opinion." He finds that illustrious men are only one in a million.

On the other hand, idiots and imbeciles in England and Wales are one in four hundred, of whom thirty per cent can be educated so as to be equal to one-third of a normal man each; forty per cent can be made worth two-thirds of a man; twenty-five or thirty per cent can pass muster in a crowd. Above these are silly persons whose relatives shield them from public knowledge, and who are untouched by statistics.

Social reforms are never tired of asserting, and with good show of reason, that the rate of living today in all progressive countries is rapidly increasing the proportion of those who are of no benefit to the state. Then the vast accumulation of property in the hands of predatory individuals and corporations, or the "natural easiness" of many persons of genius, increases the number of those against whom society must protect itself. The master thief with his acrobatic accomplices, and with his army of imitators, makes up a certain percentage of all populations. The organization of this class was never shown to better advantage than in the way they recently got wind of the fact that the Credit Lyonnais, in conjunction with the Bank of England, was about to despatch £200,000 in boxes to Alexandria. The arch plotters of the underworld, patient of toil and patient of delay, always ready to poise over land to ocean to compass their design, succeeded in transferring a large portion of these sovereigns and half-sovereigns to their own use. The boxes arrived with their seals intact, but somewhere in transit between Thessalonice street and Alexandria an exchange was effected, and many boxes arrived at their destination without the gold.

Every civilized society has to carry those classes that are either aggressively militant or a dead weight upon it. The weight of ignorance, poverty, crime and disease which is borne by society is difficult to estimate. It is impossible completely to remove this weight, but it can be greatly lessened. No laws have been discovered by which genius can be produced; but if poverty were removed, with it would go much of the crime, vice, ignorance and intemperance with which society struggles. The child is a plant, an animal, that needs pure and fresh food, including air, "clean dirt," full activity, and beauty of sound, scene and association. These we can give them—all; not only only—but all. The children that are wasted, that might grow up in useful activity would have a capitalized value of millions. Greater than the waste of land, greater than the waste of manual labor, greater than all other wastes of the world, is the waste of those who "rest their head upon the lap of earth," unexpressed to the last because, "their lot forbade." Poverty is the great tragedy of the world today, and it is the least excusable of all tragedies. The pretence that the world cannot greatly advance both poverty and ignorance is a lie. It is the ineptness of brotherhood.

**NOTE AND COMMENT**  
The European situation still gives anxiety, but the weight of opinion is for the optimistic French Premier, Poincaré, who expects peace—and an extended period of tranquility.

St. John harbor receives extended and favorable mention in an article in the London Times of December 13 regarding Canadian ports. After describing St. John's harbor facilities, The Times says: "The city of St. John has cheerfully assumed her obligations for the betterment of her port, and in return for this enterprise is at present enjoying a marked degree of prosperity."

The Montreal Star, which ordinarily is not given to humor, publishes a picture of Mr. Oswald S. Crockett, M. P. for York, under which it prints these words: "Who is mentioned as a candidate for the Chief

Justice of New Brunswick." The office in question is not seeking Mr. Crockett to any alarming extent, and, if he is doing the seeking, the office is in no danger of being overtaken.

The remarkable trial of the labor union officials charged with complicity in the McNamara dynamite plot resulted in an unexpected verdict, for while it was thought that some of the indicted men would be found guilty, probably few expected that thirty-eight out of forty would be condemned. Union labor in the United States will doubtless profit by the awful lesson afforded by the McNamara adventure.

The report that the street railway and the city will agree upon a double track to Kane's Corner is a cheerful one and the city would welcome a confirmation of it. And still more would the city welcome the fixing of a definite date for the completion of the extension. In the matter of improvements St. John suffers materially from extensions of time. The street railway should have been carried to Little River last summer.

The Telegraph had a visit from a delegation of Go-Preachers and some of their adherents on Saturday, and a statement of their case, as they see it, is printed in this issue. These men asked that any accusation against them should be specific, public, and presented by individuals ready to take full responsibility for what is alleged. That is fair, enough. There is now an opportunity awaiting any one who possesses any real first-hand knowledge concerning this matter, but the time for hearsay evidence is clearly past.

Premier Whitney, of Ontario, has set his face against taxation reform, which is advocated by most Liberals and many Conservatives in that province. The first fruit of the Premier's decision is a frontal attack upon him by the Ottawa Citizen, the leading Conservative newspaper of that province, which is owned by Messrs. Southam. They have other influential newspapers in Ontario. This division in the Ontario Conservative ranks reminds the Toronto Globe of something the Conservative Toronto Telegram once said about Sir James. This is it:

"The Toronto Telegram once said that if you threw a brick through the window of any country lawyer's office in Ontario you could strike a (Sir) James Whitney. A term in office has demonstrated the truth thus figuratively declared."

Canadian churches are beginning to advertise their Sunday services like men who really believe in printer's ink. In Montreal, Toronto and other cities, one sees in the newspapers on Saturdays display advertisements of growing size, intended to attract, not members only, but others, to the churches. It is not strange that the churches have discovered the solid merits of advertising. The progressive clergyman is no longer content to preach to his "regulars," to direct his addresses only to the converted. So he advertises in order to fill the church. Here is an example from the Manitoba Free Press of last Saturday:

"10,000 AMERICANS.  
"There are ten thousand Americans in Winnipeg, who will be interested in a special discourse to be delivered by Dr. L. Gordon, in Central Church on Sunday evening on the subject: 'How Long Will the United States Endure at the Present Rate of Speed?' A great Christmas service will be held at 11 a.m. The church will be handsomely decorated. Dr. Gordon will preach on 'Christmas Morning in the Old Homestead.' Two thousand copies of Dr. Gordon's sermon, 'What Do We Know About Heaven?' will be distributed at the morning service."

From a London special cable to the Conservative Montreal Gazette:

"A Bonar Law, whose leadership of the Unionist party from the outset has been of questionable success, has given himself a coup de grace.  
"Speaking at Ashton-under-Lyne on Monday on the question of the tariff, he declined to submit food duties to a referendum, as Lord Lansdowne had suggested, on the ground that it would tie the hands of the colonies, and said he proposed to let the colonies decide whether foodstuffs be taxed."

"Apparently Mr. Law no longer possesses a single supporter of any prominence in the ranks of his own party unless F. E. Smith be excepted, and even the latter has not been warm in his backing. 'Usually after a party leader has made a big speech in the country his next appearance in the House of Commons is the signal for rousing cheers from his personal friends,' says Mr. MacDonald, who on Tuesday his reception was so cold as to suggest that its temperature was not only rigid but calculated."

"One of the leading provincial papers has flatly thrown Mr. Law overboard and plainly intimated that he is not the man to lead the party, while The Times has politely intimated 'something not very much different.'"

Brandon has a new and vigorous newspaper, The Daily News. In its first editorial it touches two topics of interest here in the East, and its treatment of them is at once clear and significant. It says:

"In common with all true Canadians The Daily News glories in the splendid traditions of the great family of nations which composes the British Empire. It believes that the bonds of blood and common aspirations which make one whole of the component parts of that Empire need no artificial ties to supplement their strength or to ensure their permanence. It believes that he who is most truly Canadian is most truly British and holds as beneath contempt those who cry out that an increase of Canada's prosperity will threaten her loyalty."

"The Daily News desires to proclaim at the outset the unflinching adherence to the doctrine of the wider market. It believes that the time has arrived when no man need place his ear to the ground to catch the cry of protest going up from the prairie provinces against the exploitation of the West for the selfish ends of the Eastern manufacturer. It believes that the demand for freer trade is grounded in justice and that its gathering force will soon batter down the tariff walls which restrict the development of the West and inflict serious handicap upon its inhabitants. One of its aims will be to do what lies in its power to hasten that day by adding its voice to the volume of that demand."

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

(The opinions of correspondents are not necessarily those of The Telegraph. This newspaper does not undertake to publish all or any of the letters received. Undesired communications will not be noticed. Write on one side of paper only. Communications must be plainly written; otherwise they will be rejected. Stamps should be enclosed if return of manuscript is desired in case it is not used. The name and address of the writer should be sent with every letter as evidence of good faith.—Ed. Telegraph.)

## THE NOTION POST OFFICE

To the Editor of The Telegraph:  
Sir,—That the Borden government has caused a great deal of dissatisfaction in this locality by making a change in postmasters is admitted by everybody. Mr. H. Baster, now ex-postmaster, has always given excellent service. The building in which he kept the post office was located very handy to the trains, and when the train came in on the Central Railway the time was lost in getting the mails sorted ready for the C. P. R. going west fifteen minutes later. Let me remind you that the Central Railway is fifty-eight miles long and at nearly every stopping place delivers mails to carriers who drive to the branch line of equal length in the province that serves so large a community with mail as the Central Railway. It is very important that the mail of this railway should get away from Norton on the C. P. R. going west. If it does not it suffers a day's delay. The present postmaster drives the mail across the river, where it is sorted, and before this can be done the C. P. R. has gone and comes the delay. It now appears that the purpose is to continue keeping the post office on the other side of the river, and so delays will be a permanent thing. Many people think, irrespective of politics, that a better selection for the office should be found in the ranks of the Conservative party. There are men, who did not begin their career in political infamy, who would be glad to do their duty, and who would be glad to have a mail clerk put in the train? This clerk could be taken from the ranks of the C. P. R. and it would not have to be taken across the river to be made up. I submit this idea through the post to the postal authorities, and trust that they will see to having something done which will ensure to the public a more prompt dispatch of their mail matters.

ONLOOKER  
Norton (N. B.), Dec. 28, 1912.

**THE MAILS**  
To the Editor of The Telegraph:  
Sir: I wonder what our forefathers would have said to our modern postal facilities? Would they have believed it would be possible (even during the rush of the Christmas season) for one to send a letter to a distant point, and have it reach its destination in less than five days in transmission? Such, however, is the simple fact. I had a refreshing experience of it last week, having occasion to send a packet of manuscript and other documents to a well known business man in Sussex. I mailed this on Saturday afternoon, Dec. 21, and it was received at its destination in Sussex on Thursday, Dec. 26, or in other words in the almost incredible time of four days and twelve hours after being posted there.

Truly we live in an age of wonders! Yours truly,  
ONLOOKER.

**WOODSTOCK MASONIC INSTALLATION**  
Woodstock, N. B., Dec. 27.—The installation of officers of Woodstock Lodge No. 11, F. & A. M., took place at the annual communication this afternoon, Dec. 27, in the Masonic hall, K. W. Bro. Emerson L. Ragerman, D. G. M., acting as installing officer. The officers for the current year are as follows: E. K. Connolly, worshipful master; John A. Lindsay, senior warden; William W. S. Sellen, junior warden; H. A. Seely, chaplain; William Fisher, treasurer; Donald Munro, secretary; Raymond M. Gabel, senior deacon; Thomas R. Gabel, junior deacon; George E. Smith, senior steward; E. Frank Wolferton, junior steward; Col. W. C. Good, director of ceremonies; Roy J. Carr, music guard; Emerson L. Ragerman, Tyler.

**A NEWCASTLE CONCERT**  
Newcastle, Dec. 26.—The Newcastle branch of the Salvation Army, conducted by Essie Miles Gray and Lieut. Mrs. Macdonald, held a Christmas tree concert Christmas night, at which many were present. Mrs. B. F. Malby occupied the chair. The tree was well loaded and the children delighted. Angus McIvor impersonated Santa Claus very successfully. The programme included devotional exercises by the officers, several dialogues and choruses, and by Keith McDonald and Annie Stewart; solos by Lieut. McDonald, Charles Ruth, and recitations by Lottie W. Litney, Mollie Dickson, Viola D. Cher, Roy Stewart, Amy Stewart, Lieut. McDonald, Ruth Stewart, Hazel Johnson, Beatrice Johnson, Clark Dickson, Katie McKenzie, Wilfrid Whitson, Essie Gray, Cora Whitney, Christie Ashford and Annie McCallum.

**ABE MARTIN**  
HOTEL  
MILLINE