

A FLEETING BLESSING.

HOW MONCTON PEOPLE REGARD THE STREET RAILWAY.

When the Authorities Threatened to Close it Down the People Began to Realize Just What a Benefit it was in the Town.—Will Now Appreciate it.

MONCTON, Sept. 20.—We came so near losing our brand new electric street railway last week, that all the good citizens of Moncton are a good deal unnerved from the shock, and are congratulating each other tremulously upon the narrow escape they have had. I don't mean that some particular bold thief tried to put the electric street railway system in his pocket and abscond with it; or even that the historic cow which was to prove the destruction of Stevenson's first engine, has materialized in Moncton, and wrecked the railway and rolling stock by carelessly lying down on the track. No! it is worse than that. A paternal government has threatened to take it away from us, just as a wise, but tyrannical parent disciplines a disobedient child by taking away his toy from him until he promises to be good. And just as the child values that particular toy far more after its removal, than he ever did before, and howls lustily to have it restored to his empty arms, so we have been telling each other with the most impressive earnestness how much we always thought of the street railway and how impossible it would be to exist without it now. We have also bragged to an unlimited extent, and with far more regard for scenic effect than truth, of the number of the times we have used the railway, and the absolute necessity we have found it.

The cause of this very unusual state of affairs dates back to the early history of the street railway, almost a year now, when the I. C. R. authorities first caused objections to the street cars crossing the railway tracks at St. George and Main streets, finally taking the rather extreme measure of removing the diamond crossings during the night thus effectually preventing the cars from crossing the railway, and compelling the company to resort to a cumbersome system of transfers which undoubtedly militated against the success of the street railway at first, many people preferring to walk rather than be subjected to the inconvenience and delay of getting on, and off the cars so often.

The difficulty was finally settled on the understanding—so the I. C. R. authorities say—that the street railway company would eventually put in derailing switches, and then protect the government from the danger of suits for damages in case of accidents.

Meanwhile, the safety of the passengers and the interests of the government were both looked well after, the car being stopped, and the conductor alighting and looking carefully up and down the railway track at each crossing, before the car proceeded on its way. But as time went on the street railway failed to pay sufficiently well to warrant the large expenditure required for the purchase and working of derailing switches, and as the citizens were quite satisfied with the precautions taken for their safety nothing further was done about the crossings. Quite recently, however, I believe the street railway company received notice that the order passed by the I. C. R. committee with regard to the derailing switches, would be enforced to the letter, and unless complied with at once, the crossings would be again taken out. In consequence of this ultimatum the stockholders held a meeting last Thursday and decided to recommend the directors of the company to close the street railway down on Saturday night, as the income of the road did not admit of such an expenditure.

It was when this decision was made public that everybody hastened to evince their warm appreciation of the street car service. People who had never been on the cars before realized that it was now or never and they rushed out to take their first ride in wild haste. Small boys gathered up their pennies boarded the cars in gangs and took charge until they had secured their full five cents worth of ride "scripture measure;" while those who like simple Simon of nursery fame had no pennies to gather, watched their chance when the motor man was not looking, and cheerfully stole a ride. People who did not make use of the street cars once in three months, and had not contributed fifty cents towards their support since the railway was built, talked volubly about the high handed action of the government, and threatened to move out of town now, and vote for the opposition next election, if the street railway was really compelled to shut down. Others who had rather opposed the street cars from the first, and maintained that they only ruined the best streets in the city and made them utterly impracticable for cycling, now recalled the busy metropolitan appearance that the cars imparted to our city, the effect the railway

had had, in improving property, and lamented in advance the lifeless look of the city when bereft of them.

Altogether Saturday was a busy day with the street railway people, and the hustle and excitement made a pleasant change from the monotony of their usual existence. The big motorman said it almost made him think of some of the smaller villages outside of Bawston, and it half a dozen of those small boys did not get killed somehow, it would be a caution, for he had only one pair of eyes and they weren't set in the back of his head, not to speak of its taking all his time to mind his machine, and collect all the fares he could reach without taking his hand off the lever, he was finding the need of a second pair of hands more every day since the conductors were taken off the circuit. Late on Saturday evening the strain of the situation was relaxed when the joyful news spread rapidly that action had been suspended in the matter until a reply could be received from Ottawa, to a letter written by the street railway company to the department, asking for delay until some arrangement could be made. And this morning the cars are running as merrily, and almost as empty as ever. There is a good deal to be said on the government's side as well as the company's in this dispute, and it is quite natural, that the I. C. R. people should wish to protect themselves. Of course it is all right so long as no accident occurs, but the moment anything happens at one of these crossings and someone is injured there is certain to be a heavy bill of damages to settle. On the other hand it is difficult to understand why, when no derailing switches are required of the street railway in St. John, there should be any determination against Moncton, especially when the road is paying so poorly that the agreement of such an order would result in closing it down.

It is to be hoped that the difficulty will be amicably settled without subjecting us to the humiliation of shutting down an enterprise which is a very great credit to our city and which will no doubt in time prove a source of profit as well as pride to those who were sufficiently public spirited to risk their capital in its promotion.

THEIR HARVEST CELEBRATION.

It Was Strictly Allegorical but not a Very Beautiful Procession.

MONCTON, Sept. 24.—The Moncton branch of the Salvation Army had a harvest festival, or procession of some kind last evening, and the sight was a most impressive one to those who are interested in processions of an allegorical nature.

First came a youth arrayed in man-of-war costume and mounted upon a bicycle. He probably typified the speed with which the British navy rushed over the waves and ruled them—at least that was the way some of the bystanders interpreted his get up. He was followed at a more dignified pace by a gentleman arrayed chiefly in holes, so very ragged were his garments, manfully trundling a wheelbarrow, which I fancy contained some of the products of nature's bounty, in the shape of vegetables. He was popularly supposed to represent honest labor bearing home its reward in triumph. The band, led by the bass drum followed several of the members bearing in place of the usual banners choice specimens of the pumpkin and squash family, while one embraced a water melon, with much tenderness. Several lady members of the army came next, some bearing hay rakes, others squashes, and probably personating Ceres and Pomona or some of the other ladies of mythology whose duty it was to watch over the products of the earth and see that they materialized on schedule time, and were of the proper quality and quantity. The extreme rear of the procession was brought up by some youths armed with pitchforks but whether they were supposed to typify the successful gathering in of the hay crop, or the terrors which await the hardened evil doer at the hands of a gentleman who is usually represented as brandishing a pitchfork, and lashing a pair of cloven hoofs with a very long and pointed tent, no one seemed quite able to determine. Those taking part in the procession did not allow the care of their vegetables and agricultural implements to interfere with their social powers in the least, and as they marched they sang a weird harvest chant—at least I think it was a harvest chant—to the accompaniment of the big drum with great effect. The procession was escorted by outsiders, as well as an advance and rear guard composed of several battalions of small boys

and a goodly following of admiring citizens from the eastern suburbs of the town. Taken altogether it was a function to be remembered and its impressive character reflected great credit upon those having the affair in charge. Apart from its comic aspect there was something really pathetic to those who look beneath the surface in this small, but courageous band of men and women who still continue to labor patiently, and with so little encouragement, amongst the poor and vicious whom other methods fail to reach. Poor and tawdry often absolutely irreverent as these methods often seem to the members of regular churches who are taught the most rigid decorum in religious matters, these people are at least sincere thoroughly in earnest, and filled with zeal and are therefore entitled to the respect which they really receive in the main even if they do seem a little ridiculous to us at times.

HE STILL GROWLED.

A man who would be dissatisfied under all circumstances.

'Growl ye may, but go ye must,' is one of the recognized axioms of life on the ocean wave, says the author of 'On Many Seas.' Accordingly, he goes on to say, there is no more confirmed growler than Jack at sea. He has, often enough, serious matters to growl about, even now, and in the old days he had more; but when real grievances were not present, he was usually imaginative enough to concoct others. A typical marine growler was Ned, of the old clipper-ship Tanjore, Captain Hurlburt.

One gloomy day a number of sailors, Ned among them, were cleaning paint forward in the rain; for paint-cleaning a-board ship used to be a job reserved for wet days, in accordance with a notion that the rain softened the dirt.

It was not a pleasant task, and Ned was muttering to himself as he scrubbed, running over under his breath a wonderful accumulation of grievances of all sorts. The captain chanced to notice him, and inquired what was the matter.

Ned reeled off a long string of complaints, none of them worth considering, and concluded by saying that he had not had a decent meal of victuals since he came aboard the Tanjore. At that the captain, who always led his crew well, flared up and told the grumbler that he had never in his life had better grub than was served on board that ship; but Ned rejoined that he had been where he had chickens and turkeys at almost every meal.

'Where was that?' asked the captain. 'On the coast of China, sir,' said Ned. 'Yes; I know,' assented the captain. 'I have traded on the China coast, and that is so; but I'll bet you growled then?' 'Well, of course,' was the naive and characteristic reply. 'Who do you suppose wants to live on such swill as that? I want good beef to eat, and then I can work!'

Shorthand at Home.

The young man or woman who has mastered shorthand is sure of employment in any English speaking country. Wages, of course, vary according to proficiency. You can learn it at home. Lessons free.

Snell's Business College, Truro, N. S.

CONDENSED ADVERTISEMENTS.

Announcements under this heading not exceeding five lines (about 35 words) cost 25 cents each insertion. Five cents extra for every additional line.

WANTED Lady or gentlemen experienced in canvassing for books to travel and appoint agents in Canada. No canvassing. Salary and expenses paid. Elliott Pub. Co., Phila., Pa.

WANTED Old established wholesale House wants one or two honest and industrious representatives for this section. Can pay a hustler about \$12.00 a week to start with. DRAWER 29, Brantford, Ont.

WANTED Young men and women to help in the Armenian cause. Good pay. Will send copy of my little book, "Your Place in Life," free, to any who write. Rev. T. S. Linscott, Brantford, Ont.

WANTED RELIABLE MERCHANTS in each town to handle our water-proof Cold Water Paint. Five million pounds sold in United States last year. VICTOR KOFOD, 49 Francis Xavier, Montreal.

RESIDENCE at Rothesay for sale or to rent in the summer months. That pleasantly situated house known as the Titus property about one and a half miles from Rothesay Station and within two minutes walk of the Kennebecasis. Rent reasonable. Apply to H. G. Fensley, Barrister-at-Law, Pugsley Building. 24 6-11

KERR'S BOOKKEEPING.

(New Edition.) JOINT STOCK CO. BOOKKEEPING fully explained. Will enable any intelligent bookkeeper to open books for new company, change from partnership to single proprietorship or Joint Stock Co. books, and to close books and show result of business. Mailed to any address for \$1.

Send for sample pages and our Business and Shorthand Catalogues. S. KERR & SON, St. John, N. B.

When found, make a Note on't.

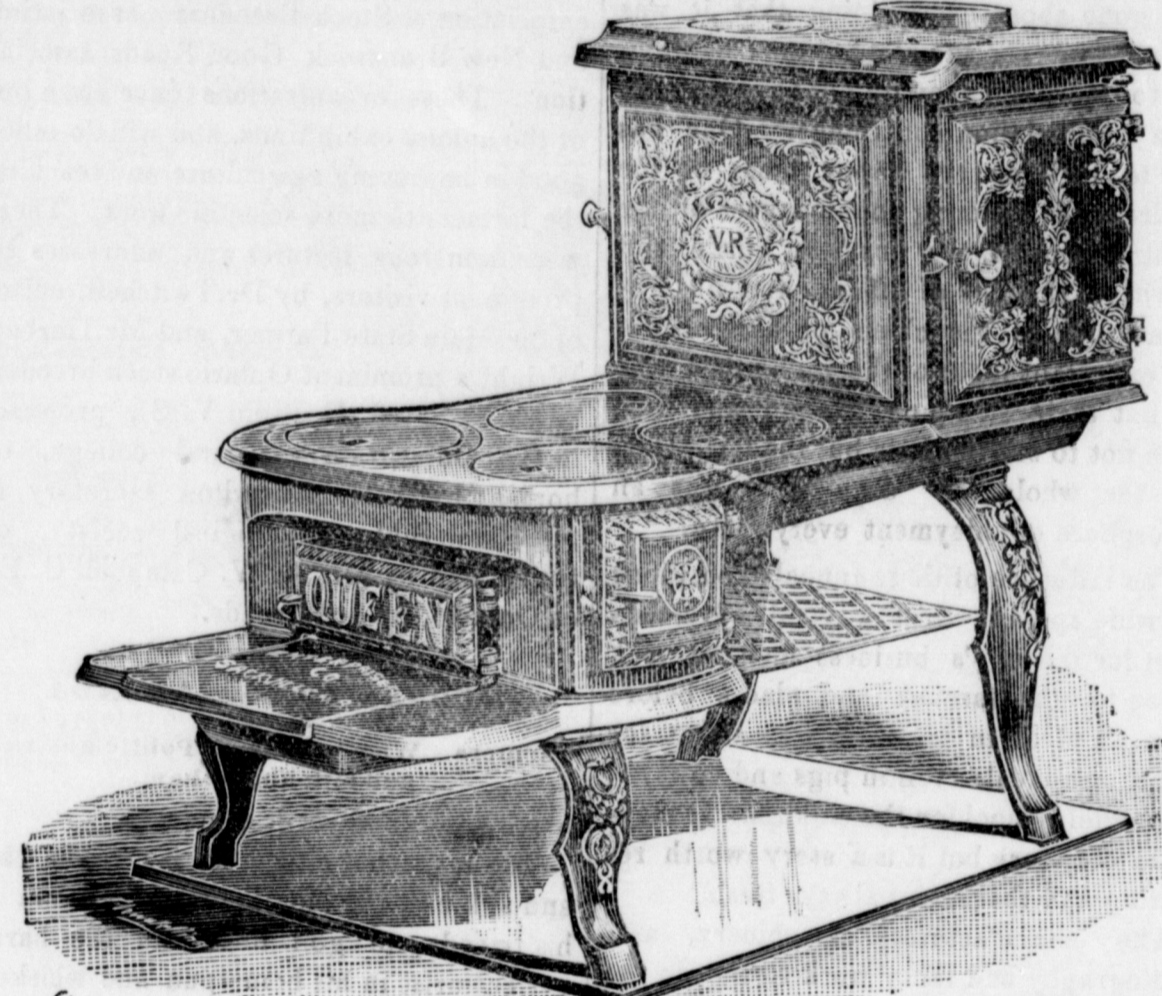


This was Captain Cuttle's advice. Do the same with Eclipse Soap

The best value in laundry soap. Try it.

Send us 25 "Eclipse" wrappers, or 6c. in stamps with coupon and we will mail you a popular novel. A coupon in every bar of "Eclipse."

JOHN TAYLOR & CO., Manufacturers, Toronto, Ont.



THE QUEEN ELEVATED OVEN COOK, For Wood We now offer this elegant stove at \$13.00, cash.

We also offer the well known Niagara, Star, Waterloo, Maritime and Comfort, all at equally low prices.

Our line of Hall Stoves is now complete.

EMERSON & FISHER.

When You Order Pelee Island Wines

.....BE SURE YOU GET OUR BRAND.

GAGETOWN, July 26, 1897.

E. G. SCOVIL, Agent Pelee Wine Co. DEAR SIR—My wife had been afflicted with nervous prostration for several years, using every kind of medicine recommended, but obtaining no relief until I procured some of your PELEE WINE, which I am delighted to say has had the desired effect. It is the greatest tonic of the age. I think to much cannot be said in its praise, and no house should be without it. We have recommended it to several suffering from La Grippe and Debility with like good results. I am yours gratefully JOHN C. CLOWES.

Ask for Our Brand and See You Get It E. G. SCOVIL { Maritime Agent } 62 Union Street. Tea and Wines

Jewelry.

IN BRACELETS, BROOCHES, EARRINGS, PENDENTS, LOCKETS, NECK CHAINS, GUARDS, LINKS, STUDS, RINGS, STICK PINS, HAT PINS, Etc.

We have a large stock to select from, and will make prices right. FERGUSON & PAGE. 41 KING STREET.

W. C. RUDMAN ALLAN

—HAS JUST RECEIVED— Pears' Violet Powder, Lubins' Violet Powder, Kobanut Gum, Extract Wild Strawberry, Beechman's Pepsin Gum, Beechman's Pills, Euthymot Tooth Paste, and Odoroma.

Physicians' Prescriptions receive most careful attention. My delicious Orange Phosphate and Cream Soda cannot be surpassed. Remember the STORE.

Allan's Pharmacy, 35 King Street THE WHITE AND GOLD FRONT. Telephone 239.

CROCKETT'S....

CATARRH CURE!

A positive cure for Catarrh, Colds in Head, etc., Prepared by

THOMAS A CROCKETT, 162 Princess St. Cor. Sydney

OYSTERS always on hand. FISH and GAME in season.

MEALS AT ALL HOURS. DINNER A SPECIALTY.

CAFE ROYAL

BANK OF MONTREAL BUILDING, 56 Prince William St., - - St. John, N. B. WM. CLARK, Proprietor.

Retail dealer in..... CHOICE WINES, ALES and LIQUORS.

Angostora Bitters.

10 Cases Genuine Dr. Sigert's. FOR SALE LOW. THOS. L. BOURKE WATER STREET.

Ask your grocer for Windsor Salt For Table and Dairy, Purest and Best