

The recent despatch of a steamer, grain laden from St. John for Liverpool, had given those who regarded that city as Canada's real winter port, considerable hope that a better day was dawning for our ambitious commercial metropolis, but it appears the labor question is intervening in a way that may drive the grain shipment business entirely away from St. John. General freight agent Tiffin of the C. P. R., has made public, correspondence in reference to the matter of ship laborers' wages. When the grain elevator at the Canadian Pacific terminus was completed, the company entered into a contract with the Furness steamship company for space in steamships for the next three sailings. The intention was to continue to furnish cargoes for four or five later trips. But the Furness company, having failed to induce ship laborers to work for less than \$5 per day, as against \$2 paid by them at Halifax, have notified the railway that they cannot do business at the rate of the agreement, and will discontinue after two more cargoes contracted for are taken. Mr. Tiffin says that the railway cannot allow the steamships more than the present contract, and as a result of this more they will send grain, hay and other merchandise to some other port. Mr. Schofield the Furness manager, and Mr. Tiffin, have presented the case to the ship laborers' union, which is distinctly informed that after two more sailings there will be no more work at Sand Point wharf at the present rate of wages.

A CIVIC CIRCUS.

The city of Hull, opposite Ottawa, has been laughing this week over an event in civic circles. At a recent meeting of the council, the city clerk accused of a defalcation, was dismissed, and a committee consisting of the mayor and two aldermen, was appointed to take over the books, etc. But the clerk had no idea of giving up his job so early. When the mayor called on him in his office he refused to surrender the books, denying the alleged shortage. He also refused to give the combination of the lock on the door of the vault containing the books, and attempted to close the door, when the mayor stepped into the opening and prevented him. The mayor and the city clerk were alone in the office. The mayor is large, young and strong; the city clerk is small, old and weak. He took his seat at his desk and let the mayor stand in the opening of the vault. The mayor stood there for an hour. At last he said, "One of the aldermen appeared, and as the city clerk still refused to give up the combination, which he alone knows, the alderman went for the agent of the manufacturers of the vault, who could set the lock to a new combination from the inside. He also sent a policeman to relieve the mayor, and that dignity departed, leaving the limb of the law in the vault opening and the city clerk still at his desk. By and by the policeman got tired and strolled to the window to see if the agent was coming. The moment he reached the window the clerk jumped from his desk, slammed the door which closed with a spring, put on his hat and walked out. When the agent arrived he said there was no possibility of his changing the combination of the lock without getting inside the vault, and the only way to do this is to make an opening in the wall large enough for the agent to crawl through. The clerk still refuses to disclose the combination, and if he persists in his refusal, a breach is to be made in the wall.

THE UNFORTUNATE LEPEERS.

A public institution of which little is known, but yet is performing its duty in an unfortunate case of leprosy, is the leper hospital at Tracadie in the county of Gloucester. There are at present twenty patients in the hospital or lazaretto, and it is called, eleven males and nine females. Eleven of these are in the first or early stage of the malady, six in the second, and three are in the final stage. There were six deaths during the past year and four new cases were admitted. Of those admitted, two came from Lower Carleton, one from Shippagan parish, and one from the parish of St. Isidore in all in the county of Gloucester. Dr. Smith, the superintendent reports the disease extinct at Tracadie outside the hospital, and that those entering during recent years came from the above mentioned outlying parishes, and from the poorer class of the inhabitants. He finds that poor sanitary surroundings, defective and bad dietetic conditions, and uncleanness, are important factors in the spread of leprosy. The superintendent observes that the female patients entering the institution, although seeming to suffer more keenly at first, become resigned to their sad lot much sooner than do males. Friends and relatives are allowed to visit the poor unfortunate, but as a general thing, a leper's relatives look upon him, when immersed in the lazaretto, as gone from them for ever, and seldom visit him. In the early stages of the disease there is seldom much suffering beyond pains resembling rheumatism, but near the close of life there is much distress, particularly from ulcerated mouth, tongue and throat. The lepers are not in any sense prisoners. During the past summer the men and boys spent a portion of each day during the weather, in boating and fishing on the harbor. The government having liberally provided for their maintenance, and the religious ladies in charge devoting their time to their bodily comfort and spiritual welfare, the lepers seem to pass the time happily, rather than otherwise.

PASSED THE LOWER HOUSE.

The Wilson tariff bill, in which Canadians take a living interest, passed the House of Representatives at Washington, Thursday evening, by a vote of 204 to 140. The bill embodying as it does the Cleveland, Democratic policy, a step towards free trade, was fervently opposed by the Republicans, and the events leading up to its final passage in the House, says a Washington despatch, were almost unparalleled in the annals of the country. At 12 o'clock Thursday, the bill was reported to the house, and the closing speeches were made before such a vast concourse of people assembled as had never before been seen within the precincts of the nation's legislative capital. Four hours before the debate began, the corridors leading to the galleries were a surging mass of humanity, which finally became so great that men cried out in terror and women in fright. It was estimated that over twenty thousand persons attempted to gain admittance to the galleries. The seating capacity is about three thousand. When Mr. Reid, of

Maine, arose at last to deliver his final plea for protection, every inch of space upon the floor was taken. It was a brilliant affair as a large assembly. Only ten of 354 members of the house were absent. In the galleries were Mrs. Cleveland, Mrs. Vice-President Stevenson and other well known ladies. For three hours the oratory of the champions of the two economic systems followed, Crisp and Wilson, while their partisans made the air ring with shouts of approval. When it came to voting, the victory for the measure was overwhelming, the majority for the bill, 64, exceeding the most sanguine expectation of democratic members of the ways and means committee.

When the speaker announced the vote, cheer after cheer rolled upon the democratic side. Papers, hats, congressional records, and in fact everything which democrats could lay their hands upon, were flung high in the air, and a perfect pandemonium of joy the house adjourned.

FRENCH NAVAL SCARE.

England is having her naval scare, and the Frenchmen have caught the infection. The condition of their navy occupied the attention of the French parliament, Wednesday, and some severe and startling statements were made. One deputy quoted from the reports of experts, and from official reports to show that the coast defenses had been neglected and sacrificed to the rivalry between the naval and military departments. The forts at Rochefort, L'Orient, Brest and Cherbourg, he said, were in bad condition. The torpedo boats at Toulon were notably worthless. He enumerated the result of his observations in regard to the materiel, and declared that, in the event of war being suddenly declared against France, her coast defenses were not prepared to prevent an enemy from landing. The island of Corsica, he said, was absolutely unprotected. If, as he desired, were able to land on the island 15,000 men in a few hours time. The ships placed at the disposal of France's brave seamen were utterly unworthy of these heroic men. The superiority of the French sailors was powerless against the inferiority of their vessels. If France should be defeated in her next war, those who would be responsible, would be those who had failed to provide the armaments which modern science rendered necessary. Havre and Dieppe were at the mercy of any fleet that desired to bombard them, while Brest and Boulogne were practically defenceless.

M. Abel said that the ministry of marine, not the local officials, was responsible for the condition of affairs at the Toulon arsenal. He, personally, was convinced that the Mediterranean coast defenses were inadequate.

M. Guizy, member for the first division of L'Orient, caused a sensation in the chamber by reading a telegram showing that the stock of flour at L'Orient arsenal had been exhausted, and that this fact had prevented the sailing of a transport vessel.

Premier Casimir-Perier asked the chamber to adjourn the debate until Thursday, to enable the government to examine the charges.

A WARM WELCOME.

Lord and Lady Aberdeen have been attending the Quebec carnival this week, and were given a rousing reception wherever they appeared. They arrived at the ancient Capital in the big snow storm, Tuesday, but that did not dampen the ardor of the populace in giving them a warm welcome. When His Excellency alighted from his car and entered his sleigh, the horses were unharmed, ropes more than a hundred feet long were attached to the vehicle, snowshoes in blanket coats formed a line on either side of either rope, and away sped Canada's viceroynalty up the hill that leads from the station to the Chateau Frontenac hotel. A bodyguard of representatives of the different clubs surrounded the sleigh, and so novel and interesting was the scene, and so enthusiastic was everybody, that Lord and Lady Aberdeen could not forbear laughing heartily. The fun was infectious, and there was soon plenty of sunshine, despite the storm. Immediately on leaving the station the General passed under the Eiffel living arch, the corners and summit of which were manned by snowshoes in uniform. Before entering, though, His Excellency, in both French and English, expressed his gratitude for, and appreciation of the honor done him, declaring to the leapers that he had seen such a spectacle before, and would never forget it.

ENGINES OF EVIL.

Hon. S. H. Blake who is a brother of Hon. Edward Blake, and one of the leading lawyers of Ontario, in an address before the prisoners' aid association of Toronto, declared that one of the greatest evils of modern times is the daily newspaper, with its vile details of every brutal crime as instruction for beginners. Journalists tell the public how to poison folk and how to cover up crime; they have taught young women how to commit infanticide without discovery. The public trial, too, was as bad. Nothing was so disgusting to him as to have to sit in court waiting for another case while a criminal trial was in progress. The court room is crowded with boys and girls, and men and women; the nudging, the ripples of laughter as the heady and abominable details were elicited, was horrible to contemplate. The incentive to crime supplied by the newspapers and the courts was insatiable. In the majority of cases the criminal was made before he was twenty. Poverty was better than cure. Boys arrested for breaking glass, etc., should be dealt with in a fatherly way. They should not be thrown in with a lot of criminals to be forever contaminated. A reformatory for drunks should be provided; the present \$2 or thirty days system was a cruel farce. Poverty was not a crime, and not a single man should be in jail because he is insane or destitute. Poorhouses, with work for everyone, should be insisted on.

A young man named Keirstead from Kings county, a protégé of finance minister Foster, has been appointed a clerk in the St. John post office in spite of the efforts of Messrs. Hazen, McLeod and Chesley. M. P., to secure the position for a St. John man. The St. John members are being snubbed right and left by the Ottawa ministers these days, and give no evidence of resentment at the insults heaped upon them.

Mr. Pitts is very much concerned about the occasional escape of a lunatic from the provincial asylum, but there are so many of that unfortunate class at large now-a-days, that they receive but little public attention. Mr. Pitts is at large.

ST. JOHN AND THE N.P.

A City That Has Suffered and Still Suffers.

A St. John writer in the Montreal Transcript, says: Nothing sounds more hollow to the average intelligent citizen here these times, than the tory boast that Canada is exempt from the financial troubles that have befallen other lands. It is as well that the truth should be told, sometimes at least. The long series of large business failures here have produced a most painful impression upon the community. Only to mention the names of the firms which have recently succumbed to the pressure of their difficulties, is to produce a startling array of facts that tell their own tale.

The hotel Dufferin was one of the first of the series. It had obtained a name and fame throughout Canada, as an old, well conducted and prosperous hostelry. It has now been closed for months and the worthy proprietor and his family are with the thousands of other exodians in the United States.

The important shipping firm of H. D. Troop & Son, foremost in its line in this great commercial port, which had weathered the financial storms of a generation, was some time since carried down, its creditors being willing after an honest disclosure of the firm's affairs to accept a small percentage of their claims. Once this city was a great

BOOT AND SHOE MANUFACTURING CENTRE, that was before the day of the national policy. One after another of the factories had gone under year by year. It remained for the present writer to see the last of these industries, that of Hurley & Co., go down.

The London House, which before the days of the national policy was a foremost dry goods house in the maritime provinces, and whose proprietors were strong supporters of the tory government, also succumbed to the difficulties, being closed out and its numerous staff of employees are turned out on the world to shift for themselves. There is universal regret for the old and honorable house, whose proprietors comparatively a few years ago might have retired with half a million each; now little is left of all this wealth.

Not to mention other failures, that of Messrs. J. & A. McMillan, the most recent of all, came as a sad shock to our business community. The firm carried on an extensive business, both as publishers and as wholesale and retail bookellers and stationers. It is safe to say that their establishment stood without a peer in the three eastern provinces. It had always an honorable reputation, and it is safe to say that its fall is not due to the want of business ability, or care and prudence. The business will go on, probably at another stand.

THE CLOSURE OF THE CAR WORKS of Messrs. Harris & Co., and their removal to Amherst some time ago, were directly caused by the nefarious land job perpetrated by the Ottawa government at the instance of the members for St. John, Messrs. Hazen and McLeod. The hundreds out of employment and left them and their families to join the exodus, seeking in other lands the employment denied them at home. The removal of the Red Granite Works from St. John to Calais was a grievous blow to a most serious kind to the industry of St. John.

When I add to the catalogue that since the tory tariff of 1879 was inaugurated St. John has

LOST ONE HALF OF ITS SHIPPING TONNAGE, and that what remains is largely old vessels passing rapidly to decay, costing enormously for insurance and earning but a pittance in freight, and of which it is not paying the actual cost of operation, with wear and tear and depreciation, it will be seen that the very life of this once prosperous sea port has been very seriously approp. There are scores of families in this city who have been driven to the point of starvation, and who are now left with little or no means of support.

Those who will tell us that Canada is prospering, that St. John is flourishing, do not venture to say what new industries have taken the place of the old that have gone, or what new resources we have to supply the place of our once flourishing shipping trade. They cannot do so.

Perhaps the good times in other parts of Canada are the same as what we are now enjoying in St. John. If so, heaven help the country.

AN OUTRAGE.

The case of James McKay, incarcerated in the county jail at Newcastle, Miramichi, some months ago, under provisions of the extradition treaty, and brought to light by the jail committee of the municipal council, has aroused much indignation at that place, that such things can be in this enlightened age. The Chatham World says: "That was a most extraordinary discovery which was made at Newcastle by the councillors, and shows how barbarian things are in the law of extradition. A man was discovered in jail who had been placed there seven months before on suspicion of having committed a crime in a foreign country. The person on whose complaint he was arrested, went back to the United States and has made no application for extradition. Habeas corpus proceedings are necessary to secure the release of a prisoner in such a case, and the poor devil has no money to pay a lawyer for conducting them. So he has been deprived of his liberty for seven months, and the county has been required to feed him, because he has not had money to pay a lawyer for getting him out of jail, and he will be liable for life, unless some lawyer acts for him without a fee. What a blot it is on our legal system, what a commentary on our boasted personal liberty, how it gives the lie to our boasts of the equality of rich and poor in the eyes of justice, when a man can be illegally deprived of his liberty for months and years because he has no money to pay a lawyer to move the courts to set him free. The lawyers, out of regard for the good name of the law, should see to it that so flagrant a crime against justice shall never again be perpetrated in New Brunswick. The prisoner was charged with having stolen a horse, but had his possession, and the man who made the charge went back with the horse and left the prisoner to his fate. Instead of discharging him at the end of a month or six weeks, when no steps were taken for his extradition, the council bought him and personal liberty, with an intelligence for which the law provides no remedy, have looked on helplessly as they saw the act. The judge who committed the man says he cannot set him free, and that he has sent the facts of the case to the minister of justice. The council can't set him free, and nothing less than \$50 to \$100 for paying a lawyer to move for writ of habeas corpus will open the jail door. It is a shameful, a scandalous, an outrageous abuse of law and an outrage on personal liberty. The prisoner says he is innocent and should be considered so now that no effort has been made to prove him guilty. The jail committee of the council bought him a suit of cloth, and several council members went to see him. He made a really good speech, thanking them for their generosity, declaring his innocence, and urging that he be brought to trial or set free. Conn. Sullivan of Hardwick, asked several questions, and the man's answers showed that he was sincerely grateful for the interest the councillors were showing in his case. In reply to Conn. Sullivan he said he was 75 years old. Think of it—75 years old and in jail for months with a prospect of dying there, because the law does not provide a safeguard for the liberty of a poor man who may be arrested on a charge of having perpetrated a crime in a foreign country."

AROUND THE WORLD.

The News of the World in Brief—The Cream of Our Exchanges.

The Dominion government has been allowed thirty thousand square feet at the Antwerp exhibition.

Geo. W. Childs, proprietor of the Philadelphia Ledger, and a noted Philanthropist, died last night.

Charles W. Polley, a young man with many friends in Fredericton, died suddenly Sunday at St. John.

S. Edgar Wilson has been elected secretary of the Westmorland municipality, succeeding the late A. R. Oulton.

A. Lumsden of Ottawa, has sold a timber limit to an American syndicate for \$305,000, which he purchased two years ago for \$80,000.

Ald. Villeneuve, a wine merchant, has been elected mayor of Montreal, defeating Hon. James McShane by nearly two hundred votes.

Peter Redpath, who built the Redpath museum and library in connection with McGill university, died yesterday in Chislehurst, England.

Rev. Dr. deBois has resigned the principality of St. Martin's Baptist seminary, his resignation to take effect at the close of the present school year.

W. W. Winkle, the champion bicyclist, has announced his permanent retirement from the race track. In the past seven years he has won \$10,000 worth of prizes.

Capt. Nathan Peters, who observed his ninety-first birthday at Southampton, N. H., Wednesday, is the oldest free-mason in the world, having joined the order of the fraternity in 1828.

Charles Doherty, Q. C., St. John's oldest lawyer, died Tuesday morning, aged eighty-two. He was a native of Dublin, and his wife, who survives him, is a sister of F. Gault of Montreal, Canada's cotton king.

The legislative council of Nova Scotia Wednesday, by 15 to 6, voted not to abolish itself, notwithstanding the fact that 18 of the 21 members had given Premier Fielding written pledges that they would vote for abolition.

A terrible fight took place near Greenville, Tennessee, between Tennessee and North Carolina farmers who were working on a road. Fourteen men were wounded, six of whom died. The scene of the battle is twelve miles from Greenville, Tenn.

In the case of Jessie J. Grindle of Penobscot vs. the Mutual Aid association of Biddeford, an action brought for insurance of \$1,000 on the life of the plaintiff's husband, who committed suicide a year ago, the jury, Thursday at Ellsworth, Maine, brought in a verdict of \$1,028.

On Wednesday afternoon, at St. Hilare, Quebec, a fourteen-year-old boy, while trying to take a cap off a loaded shotgun in his father's house, accidentally discharged the weapon and shot his brother, aged nine, in the back. The shot penetrated the boy's heart, killing him instantly.

The marriage of Bruce Baillie and the Hon. Nellie Lisa Bass, only child and heiress of Baron Bass of Bass and Compton of Burton-on-Trent, England, took place Wednesday. The bridegroom, who is a Scotch landowner, is a cousin of the earl of Elgin, now viceroy of India, and the bride is the prospective heiress to thirty million dollars.

A tablet in memory of the late Governor Boyd, was publicly unveiled in St. David's Presbyterian church, St. John, Thursday night, addresses being delivered by Sir Leonard Tilley, Rev. John DeSoyres and other prominent gentlemen. Among those taking part in the musical part of the program, was Miss Annie Legrin, formerly of Fredericton.

The St. John Globe says that the ridicule to which Sir Hibbert Tupper has been subjected since those silly proceedings were started against the city of St. John for running its ferry boats without licensed operators, has brought the best strong knight to terms, and it is understood he has decided to drop all the prosecutions.

In the Nova Scotia house of assembly, Thursday, provincial secretary Fielding brought down the estimates for 1894. The probable revenue is \$821,064, and the probable expenditure is \$1,019,844.

Hon. Edward Blake, M. P., the prominent Irish nationalist of Canada and leader of the home rule cause in the British parliament, spoke upon the subject of home rule for Ireland in Music Hall, Boston, Wednesday evening under the auspices of the Boston municipal council of the Irish national federation. He was greeted by an audience of about 3,000 people, and his appeal for funds to aid in carrying on the work of the cause of his party resulted in the raising of a little more than \$5,000.

Two burglars, who entered Robert Irvine's store at Fairville, before daylight yesterday, were given a warm greeting by the proprietor. Arming himself with a revolver, Irvine surprised the robbers, and before they escaped, he had put two bullets into one, and one into the other, the lead in each lodging in the leg.

The burglars were afterwards captured and are now in hospital. Their names are Joe Dixon and Henry Allen, the latter an ex-convict of Pawnee Bill's Wild West show.

Hidden treasure valued at several thousand dollars, made up of gold watches, Spanish doubloons and jewelry, came to light Thursday, at Walling, Mass., during repairs to the Ocean Colonial house, supposed to be over one hundred and fifty years old. A diamond stud, of fine quality, weighing over eight karats was found, with a number of letters, checks and ancient papers, dating back over one hundred years. The house had been leased recently for a number of years, and the honest workmen discovered and turned the treasure over to the lessee, the owner of the house making no claim on it.

The Protestant ministers of British Columbia, are preaching against the Protestant Protective Association, warning their congregations to have nothing to do with the association. The Rev. Ralph Duff, Congregationalist, said: "The P. P. A. should have its name changed to D.D.A.—Devil's Destructive Association."

Rev. Mr. McVern said that a man's country should be considered above his creed. They were living in peace with their Roman Catholic brethren, whom they respected as worthy citizens, and he hoped no hot-headed enthusiasts would introduce such a calamity as the P. P. A. into British Columbia.

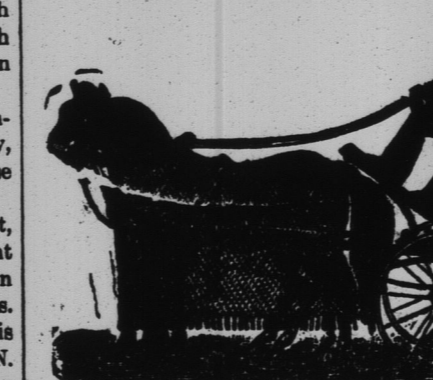
At Portland, Oregon, Mrs. Williams the faith cure fanatic and religious enthusiast, has just finished her one hundred and tenth day's fast, for seventy days of which crackers and claret formed her sole diet, and for forty days she ate absolutely nothing. This season of fasting, called "going through the wilderness," is considered necessary to cleanse the body of all sinfulness and give the fasters purely spiritual bodies. Mrs. Williams looked but little the worse for the ordeal. With her are about one hundred and fifty disciples, who are rejoicing that they have reached the end of the long, weary "wilderness."

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Black . . . Black . . .
Cashmeres, French Serges,
Henriettas, Imperial Serges,
Merinos, Storm Serges,
Black Whipcords, etc.

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—FORMER PRICES—
\$9.00 - - AND - - \$10.00
—NOW—
\$6.50 - - AND - - \$7.50
... At OAK HALL.

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Dark Grey Halifax Suits Only \$5.00.

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SALE of Remnants, commencing Tuesday Morning, January 23rd. Every Remnant a Bargain.

Doors open at 9 o'clock, a. m.

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