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SUN PRINTING COMPANY,
ALFRED MARKHAM,
Manager.

THE WEEKLY SUN.

ST. JOHN, N. B., FEBRUARY 23, 1898

THE TWO HARBORS.

Halifax papers are making all the capital possible out of the views expressed by our merchants before the St. John harbor improvements committee. The Chronicle quotes Mr. S. Schofield as saying that St. John is at a disadvantage in the average time taken in loading and discharging as compared with Boston, Portland, Halifax and other ports; Mr. Hilyard as stating that two reefs within the port limits were in a large measure responsible for the currents in the harbor, and Mr. W. E. Vroom with emphasizing the necessity of having the entrance to the harbor dredged out so that large vessels might come in at any time of tide.

Our Halifax contemporaries are welcome to all the amusement they can extract from these and kindred statements. St. John is getting a large share of the winter export trade of Canada, and it proposes to get a great deal more. It has already spent $800,000 in equipping its harbor for this business; and it will not rest until all local obstacles in the way of the growth of that trade are removed. Nature, the imperial army and navy chests and the dominion treasury have done a great deal for Halifax harbor. But mortal man cannot point to a single effort made on its behalf by the Haligonians, where that effort involved putting their hands in their own pockets.

THE TWO NAVIES.

A year ago the United States officials declared that in the event of a war with Spain they would sweep the Spanish navy off the seas. They do not talk in that strain now. As a result of the loss of the battleship Maine, the navy of Spain is superior to that of the United States in the number of ironclads. The Washington correspondent of the New York Herald says:

The history of Spain's rise from a naval position inferior to that of this country to a point equal to and finally superior to ours is one which is viewed with deep regret by naval officers. As I was told today, while congress, pursuing its meddlesome course, has been threatening intervention in Cuban affairs, it has failed to take measures to increase the armament of ships in commission or to authorize the construction of additional vessels. Spain, warned by our threats, has been hastening her ship construction.

The Spanish navy a year and a half ago had but three armour clads in commission—the Almirante Oquendo, the Vizcaya, and the Infanta Maria Teresa. The United States had seven armour clads in commission on the Atlantic coast—the battle ships Iowa, Indiana and Massachusetts, the second class battle ships Maine and Texas, and the armored cruisers Brooklyn and New York. Since then, Spain has added to her commissioned force the battle ship Pelayo, which has been fitted with new machinery and modern armor and armament; the armored cruiser Carlos V., the armored cruiser Princesa De Asturias and the armored cruiser Cristobal Colon. She is now pushing the rebuilding of the battle ship Numancia, which will shortly be ready for commission, and within the next few months she will have ready for service two 7,000 ton armored cruisers of the most modern type—the Cardinal Cisneros and Catalina. During the period named congress has refused to authorize any additional vessels or to even provide the armor for the battle ships Illinois, Alabama and Wisconsin.

Officials a year ago declared that in case of war with Spain, the United States would undoubtedly be the conqueror on the seas, but they have lost this confidence, and, while they declare that Spain has no battle ships to compare with ours, they wish that congress had continued the construction of ships and thus perpetuated our superiority over Spain as a naval power.

MR. BLAIR IN PARLIAMENT.

The esteemed Telegraph is just now engaged in the herculean task of trying to make its readers believe that Mr. Blair achieved great triumphs in the debate on the Yukon railway job. The facts of the case, as given by the press correspondents at the capital, are against the Telegraph.

The gallery correspondent of the Toronto Telegram, Independent, says:

A. G. Blair, with all his craft and cunning, undertook a task which far exceeded his powers. Blair is a debater of wide repute. In his own province of New Brunswick, those who have no reason to admire his political record are ever ready to admit the ability of their one-time premier. He has to a considerable degree the fierce sarcasm of Cartwright, with all the plausibility of Sir Louis Davies. Above all, Blair is audacious. When he has a weak case, he attempts to substantiate it by boldly characterizing it as the climax of all that is good. * * Blair's attempt to justify the Yukon railway deal was a miserable failure. Bravado will not always fill the place of logic. No man is tonight more fully persuaded as to the truth of that axiom than Andrew G. Blair. There was witnessed the none too pleasant spectacle of a minister of the crown pleading ignorance of essential particulars bearing on a contract which he himself had actively helped to prepare. More than once the minister of railways was hemmed in by inability to answer the interrogations of Foster. It was a long fall for Blair, who on fighting ground is none too prone to tumble.

When it comes to whitewashing Mr. Blair, the Telegraph pays little attention to facts. It has to earn its pay.

Says the Ottawa Citizen: "We are ashamed of several conservative contemporaries for publishing a rumor that the Hon. Mr. Blair contemplated retiring from the ministry. The very idea!"

The death is announced of Rev. William F. Moulton, D. D., of Cambridge, England, a noteworthy Wesleyan Methodist minister and critic of the Scriptures. In 1870 he was invited to join the New Testament Revision Committee, and he remained a member of that learned body until it was completed in 1880. He was also on the Cambridge committee which revised the translation of the Apocrypha. In 1878 he issued a popular history of the English Bible, and to Bishop Ellicott's Commentary he contributed the exposition on the Epistle to the Hebrews. In 1890 his co-religionists elected him president of their conference and when the Wesleyans opened their school at Cambridge he was made headmaster.

A British Columbia paper thus maps out what it considers a not impossible rival to the Canadian Pacific from the lakes to the Pacific:

If the Grand Trunk secured running powers over Mr. Greenway's new line from Lake Superior to Winnipeg, and from the latter place over the Northern Pacific to Portage la Prairie, a distance of 65 miles, the Manitoba & Northwestern could be taken and would give a through line into the Northwest Territories without a rail having to be laid. A continuation from Yorktown through the Peace River valley or Yellowhead pass, and along the proposed route of the British Pacific railway to the Pacific coast, would open up a rich country in which railroad building would meet with less obstacles than did the building of the C. P. R. The road, too, would traverse the great ranching country of the Saskatchewan valley.

The farmers are not to secure everything that is offered by the local legislature this session. The manufacture of silk gowns is also to receive an impetus. It may be of course that the legal gentlemen have in mind, for the benefit of the rural districts, the cultivation of the silkworm, to occupy the mind of the farmer when he is not devoting himself to the extinction of the potato bug. As the lawyers on both sides of the house are agreed on the question of Queen's counsel, it may hereafter be assumed that the "mantle of peace" is of a silken texture.

Hon. Mr. Labillois will be remiss in his duty as minister of agriculture if he fails, ere the close of the present session of the legislature, to include in his list of agricultural lectures, one to the members of the assembly on sheep, male and female. If all the members cannot be got together to listen to this lecture, the minister might at least secure the attendance of those of their number who made up the stock purchasing delegation that visited Quebec and Ontario last year.

The late Frances E. Willard will be remembered, more perhaps than any other woman of her time who has lived in the public eye, for the broad humanity, steadfast purpose and splendid unselfishness that characterized her life. She lived unspoiled at the head of a great movement, and her memory is enshrined in the hearts of countless women over the English speaking world.

The patriotic dominion government could not tolerate the idea a few months ago of subsidizing a steamer calling at an American port. They were apparently complete converts to the conservative doctrine of Canadian trade through Canadian ports. Have they now stipulated that the Numidian shall not go on to Portland?

SUNBURY CO.

MAUGERVILLE, Feb. 21.—The death of Mrs. Geo. R. Smith, which occurred on Thursday, was not unexpected, as she had been seriously ill for some time. The deceased was 60 years of age, a daughter of the late David A. Sterling, and a sister of Rev. Geo. H. Sterling, now of Morris, N. Y., who arrived at her bed side only a short time before she passed away. A sorrowing husband, one sister, three brothers and two adopted children are left to mourn. Miss Lamb of Victoria hospital was in constant attendance during her painful illness. The funeral, which took place on Saturday afternoon, was largely attended. After a short service at her late residence, conducted by Rev. R. W. Colston, assisted by Rev. H. E. Dibblee of Oromocto, the remains were conveyed to Lower St. Marys church, where a short address was delivered by Rev. John Parkinson, after which the body was laid to rest, Rev. Mr. Colston officiating at the grave.

Rev. Mr. Sterling will go to Nelson, N. B., to visit friends before returning home. The many friends of Mrs. Sterling, who is a sister of the speaker of the legislative asembly, will be glad to know that she is now in a fair way of recovery from a dangerous illness.

The ladies of the "W. A. A." of Burton held a tea party and fancy sale in the temperance hall, Oromocto, on Thursday night and realized $35 in aid of the "Restoration fund."

44 and 46 Pearl Street,
New York, February, 10, 1898.

* * * * My certificate (Certified Public Accountant) was the seventh issued by the State. There are only 120 in the entire State (N. Y.) holding certificates, so that doesn't speak badly for the methods of teaching in the Saint John Business College. * * * *

B. McGIBBON, C. P. A.,
(Of McGibbon & Lewis, Accountants and Auditors).

This is what we fit our students for.

St. John Business College

Catalogues to any address.
S. KERR & SON.

THE MUTUAL RESERVE FUND LIFE.

(From the Monetary Times, Feb. 11.)

At the recent annual meeting of this well-known assessment society, held in New York a couple of weeks ago, it was reported that the new business obtained by the society during the past year amounted to $56,234,785, bringing the total amount in force up to $301,567,101. This shows a serious reduction compared with previous years, when the amount of business written, and the amount in force at the end of the year were as follows:

December 31st.	New Written.	Total in force.
In 1894	$66,408,225	$293,356,188
In 1895	59,738,790	308,659,371
In 1896	73,026,830	325,026,061
In 1897	56,234,785	301,567,101
This year's loss	$16,791,545	$23,458,960

To put on $56,234,785 of new business any yet have what was previously on drop down by so large a sum as $23,458,960, shows a fearful condition of lapse. Here is how the account stands:

Insurance in force December 31st, 1896	$325,026,061
New insurance added in 1897	56,234,785
Total insurance to be accounted for	381,260,846
Total insurance in force, 1898	301,567,101
Total disappeared somewhere	79,693,745
The death losses in 1897 were	4,162,603
Balance disappeared somewhere	75,531,142

If this is the result of one year's operations, how long will it take to use up the whole $301,567,101 of business now cleamed to be in existence on the books of this old-time bragadocio concern? If $4,162,603 was paid for death losses in one short year (in 1887, we notice that $1,378,681 paid the lasses) how long will the $5,402,688 of total assets, now claimed, stand the drain, if that fund has to be called upon for deficiencies in the collections?

We learn from the fourteenth annual statement, which was issued in January, 1895, that the society was then certified by four state commissioners to have on hand surpuls assets and gross assets much in excess of what it is now reported to possess, as follows:

Year ending.	Assets.	Liabilities.	Surplus.
December 31st, 1894	$5,568,611	$1,850,809	$3,717,802
December 31st, 1897	5,462,688	2,330,237	3,072,451
Change in three years	—$165,923	$479,428	—$645,351

This means that with an increase of total insurance to be paid, from $293,366,166 in 1894 to $301,567,101 in 1897, there has come a decrease in surpuls cash assets of nearly three-quarters of a million dollars.

With such a condition of things in the society as a whole, it might be expected that the officers would feel exceedingly reluctant to announce another jump in the assessments. We suppose every effort has been made to conceal the fact that a tremendous addition is now again being made to the bi-monthly calls upon the old members. These members have borne the burdens and the heat of many previous assessments, and some double assessments, without having their faith and patience strained to the snapping point. But a further test is now forthcoming.

"What's the matter with the Mutual Life of New York?" said one old-time assessment payer. "Nothing," we answered. "Well," said he, "what do they want to double my assessment for now?" We answered that the Mutual Life of New York was all right, but he must be in some counterfeit concern, for no life insurance company worthy of the name ever doubled its rates. So he confessed to using the wrong name, and wanted to know why the Mutual Reserve fund did not carry out its contract with the P. P. I., of St. Thomas (meaning the Provincial Provident Institution which the Mutual Reserve absorbed), and continue the members at the old figures. We answered him that they could not carry out such a contract, if it was ever made. They had to pay the death losses, and old men like him must expect to pay, not merely double, but treble and quadruple what the P. P. I. had been charging, or lose every cent paid in. He said he was paying about $32 for a certificate of $2,000, and we showed him that the natural premium at his age was $53, and next year would be $58; and five years hence, $80; and ten years hence, $125; and in fifteen years $188 a year. He went away feeling comforted with the idea that he would not live long enough to be assessed so high as that, and also expressing a hope that "she will hold out a little longer, and not go to smash so suddenly as the Massachusetts Mutual Benefit did."

Another elderly gentleman complains that he has now had a second rise in his assessment in the short space of two years. For some years after joining, his certificate cost him $235 per annum, then it rose to $348, and now he is muloted in $611.20 for the year 1898. He naturally wants to know where the end of this thing is to be. We may suppose there are a good many friends of our late Mayor Kennedy, who boomed "this thing" when he was in office some years ago, who would be glad to get some enlightenment on the subject.

Still another party joined in 1887 for $5,000 at age 56, and paid, as per advertisement in that good religious paper, the Christian Guardian, only $105 a year, apart from $15 for expenses. Two years ago he had this $105 raised on him to $158.40, and he is now blessed with calls for $360.90. Is he not a happy man? It takes all the Christian virtue he can command to prevent boiling over with gratitude toward the gentlemen who are responsible for the fix he now finds himself in at 67 years of age. He holds one of the promised "bonds" that were advertised five years ago with such a costly flourish, good for not two hundred dollors if he pays fifteen years. But what is it worth in the face of the fact that instead of another being sent him now, at the close of his second five years, as promised, actually Eldridge writes him Feb. 1st, 1898, that there is "no margin of accumulation in the later years, but a gradual absorption of the accumulations." And worse than all the table of rates on the back of his calls show that his payments the next five years will run this way: Age 68, $405; age 69, $440.70; age 70, $480; at age 71, $522.60; at age 72, $560.10. And if he is unfortunate enough to live to 75 it will be $722.70; and at 80 the call is $1,098.55. He has already paid $2,034, and by that time $6,416 more of his hard earnings will have disappeared in the sink-hole, making a total of $8,450 and interest thereon, for $5,000 of insurance. And no certainty of that being the end of it.

According to the Spectator, of New York, a strong effort is being made to get the old members to surrender their certificates, and take some newfangled affair caller the "five-year-combination-option-policy." "If they do not," the Spectator says, "they are liable to have their assessments increased, for there is nothing more certain than that the insurance risk increases as the man grows older, and age must be paid for. By exchanging their policies for the new form, they get a level premium policy, with rates unchangeable, that is guaranteed by all the resources of the association." Its resources are very small:

Experience has amply demonstrated that the course of this journal toward the Mutual Reserve Fund, and all other such concerns, was the right one, in warning the public that nothing but disappointment could come putting trust in their promises to give insurance at half the price charged by regular companies. The Spectator says further, in confirmation of this: "It is well known that since Mr. Burnham became president of the Mutual Reserve he has been endeavoring to place its business upon a footing that would give greater security to its policy-holders. Experience had demonstrated that the old plan to which his predecessor, E. B. Harper, was wedded, of attempting to carry its policy to maturity at the same price as was charged when the holders originally became members, was erroneous. The failure of numerous assessment companies that tried to do business upon this plan served to emphasize the well formed opinions of expert life insurance men."

And here follows the announcement of the tremendous up-lift in the bi-monthly assessment of 1898: "Since the above was written the Mutual Reserve has sent out to its agents an announcement that the rates of premium were advanced on what are known as the "Fifteen-Year-Class" of members. This class is made up of those who became members when the association was in its infancy; when the rates charged were insufficient to provide for their insurance as they grow older. This mistake is now being rectified by charging them the rates applicable to their present age."

Comment is needless.

WEDDING BELLS.

On the 15th instant at 2 o'clock Rev. E. E. Daley performed the pleasant duty of solemnizing a marriage at the home of W. E. Stevens on St. James street, when Miss Kate N. Stevens, a promiment worker in Leinster street Baptist church and a member of the church choir, was united to John McKnight, a young barrister of Quincy, Mass. There was no bridesmaid or groomsman and the ceremony took place in the presence of a few friends and relatives. After a luncheon had been served and congratulations paid, the happy young couple, beaming with smiles, took their departure on the Pacific express for the republic, where they will visit New York, Washington and Baltimore before settling down in their home in Hotel Greenleaf, Quincy. Many gifts of a costly as well as useful nature were presented to the contracting parties by friends in St. John, and at Quincy many more are awaiting them. From the choir of Leinster street church the bride received a handsome silver gold lined berry dish; also a heavy silver berry spoon. Miss Stevens will be greatly missed from among the young people of St. John, especially in Baptist circles, in which she was most active.

A quiet wedding took place the same day at the residence of Neil Hoyt on Brittain street, when his second daughter, Miss Ida Catherine Hoyt, was united in marriage to Captain Thomas R. Pye of Hopewell Cape. Rev. E. E. Daley performed the ceremony. The bride, who was unattended, wore a becoming travelling gown of green. After the ceremony Mr. and Mrs. Pye left for their home in Hopewell Cape. They received many beautiful presents, including a china service from the bride's class in Leinster street Baptist Sabbath school.

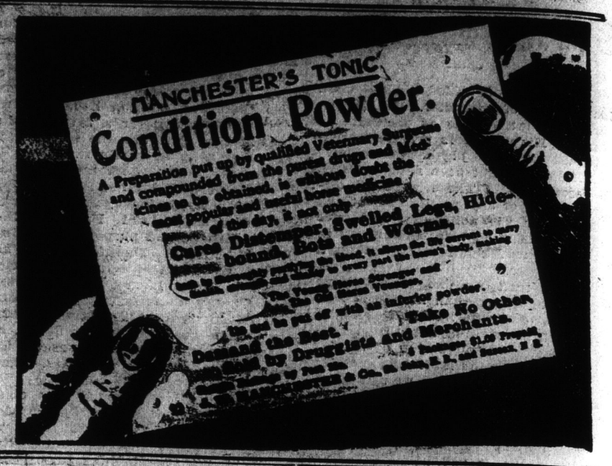
A quiet wedding took place at the residence of Daniel Cathcart, 39 Adelaide street, on Feb. 17th, at three o'clock, when his niece, Jennie Cathcart Watson, was united in marriage to Duncan R. Alcorn of Hartland. Rev. J. A. Gordon performed the ceremony. The bride was becomingly attired in a travelling suit of blue, with hat to match. After the ceremony Mr. and Mrs. Alcorn left by the Fredericton express for their home in Hartland. The bride received many beautiful presents, including a cabinet organ from her uncle and a gold watch from the groom.

A very pleasant wedding took place at St. James Episcopal church, North Cambridge, February 16, Rev. Mr. Birchmore officiating, the contracting parties being John Wesley Myles and Albert Victoria Cartmell. The bride, gowned in pearl silk trimmed with pearls and lace, looked very winsome and charming, being attended by the sister of the groom, Miss Jennie E. Myles, who was attired in a gray cloth dress, trimmed with pink. The groomsman was J. J. Northrup of W. Somerville. Wellington N. Cartmell gave the bride away. After the wedding supper at the home of the bride's mother's, Winter street, W. Somerville, the young couple started south on their widding tour.

THE RING.

Spike Sullivan Wins.

LONDON, Feb. 21.—In the twenty round bout between Spike Sullivan, the crack American light-weight, and Harry Greenfield, the English boxer, at the National Sporting club this evening, Sullivan won in the fifteenth round, Greenfield being outpointed from the start.



BOSTON LETTER.

Public Feeling as the Result of Loss of Maine Very High.

Recent Deaths of Former Residents of This City—Lumber and Fish Markets.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

BOSTON, Feb. 19.—The present month up to date has been a very eventful one in New England, and in the rest of the country as well. The month began with the great storm, which cost many lives and the destruction of an immense amount of property. The storm was followed by a disastrous fire here, by which six firemen were killed, and a Pittsburg fire cost the lives of over four times that number. The cotton mill crisis is not yet a thing of the past, and in international politics the DeLome incident was followed by the disaster to the warship Maine. Now the yellow journals are even anticipating war with Spain.

Many former Nova Scotians in New England believe that the sentence of death passed upon Lyman Davitt, a Green Oak, N. S., boy, for the alleged murder of an Assyrian peddlar, should be commuted, and a movement has been started here to draw up a petition to the Canadian justice department. About 60 Nova Scotians in Woonsooket have signed a petition asking for a commutation of the sentence.

Public feeling as the result of the loss of the Maine has been very high this week, and the tragic event has been discussed everywhere. Although there has been little evidence to warrant the theory of trachery, probably fifty per cent. of the people believe that the vessel was intentionally blown up. The sensational despatches from Havana, written in Key West and other places in this country, have been largely responsible for the state of public feeling. It is true that the coast defences of Boston and vicinity are being put in better condition, but this work was begun before the Maine was blown up. Rumors were flying so thick and fast in the city yesterday that for a time a stranger would have supposed war had been declared. Crowds congregated in front of the newspaper offices, and things were almost as lively as in Paris during the Zola trial. The stock market was feverish but not panicky, and shares have been on the toboggan. The pernicious and inflammatory trash published by two disreputable New York sheets has done much to poison the public mind in that city, and the authorities have decided to guard the Spanish cruiser Vizcaya, which arrived there today, in case anyone should attempt to do the vessel any damage. It is not believed, however, that there will be any trouble of consequence in New York.

The schooner Mildred E., formerly of Magnum, of Meteghan, N. S., is fitting out for a Klondyke expedition at this port.

The Boston Associated Boards of trade has appointed a committee of five to act in conjunction with committees from other bodies which have been appointed to further the movement to secure reciprocity with Canada. The Paint and Oil Club, the Master Builders' Association, the Boston Chamber of Commerce and the Boston Fish Bureau have appointed similar committees. Osborne Homes, one of the advocates of reciprocity, has prepared a statement, in which he says Canada is the best customer the United States has, for the latter sells each year to the dominion goods to the value of $13 for every Canadian man, woman and child, while Canada sends goods of her own production to the value of about $9 per capita of her people. Mr. Homes adds that the South and Central American republics, where the U. S. has been endeavoring to work up trade, do comparatively a small business with this country.

Dr. B. E. Fernow, chief of the forestry division of the department of agriculture at Washington, in an address before the National Association of Paper and Pulp Manufacturers, this week, said that the supply of spruce in this country was threatened by the inroads of the pulp mills, and he thought unless present methods were changed, it would be nearly gone in ten years time. The consumption of wood puly in paper manufacture, Dr. Fernow said, was equal to 2,000,000 cords per year.

Adam Archibald Tupper of Liverpool, N. S., an insance man, was run over by a train and killed at Glenbrook, N. S., yesterday, while on his way to visit his nephew. He was 50 years old and well known in Nova Scotia.

The following deaths of former provincialists are announced: At Charlestown, Feb. 16, Leo Victor, son of James H. Mawhinney, formerly of St. John; at Cambridgeport, Feb. 15, Mrs. John S. Mitchell, formerly of St. John; at Somerville, Feb. 16, Mrs. Phebe T. Dunham, widow of George C. Dunham, aged 69 years, formerly of St. John; at Charlestown, Feb. 16, Mrs. Thomas F. Tierney, daughter of Richard Doyle, formerly of St. John; at Somerville, Feb. 13, Albert N. McIntosh, aged 54, native a Nova Scotia.

J. M. Johnson of St. John was in the city today.

Most lumber dealers report that the demand was a little better this week, frames being in much better request for a day or two. The mills are most all shut down, and spruce holds steady on the strength of the belief that next season's supply will hardly be as large as usual. Quotations are as follows:

Spruce—Random cargoes, $11.50 to 12.50; frames by car, ten inches and under, $13 to 13.50; do 12 in., $14 to 14.50; 12 in., $15 to 16; yard random, $11.50 to 12.50; bundled furrings, $9 to 10; boards, planed one side, $11 to 12; planed one side and matched, $12 to 14; clear floorings, kiln dried, $19 to 22; No. 1, $17 to 18; No. 2, $14 to 16; extra clapboards, $29 to 30; clear, $27 to 28; second clear, $23 to 25; shingles, $1.50; laths, 1 5-8 in., $2.10 to 2.15; 1 1-2 in., $1.85 to 1.90.

Pine, hemlock, etc.—Eastern pine, coarse No. 2, $16 to 17; matched boards, $19 to 22; extra clapboards, $35 to 40; clear, $30 to 35; second clear, $28 to 30; eastern hemlock, No. 1, $10 to 11; extra cedar shingles, $2.60 to 2.70; clear, $2.25 to 2.50; second clear, $1.75 to 2.

The fish trade is generally quiet, in fact it has not been as satisfactory to wholesalers as usual at this season, and business has been by no means heavy. Herring are slightly firmer owing to a small supply of frozen fish. Codfish are steady and a shade firmer. Lobsters and sardines continue high. Canned lobsters are quoted at $3 for flats, $2.75 to 2.90 for uprights, 16c. for live and 13c. for boiled. Frozen herring are selling at $2 per 100 lbs. out of vessel. Eastern smelts are worth 6 to 7c. for common and 10c. for extras. Lake trout sell at 9 to 10c. The position of mackerel is unchanged, the stock on hand being still small and the arrivals limited.

THE NOVA SCOTIA KLONDYKE.

The Halifax Herald says: George A. Pyke deposited a brick at the People's Bank which weighed 263 ounces and was valued at $5,000. It was the result of 18 days' work at the mine of the Hurricane Point Gold Mining company of Isaac's Harbor, Guysboro county. Besides the brick, some beautiful specimens were brought to town by John McMillan, who is manager of the mine.

The property was formerly known as the Palgrave mine, and has been in liquidation and unworked for the past ten years. On the death of the owner, Mr. Palgrave, the mine was offered for sale. A syndicate, of which the principals are Senator McKeen, P. O'Mullin and G. A. Pyke, Halifax, J. E. Burchell et al, Sydney, and the McMillan Bros. of Isaac's Harbor, purchased the property last November. On the 17th of that month the company proceeded to put it in working order, and the preparation occupied two months. The shafts had to be pumped out and new machinery put in place. Late in January, twenty-five men were put to work in the mine, which is a comparatively narrow lead, but very rich. In eighteen days the first clean up resulted in the returns as given above. Only 185 tons were crushed, giving nearly one and a half ounces to the ton.

REV. MR. RAYMOND IN HALIFAX.

A very interesting paper by Rev. W. O. Raymond of St. John, consisting largely of extracts from the diary of Benjamin Marsden of Marblehead, Mass., loyalist, was read by Mr. Raymond at a public meeting of the Historical society, held last evening in the Legislative Assembly chamber.

Marsden was of one of the leading families of Massachusetts, was a graduate of Harvard college, and a staunch tory. He was a very prosperous merchant of Marblehead, but did not confine his efforts and life altogether to that calling, but was in a way a sort of John of all trades.

In the course of his paper, Mr. Raymond said, in speaking of Shelburne, N. S., that at one time it ranked as third town in North America, coming after Philadelphia and New York, being larger, in fact, in point of population than Montreal, Quebec and Three Rivers combined. A large, attentive and appreciative audience listened to Mr. Raymond, and a hearty vote of thanks was moved by Rev. T. W. Smith, D. D., and Rev. Dr. Saunders. Remarks were also made by Dr. A. H. Mackay and Rev. Principal Forrest.—Halifax Herald, Feb. 18.

RICHIBUCTO.

The Residence of Laurent LeBlance Destroyed by Fire.

RICHIBUCTO, Feb. 21.—The residence of Laurent LeBlanc, farmer and mill operator at Choclapish, ten miles south of here, was destroyed by fire yesterday afternoon. Mr. LeBlanc had been making extensive improvements in his house, the carpenters finishing on Saturday. The tools of the latter were consumed; also a lot of seed for the coming season. The loss is partly covered by insurance.

THE ST. CROIX CLEAR OF ICE.

CALAIS, Feb. 21.—The St. Croix river is clear of ice to the head of navagation.