

News Briefs

RETURNS TO FREDERICTON
Inspector C. K. Gray of the headquarters staff of the local R.C.M.P. force, arrived in this city this afternoon from Saint John, which city he visited yesterday on routine business.

CONDITION IMPROVING
The condition of Miss Audrey Woodworth, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Allan G. Woodworth, 427 Charlotte Street, is reported much improved today by authorities of the Victoria Public Hospital. Miss Woodworth was operated on over a week ago for a ruptured appendix.

HELPED ORPHANAGE
On the 23rd instant the L.O.L. and L.O.B.A. of Geary, Sunbury County, held a pie and basket social in Geary Orange Hall. Past County Master Stanley C. Howe gave an address and also acted as auctioneer. The proceeds, \$25, were for the New Brunswick Protestant Orphanage.

18 BELOW ZERO
The coldest temperature of the year was recorded last night at the Fredericton Pumping Station when the mercury fell to 18 degrees below zero. The temperature rose slowly during the day, however, being eight degrees above zero at 1 o'clock. A change in the weather is predicted by tomorrow, with snow, turning to rain in the southern portion of the province. The level of the water in the St. John River is still falling, being now slightly less than three feet above summer low.

ESTATES PROBATED
Two estates, that of the late John Gallagher, Minto, and the late James N. Wooden, Blissville, were recently probated before Judge C. A. Stephenson in the Sunbury County Probate Court at Maudersville. Executors for the Gallagher estate which consisted of \$718 of personal property, are Miss Josephine F. Gallagher of Minto, and John R. Gallagher of Saint John. J. H. McFadden of Sussex, is proctor. Marshall Webb of Hoyt, and Sidney Shipton of Mill Settlement, were appointed executors of the Wooden estate, which consisted of \$1,700 worth of real estate and \$8,200 worth of personal property. W. J. West of this city is proctor.



HOCKEY!

CAPITALS
VS.
SAINT JOHN

Tickets On Sale
TUESDAY
at 6 p. m., and all day
WEDNESDAY
at the Box Office

GAME STARTS
8:15
BEST ICE OF SEASON

Arctic Rink
Fredericton, N. B.

Claim Negligence In Blaze

Condemns Canada's Stand Concerning Sino-Jap Conflict

Export Of War Materials By Canada To Japan Makes Possible Continuation Of War, Claims Professor Malcolm McK. Ross

CONSEQUENCES OF NIPPONESE VICTORY

Fighting Now Entered Into Second Stage—Drawing Invaders Into Interior to be Attacked By Guerillas

That practically the fate of world democracy is in the hands of Canadian statesmen was the charge made this morning by Malcolm McK. Ross, assistant professor of English at Lingnan University, Canton, China, in speaking of the part this country is playing in the Sino-Japanese conflict. At present, he said, Canada has taken a major role on the side of the Japanese by laying the immense natural resources of this country, necessary for the continuation of war, at the disposal of the Land of the Rising Sun.

"If Japan wins in Northern China," he said, "she will then have all the resources necessary to carry war into South China and India, become the dominant power in Asia and supply Italy and Germany with the war materials which they lack."

The strengthened Fascist world bloc, he explained, will then be in a position to make itself even more troublesome than it is at present. If this comes to pass, he pointed out, Canada must accept a large share of the responsibility, since it is she, almost alone of the nations of the world, who is making possible the continuation of the present conflict in China by the Nipponese.

Chinese Strategy
Prof. Ross expressed the opinion that the Chinese are not doing so badly so far. The fall of Shanghai and Nanking were not major disasters, as most people on this side of the water think, he explained. Indeed, their early fall was anticipated by their defenders, who even surprised themselves at the length of time it took the invaders to capture the cities. Since Shanghai, an English and French port, would be blockaded by the Japanese fleet, and consequently be of no use to the Chinese for the importation of supplies, it was of no strategic importance to the defenders. The Chinese forced the Japs to fight at Shanghai, however, for two reasons: first, to make them waste ammunition, and secondly, to call the attention of the world to the invasion of China, which fighting in North China would not do.

The success of their tactics may be seen from the fact that the Japanese were forced to spend a sum estimated at approximately \$15,000,000 in the campaign which ended with the capture of Shanghai. They fired ten shells to every one of the Chinese, stated Prof. Ross. As for the second part of their strategy, probably in no other part of China could an invasion have brought more worldwide attention than it did at Shanghai, the crossroads of world, in which city so many western nations have valuable property concessions.

Second Stage of War
The second stage of the Eastern conflict according to the Chinese strategy which has already begun, is the drawing of the Nipponese forces into the interior of China away from their base of supplies. The many reported Japanese 'victories' of late have been caused by the falling away of the Chinese defenders at the approach of the Japs, claimed Prof. Ross. The plan of the Chinese, he explained, is to let the invaders penetrate the defense lines in considerable force in one sector, draw them on, and then suddenly swoop on the flanks and rear of the enemy, destroying vital supplies and cutting communication lines. Such guerilla tactics will feature the struggle in the interior of the country, he predicted.

Already, he said, approximately 300,000 Japanese troops have penetrated deeply into the interior of China, and face the danger of being cut off from their base of supplies in the dead of winter.

At present, Prof. Ross said, the defenders are also continuing their efforts to gain sufficient support among the Western nations to bring pressure upon Japan to make her cease hostilities.

Want Arms Export Embargo
In connection with Canada's part in the conflict, the Canadian League for Peace and Democracy, of which Prof. Ross is general secretary, has inaugurated a three-point program. First, the urging of Canadian citizens to sign a petition to be presented to Prime Minister Mackenzie King advocating his placing an embargo on the export of war materials to Japan.



PROF. MALCOLM McK. ROSS

(an amendment was made to the Customs Act last session whereby the Prime Minister is authorized to proclaim an embargo on such export if he sees fit, he explained); secondly, urging a general boycott of Japanese goods (this, he reported, has been quite successful in Upper and Western Canada, but has not been adopted in the Maritimes to any great extent as yet); and lastly, the establishment of a fund to provide medical aid for the war-torn population of China.

Prof. Ross, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles D. Ross, 172 George Street, this city, is a bachelor of arts of the University of New Brunswick and a master of arts of the University of Toronto. He also studied at Columbia University, and had teaching experience at the U.N.B. Summer School in the department of English before accepting the position of assistant professor of English at Lingnan University last fall.

He proceeded to Canton and took up his duties, but was there only a few weeks when hostilities became so great in Southern China that he was recalled to this country by Olan Wankmaker, New York City, secretary to the Board of Trustees of the university. Although he is now residing at Toronto, he returned to this city on Sunday, to spend the holiday season with his parents, and will remain for a week.

N. B. Teachers' Institute To Convene Here Three Days In Easter-Week

The annual Provincial Teachers' Institute will be held at Easter-time this year, it was decided at the meeting of the Executive of the Institute which was held in the Provincial Normal School in this city this morning. The Institute will be held at this city on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday following Easter Monday.

At the meeting this morning the full executive was present. Dr. A. S. MacFarlane, Chief Superintendent of Education for the province and president of the Institute, presided.

The arrangement of the program for the Easter meeting was the principal matter discussed this morning. Speakers who will address the Institute at the annual convention have not been chosen, it was stated. Those present included Dr. A. S. MacFarlane, chairman; Dr. H. H. Hagerman, Principal of the Provincial Normal School, secretary; B. H. Chapman, Moncton; Miss Doris Hennessey, St. George; J. Marr, Fairville; Major I. B. Rouse, A. B. Brooks, Fredericton; M. G. Fox, Harvey Station; J. T. Lejeune, Bathurst; A. Blanchard, Edmundston; C. T. Wetmore, Hampton; A. G. Daigle, Cocagne; H. C. Titus, Marysville; J. E. DeGrace, Campbellton; A. R. Stiles, Riverside; Rolfe K. Nevers and A. M.

ENGINEERS MUST REPEAT SUMMER'S WORK ON ROADS

Records of Work Partially Destroyed In Fire Yesterday

The possibility that some, and perhaps a large portion of the work done in the gathering of data on the provincial hard-surfacing program in this part of New Brunswick by engineers working under the direction of the resident engineer for this district may have to be repeated next summer was expressed this morning by C. B. Croasdale, chief highway engineer. This will be necessitated by the destruction of valuable records in the fire which razed the Edgecombe building yesterday afternoon, and which is believed to have started in the offices of the engineers.

The six engineers, who worked on jobs up and down the Saint John River and in the Chatham-Newcastle districts, have occupied the offices since the first of this month, where they had been busy compiling the data collected during the summer. Mr. Croasdale said.

Some Records Salvaged
Seven wooden chests of field notes, maps and other records were salvaged from the fire-stricken building and taken to the basement of the Departmental Buildings, in addition to an equal amount of files and other reports. Two of the chests were almost completely gutted, and their contents practically a total loss. Two more had their covers burned off and part of their contents destroyed. The contents of the other three chests were considerably damaged by water. The rest of the records and files were damaged to various extents by fire and water. Several instruments were also lost, including at least one (Continued on Page Four)

Atherton Sentenced To Two Years In Dorchester Pen.

Frederick Atherton of this city was sentenced to serve two years in Dorchester Penitentiary, when he appeared before Magistrate Walter Limerick this morning for sentence, after being found guilty last Wednesday of attempting to break and enter the Yerca Grocery Store on Queen Street a few weeks ago.

The arrest was made by Alfred Barker of the city police. While inspecting the alleys behind business houses, on his right beat, he saw Atherton on the roof of a shed on the back of the store, and working at a second storey window which led into the grocery.

The same window and shed had been the mode of entrance in a break in the same building several years ago. The officer positively identified Atherton as the man who was on the roof and whom he pursued through the streets for some time as the accused made a break for freedom.

A. R. Murray, clerk of the peace, prosecuted the case, while the accused was undefended.

Anderson, Fredericton; Dr. E. J. Alexander, Saint John, and C. M. Eagles, Moncton.

SATISFIED SALES BUILT the FLEMING BUSINESS NOT "Cheap Sales".

THANKS FOR THE RECORD CHRISTMAS BUSINESS
"That's all and that's that."
Hatter and Haberdasher.
Established 1889. (Still Going Strong.)

Fleming's, Of Course
Since 1889.

Name Party Responsible Not Stated

Damage Estimated At Approximately \$40,000.

Expect Fire Marshal Removal of Debris Commenced By Workmen Today

That negligence on the part of some person whose name has not been divulged, and who was not connected in any way with the building or any of the tenants, was the cause of the fire which gutted the Edgecombe block yesterday, wreaking approximately \$40,000 damage, was the opinion expressed in several sections today. H. H. McLellan of Saint John, provincial fire marshal, will arrive in the city this evening to inspect the grounds and decide whether an official investigation will be held.

He would not state today whether or not he had reasons to suspect negligence. He said he did not want to jump into the matter too quickly and make statements before seeing the razed building. The belief was expressed by one reliable party today that it seems quite improbable that either wiring or heating apparatus is responsible. He suggested that a cigarette butt carelessly thrown aside, may have started the conflagration.

Although rumor had it today that an explosion of chemicals in the upper storey was to blame, this was discredited due to the claim that there were no explosive chemicals present in the upper storey. The contention that the "explosions" which various persons described as having occurred were merely smoke explosions, was put forward by many. Due to incomplete combustion in a closed room, great quantities of smoke and gases are pent up. When the doors or windows are opened, oxygen-bearing fresh air enters, creating the proper mixture for combustion, and an explosion results.

Chief Walker Injured
It was an explosion of this type which quite severely burned Fire Chief Karl A. Walker about the hands and side of the head. On opening a door of a closed-up room, the explosion drove a blast of flame out which momentarily enveloped the fire chief. It was at this same time that the flames entrapped F. A. Hannington, a member of the provincial highway engineering staff, which had offices in the second storey, as he was attempting to save the records and instruments from the searing breath of the flames. He was forced to leap to safety out an upstairs window.

Chief Walker is confined to his home today with his burns and an injured leg. It has not yet been determined whether this injury which was sustained when he fell on the icy stairs is a severe sprain or a fracture. X-rays cannot be taken for a few days due to the swelling. It was stated that he will be confined to his home for some time.

Begin Construction
Clearance of the debris from the building for immediate reconstruction was begun this morning. Charred waste on the second floor is being removed by a crew of men, and a new roof and windows will be put on the building at once. One prominent local contractor as taking estimates this morning for the job, but would (Continued on Page Five)

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