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THE WEATHER.
Maritime — Moderate north-westerly winds, fine and moderately cold today and on Thursday.

IMMIGRATION CONFERENCE

The Local Government in Conference with Mr. Hawkes at St. John

Premier Flemming Says that the Discussion was Very Profitable—Good Results Expected

(St. John Telegraph)
Arthur Hawkes, special immigration commissioner for the federal government, appointed to make suggestions as to the best policy for increasing immigration into every part of Canada, arrived in the city yesterday at noon and during the hours which elapsed between the hour of his arrival and midnight he was given as much information as possible concerning the right of New Brunswick to a share in the stream of immigration flowing into Canada.

During the afternoon and late evening Mr. Hawkes was in conference with the members of the government, Mr. Barnstead and Mr. Wilmot in the government rooms, Church Street, and their deliberations were continued until 1 o'clock this morning.

Premier Flemming said after the meeting that very little could be given out as no concrete proposition had been made either by the government or by Mr. Hawkes, his commission being simply to report, but that all parties felt after a general discussion that a very profitable day had been spent. Plans for working out a better system of handling immigration were under consideration and he thought that the conference would have good results. He felt free to say that in event of a reorganization taking place that the federal government would be expected to bear the increased expenditure incurred in extending the machinery on the other side, with the provincial governments would have to provide for more people coming by increasing the local staff and making other preparations.

Mr. Hawkes said that he was hardly in a position to talk but he had come rather as a listener to gather ideas for his report. His views, as far as he was able to go, are expressed in two speeches which he made during the day.

Mr. Barnstead said that the conference had been a very satisfactory one and that the plans under discussion applied just as well to Nova Scotia as to New Brunswick. Mr. Barnstead, who is the head of the department of industries and immigration in the sister province, when asked what was being done in Nova Scotia, said that with an expenditure of \$20,000 the province had brought in nearly 2,500 settlers so far this year. Last year the number was more than 2,200 and of these the department had kept track of more than 1,700. These people include farmers, miners and artisans of every class. Many of them came without any capital and in a surprisingly short time owned their own houses and farms.

Mr. Barnstead added that it was a mistake to preach that the late dominion government had done nothing and showed the reporter several attractive booklets which the federal staff had published at his request, setting forth the advantages of settling in Nova Scotia.

TELEPHONE SERVICE ADOPTED BY C. P. R.

Montreal, Q., Dec. 20.—From 1,000 to 1,500 miles of telephone train despatching circuits will be put into operation by the Canadian Pacific Railway during the coming year. The system of despatching trains by telephone has proved entirely satisfactory according to the officials of the railway company here and the railway is preparing to show its approval of the system by more than doubling mileage of telephone train despatching wires on their lines. The C. P. R. now has 1,000 miles of telephone wires in use for train despatching, and is the second largest user of this method, in the world.

1688—Sir Edmund Andros, the first royal governor of New England, arrived in Boston.

HAUNTED BY JOB HUNTERS

Tory Cabinet Ministers at Ottawa Lock Themselves in the Council Chamber

Self Preservation the First Law with the Members of the Tory Government

Ottawa, Dec. 19.—According to present indications the government will have to meet parliament, when it re-assembles, on January 10, with very little business ready to go on with.

Since assuming office the ministers have spent the greater portion of their time either attending banquets or other functions away from the capital, or in attending to the flood of applications for the bestowal of patronage in one form or another. Their offices have been constantly haunted by job seekers and their mail has brought daily, hundreds of letters from party friends seeking jobs, or other favors. It is safe to say that hardly one-fifth of their time has been available for the real work of government.

So insistent have been importunities of the favor seekers that as a means of escape the ministers have adopted the expedient of gathering in the cabinet council chamber, where doors are barred against all intruders, and where, instead of discussing general cabinet business, the harassed members of the government have devoted most of their time to quietly attending to their correspondence and the details of the more pressing matters of departmental business.

As yet practically no attempt has been made at revision of the estimates for the coming fiscal year, as submitted by the various departmental heads. This is a task which in the past has taken, even at the hands of experienced ministers, two or three weeks of solid work. Nearly all the larger items of public policy, now confronting the government, are as yet still awaiting "consideration." The deputy ministers of many of the departments are worrying over a congestion of business, vainly awaiting ministerial attention.

Some excuse is allowed the ministers in view of their newness to office and the pressure of the first flood of patronage demands. But the present situation and outlook certainly do not indicate a business-like and prompt despatch of public business when parliament meets three weeks hence.

SPREAD OF SMALLPOX FEARED IN QUEBEC

(Canadian Press.)
Montreal, Q., Dec. 20.—The provincial board of health, aware of the danger confronting the whole province in connection with the epidemic of smallpox now raging in certain centres, has taken drastic measures to avert any further spread of the disease. A direct appeal will be made to the federal, provincial and municipal authorities in order to bring about a more widespread practice of vaccination. Private corporations having employees either residing or travelling in the province will also be called upon, a request being made that all officials and employees be constrained to submit to vaccination. Of the 1,110 municipal centres in the province, some 900 have passed by-laws dealing with obligatory vaccination. Pressure will be brought to bear on the remaining 200 to have them observe the instructions of the board in this matter.

MAY PAROLE HUSTON

Philadelphia, Dec. 20.—The application for the parole of Joseph M. Huston, the convicted Capitol architect, probably will be acted upon by the State board of pardons at a meeting begun today. Huston was imprisoned in the Eastern Penitentiary a year ago after a legal battle extending over several years. Several others of the alleged grafters who were convicted died before the long legal fight ended and Huston was the only one to suffer actual imprisonment. His release on parole has been recommended by the board of prison inspectors.

Fredericton Schools Closed For Christmas Vacation

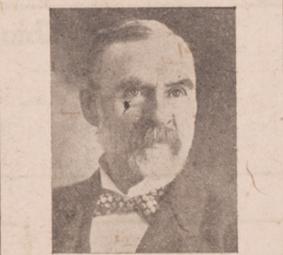
Lieutenant Governor's Gold Medal for Highest Average in High School Entrance Examinations Presented by Chief Supt. Carter to Miss Mary Chestnut—Appropriate Exercises in all the Schools with Christmas the Principal Theme

The schools of the city closed today with all the customary exercises which usually attend the Christmas closing. A large number of visitors attended the various schools listening with pleasure to the various demonstrations by the pupils in their school work and also to the recitations and songs suitable to this festive season which were rendered by the pupils of various departments. Santa Claus and Christmas were the prevailing themes of songs, recitations and blackboard drawings. In several rooms there were well-decorated Christmas trees. The usual honor certificates were presented by representatives of the School Board in the various departments.

Mr. J. W. Spurden made the presentations at the Charlotte Street School, Dr. G. C. VanWart at the York Street School, Mrs. W. G. Clark at the Model School and Mrs. Lynch at the Regent Street School.

MEDAL PRESENTED.

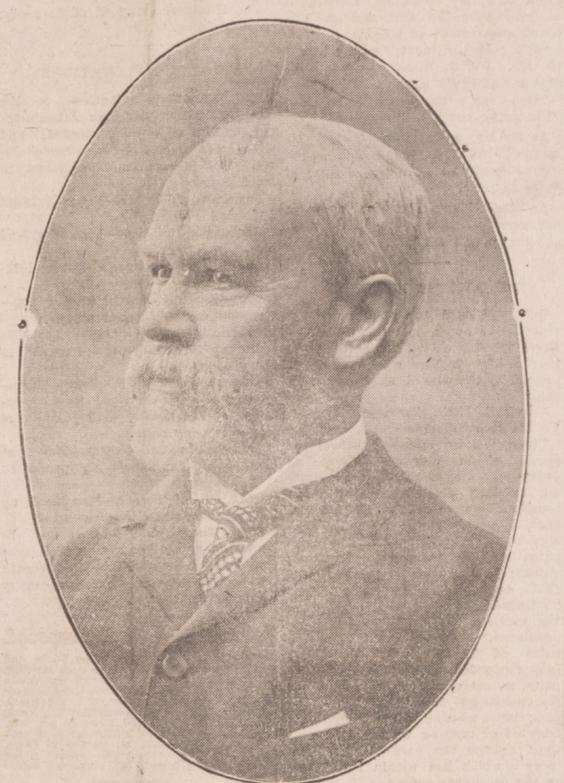
At the High School the feature of the closing exercises was the presentation to Miss Mary Chestnut by Dr. W. S. Carter, chief superintendent of education, of the Lieutenant Governor's gold medal, awarded in each county to the student making the highest average in the High School entrance examinations. The presentation was made in the assembly hall of the school in the presence of the students and a number of visitors. Among the latter were Dr. A. B. Atherton, A. A. Sterling, Very Rev. Dean Schofield, Dr. Carter, Mrs. W. G. Clark, Mrs. C. F. Chestnut and A. C. M. Lawson.



C. A. SAMPSON
Secretary of School Board

DR. CARTER'S ADDRESS.

The proceedings were begun by a chorus by the school, "The Call to Battle." Dr. A. B. Atherton, chairman of the school board, who presided, briefly introduced Dr. Carter. The latter made a short address, in which he congratulated the winner and expressed pleasure on account of having the opportunity of presenting His Honor's prize. Continuing, the chief superintendent made reference to the success in athletics which Fredericton High School had achieved during the year in winning the Inter-scholastic Football Trophy. The singing of "O Canada," and "God Save the King" concluded the exercises. The list of visitors at the Charlotte Street School included Mr. J. W. Spurden, Donald Fraser, Mr. W. J. Osborne, George Hazen, Chancellor Jones, Mrs. David Hatt, Mrs. H. R. Babbitt, Mrs. W. T. Murchie, Mrs. R. P. Allen, Mrs. C. W. Hall, Mrs. A. R. Slipp, Mrs. G. E. T. Roberts.



DR. A. B. ATHERTON
Chairman of the City School Board

TODAY'S PROCEEDINGS IN THE VARIOUS SCHOOLS OF CITY

CHARLOTTE STREET SCHOOL.

As usual there was a large attendance of visitors at the Charlotte Street School where the rooms were appropriately decorated and programmes and recitations were followed. The higher departments devoted the greater part of the time to regular school work.

MISS McADAM

Grades I and II in Miss McAdam's department had a very interesting program which included a little play entitled "Grandmothers" in which twelve little girls took part. There were also Christmas songs, and a playlet, "Mrs. Santa's Dolls" in the review of the work attention was devoted to reading, spelling and arithmetic.

MISS WILLIAMSON

Grades II and III in Miss Williamson's department had a well decorated room with blackboard drawings as a feature. The ordinary work of the term was reviewed and a short program followed.

MISS PINDER

In Miss Pinder's department composed of Grades IV and V, there were numerous blackboard drawings. The artists were Nellie Barker, Hugh Smith, Gordon Osborne, Andrew Lawrence, Stella McComb. In Miss E. J. Thompson's department which includes Grades III and IV there was an interesting program. Several drawings by Alonzo Smith adorned the blackboards.

HIGHER DEPARTMENTS

Miss Kinghorn's department including Grades V and VI and the department of the principal Miss S. L. Thompson which is composed of Grades VII and VIII the greater part of the time was devoted to regular school work with some special Christmas features.

A DIAMOND RUSH ON IN SOUTH AFRICA

London, Dec. 20.—A Johannesburg despatch to the Express reports a diamond rush at Bloemhof, a farming district on the banks of the Vaal River, not far from Kimberly. A canvas town with a population of 12,000 has sprung up within a month. Twenty thousand claims will be officially announced Saturday.

Mr. A. M. Bonnyman of Amherst, N.S., is a guest at Long's Hotel. Judge Gilmor of Oromocto is in the city.

ARMISTICE EXTENDED

Prospects Bright for Negotiating Treaty of Peace in China

Consuls of the Six Powers Call on Plenipotentiaries and Tender Expressions of Good Will

Shanghai, Dec. 20.—The consuls of the six powers called on Tang Shao Yi and Dr. Wu Fang this morning, expressing the good-will of their respective countries, and the hope that the peace conferences now in session will be successful. The presentations first at the headquarters of Tang Shao Yi, and then at the home of Dr. Wu Ting Fang, made an impressive scene. The German consul was the first speaker.

Tang Shao Yi replied in the most courteous manner, in a very few words, expressing gratitude on behalf of the imperial Chinese government at the interest taken in the situation by the six powers.

During the Conference, which was resumed at three o'clock, Tang Shao Yi, who represents Yuan Shi Kai, expressed himself as "ready to accept a republic but must first communicate with Peking."

After the meeting adjourned, an official statement intimated by Tang Shao Yi and Dr. Wu Ting Fang, the leaders of the imperialists and revolutionists respectively, was issued to the press.

It says in substance that after Dr. Wu Ting Fang had lengthily presented the case in favor of a republic, as an indispensable condition of peace, Tang Shao Yi, in replying, expressed his readiness to accept Dr. Wu Fang's views, but the matter was so important that he must first communicate with Peking. The armistice between the opposing forces has now been extended to December 30.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 20.—A despatch to the Novoye Vremya from Peking gives a list of 22 proposals drawn up by the Chinese cabinet for submission to the Shanghai Peace Conference. This scheme would make China a republic in everything but name. According to the proposals, the Emperor would receive the title of King, but all executive power would be vested in the president of the republic legally elected and two chambers.

HATTIE LeBLANC TO WED ON JAN. 8

Arichat, Dec. 19.—Hattie LeBlanc, who was a prominent figure in the Glover murder trial in Boston, is to be married on Jan. 8 to Felix Linden, of Louisdale, Richmond county, now employed with the Nova Scotia Steel & Coal Company, Sydney Mines.

TURKEY ABOUT TO PROPOSE PEACE

London, Dec. 20.—According to a despatch from Rome it is believed there that Turkey is about to make peace proposals. The British foreign office has issued a statement that Turkey was informed in 1904 that Sullumin Baria, the eastern division of Tripoli was included in Egyptian and that its occupation by "Egyptian troops now, is a mere formality. It is believed however, that Turkey never formally admitted this view.

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RICHESON'S STRANGE ACT

Accused Pastor Cut Himself Seriously with a Piece of Tin

Physicians Afterwards Found it Necessary to Perform an Operation in the Hospital

(Canadian Press.)
Boston, Mass., Dec. 20.—Rev. Clarence V. T. Richeson, accused of the murder of Avis Linnell, cut himself seriously with a piece of tin early today.

It is said that the wound was inflicted in the groin, and that although Richeson disguised himself, his condition is understood not to be serious.

Counsel for the accused man states that Richeson attempted to envenomate himself, inflicting injuries which made it necessary for physicians to complete his act by an operation at the prison hospital.

The act of the minister is not regarded by the jail officials as an attempt to commit suicide, although there appeared to be some doubt on this point among the legal fraternity.

The attendants at the jail heard a disturbance in Richeson's cell early in the morning and when they investigated, they found the prisoner in great agony. He had gashed himself with a sharp, jagged piece of tin, which he had converted into a sort of a knife. When the guards approached the prisoner and inquired what was the trouble, Rev. Mr. Richeson said excitedly:

"I've cut myself; I'm bleeding to death."

The prison doctor was hurriedly called and when he inspected Richeson he found that the man had cut himself severely in the vicinity of the groin. Other surgeons were sent for, and their hasty arrival caused considerable excitement among the prisoners. Four surgeons worked over him for some time and it was found necessary to resort to a drastic operation. Richeson was put under the influence of an anaesthetic and the operation which was performed shortly before daylight, was said to be a successful one.

The jail physician stated that Richeson would recover, barring complications. District Attorney Pelletier in an official statement, said that the trial of Richeson for murder would begin on January 15th, the date originally set.

When Attorney Morris of Richeson's counsel, arrived at the jail the physicians showed him a piece of tin, something like a knife, one edge of which had been sharpened on the stone floor of the cell. A short term prisoner, who was freed this forenoon, said he had a cell near that of Richeson, and heard him scraping something on the floor as if he was sharpening a knife.

DIVORCE GRANTED IN LANGEVIN CASE

(Canadian Press.)
Paris, Dec. 20.—The petition for a separation from her husband, presented in the divorce court here, by Mme. Langevin, was granted today. Mme. Langevin, the wife of Professor Langevin, who holds a chair of general and experimental physics at the College of France, asked for a separation from her husband, on account of his relations with Mme. Curie, the once famous scientist, and co-operator with her late husband Professor Curie in the discovery of radium. The suit caused a great sensation throughout France, and for a long period, the country was excited and the people divided into two camps over the controversy. Several duels were fought between prominent journalists on questions arising out of the case.

STEAMER ON SHOALS CAPTAIN SHOT HIMSELF

Barbadoes, West Indies, Dec. 20.—The captain of the British steamer Jacob Bright shot himself yesterday after the British armoured cruiser had pulled his vessel off the shoals.