

THE CHRISTMAS TRADE.

Our Stores Present Great Attractions at This Season.

The business houses of Fredericton always present a very attractive appearance, but it is during the Christmas season that they are to be seen at their best. Our merchants have this year laid in heavy stocks of seasonable goods in anticipation of the Christmas trade, and a number of them have been obliged to engage extra help, in order to be in a position to serve their customers in an expeditious manner. Fredericton has no reason to be ashamed of its stores, and our merchants are as shrewd, enterprising and courteous as those of any other city in the country. They buy in the best markets and buy right, and are not afraid to stand behind their goods. In view of this it seems a great pity that people persist in patronizing the large departmental stores of the upper provinces. There is scarcely a day that a score or more of parcels from a house in Toronto are not received at the express office here, consigned to residents of the city and county. These goods are ordered from attractively gotten up catalogues, the money is forwarded, and the articles purchased have to be kept whether they come up to expectation or not. While in some cases bargains are probably obtained, there is no doubt that the results on the whole would be more satisfactory if the purchases were made at our own stores. This sort of thing has been going on year after year and we suppose it will continue to go on until the end of the chapter, though it must be admitted that it is very unfair to the resident merchants.

If people who patronize these departmental stores would only stop at that, our merchants would perhaps have less cause for complaint, but such is not the case. When the goods are delivered many of the buyers—but not all—make a practice of going the rounds of our stores with no other object in view than to make a comparison with local prices. Then there are some who after having received a mail order from Toronto actually have the nerve to visit one or perhaps more of our stores and have similar articles sent to their homes on approval, so that, the quality can be compared. These goods are often kept out a whole week, and the merchants of course receive nothing from the transaction except a lot of bother and worry, and often the goods are not returned until sent for. At this busy season of the year, shoppers, whether patrons of departmental stores or not, should bear in mind that our merchants are not in business for their health, and should treat them with some consideration. If goods are taken out on approval, and if you decide not to purchase, lose no time in sending them back, so that the merchant may have a chance to dispose of them in other quarters. If this rule were followed it would add considerably to the peace of mind of our business men.

PROVINCIAL HOCKEY LEAGUE.

Six Teams Have Entered—The Schedule of Games.

A meeting was held last evening in the rooms of the Neptune Rowing Club, St. John, says the Sun, for the purpose of organizing a hockey league for the winter. Delegates from St. Stephen, Sackville, Fredericton, Marysville, Mohawks and Beavers were present and judging from the arrangements which were made, hockey should boom in New Brunswick this winter. The old B. and B. team of Fredericton will unite with the Trojans of that city and enter the league under the name of Trojans. Two teams will enter from St. John, the Mohawks and the Neptunes, the latter being composed of players of last season's Beavers as well as of the Neptune boys.

Sackville applied for admission to the league and was admitted. The league will thus be composed of six teams instead of five as was the case last season. The representatives present last evening were C. Coleman and C. H. Allen, Fredericton; R. N. Rainnie, Sackville; Arthur Chipman, St. Stephen; Clair Downing, Marysville; K. R. Inches, Mohawks; George McA. Blizzard, Neptunes.

The following officers for the league were elected: President, J. D. Chipman, St. Stephen; vice president, James Harrison, St. John; secretary, C. H. Allen, Fredericton.

The following is the schedule of games decided upon:

Mohawks—St. Stephen, Jan. 13; Marysville, Feb. 1; Neptunes, Feb. 26; Sackville, Feb. 9; Fredericton, Jan. 6.

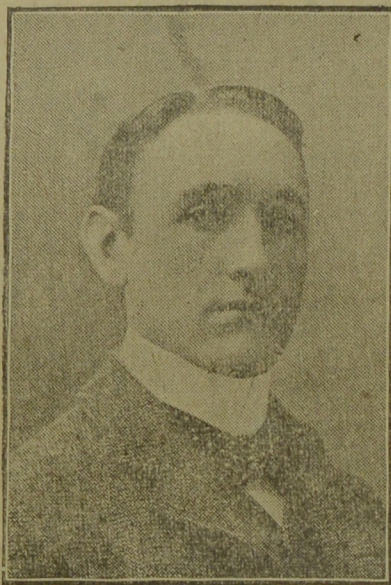
Fredericton—St. Stephen, Jan. 22; Marysville, Feb. 28; Neptunes, Feb. 5; Sackville, Jan. 12; Mohawks, Feb. 19.

Sackville—St. Stephen, Feb. 23; Marysville, Feb. 22; Neptunes, Jan. 15; Fredericton, Jan. 28; Mohawks, Jan. 29.

Neptune—St. Stephen, Feb. 9; Marysville, Jan. 11; Sackville, Feb. 21.

Fredericton, Jan. 20; Mohawks, Feb. 12; Marysville—St. Stephen, Feb. 29; Neptunes, Feb. 19; Sackville, Feb. 18; Fredericton, Dec. 30; Mohawks, Jan. 22; St. Stephen—Marysville, Jan. 18; Neptunes, Jan. 29; Sackville, Feb. 4; Fredericton, Feb. 16; Mohawks, Feb. 5.

Moncton has formed a team known as the Crescents, and would like very well to join the league, but cannot, owing to the distance between Fredericton, St. Stephen and Moncton.



The above picture of Mr. Owen A. Smiley whose many friends in Fredericton are awaiting his return this evening and who with Mr. Harold Jarvis will give a splendid programme. His latest "sketches" and "stories" are brimful of fun, and will delight the large audience who will greet him.

BABY BURNED TO DEATH.

Sad Affair Happened Near Havelock, King's County.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Johnson, of Springhill, near Havelock, Kings county, was the scene of a sad fatality on Friday last when their four year old girl was burned to death.

Although full particulars have not been received enough is known to tell how the terrible accident occurred. The three Johnston children, aged two, four and six years, were left to themselves in the house while their mother went to a neighbor's on business.

The clothing of the second child caught fire from the kitchen stove and not being able to cope with the situation but hurrying for aid the eldest child threw the youngest out of the window and followed, hurrying to the neighbor's to summon Mrs. Johnston.

The mother ran home where she found the child enveloped in flames, and before the doctor could be got the little one was dead, being burned almost beyond recognition.

From the fact that the eldest and youngest child escaped by way of the window it is believed the doors of the house were locked, a too common occurrence in country places.

Among the Curlers.

The sixth arc light was installed yesterday at the curling rink and last night the players were quite well satisfied with the illumination, which however the managing committee hope to still further improve by whitewashing the walls of the building, and perhaps adding reflectors to the lights.

The membership of the club is still increasing. Messrs. William Barpee and George E. Howie are the latest additions and the total is now 87. Others are coming in and the membership will reach 90 at least by New Years.

The seven or eight pairs of new stones being imported for members of the club by Mr. James Doull, have not yet arrived.

If you are looking for your family physician during the evening, ring him up at the Curling rink. The medical men of this city are nearly all curlers, some of them very enthusiastic ones. The list includes Dr. Bridges, Dr. Crockett, Dr. Atherton, Dr. W. H. Irvine, Dr. McGrath and Dr. G. J. McNally.

Married at Houlton.

The Baptist parsonage on Leonard street, Houlton, was the scene of a quiet but impressive wedding ceremony on Saturday evening, Dec. 12. The contracting parties were George Hubert Law of Houlton and Miss Nellie Jones of Fredericton. The ceremony was performed by Rev. J. A. Ford in the presence of a few friends, after which the happy couple were conveyed to their new home on Charles street, where everything had been placed in readiness to receive them.

A Family Dispute.

A rather interesting law suit, in which two well known St. Marys families are interested, is to be tried this evening before Mr. Thomas Morris, J. P., C. C., of St. Marys.

SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND.

Close of a Successful Year's Work—New Brunswick Graduates.

Halifax, Dec. 15.—The annual meeting of the School for the Blind was held last evening.

The table of attendance submitted shows that 142 blind persons have been under instruction during the past year, of whom 87 were males and 55 females. Of these, 18 have since graduated or remained at home, making the total number registered December 1, 1903, 124, of whom 77 are males and 47 females. Of these, 77 are from the province of Nova Scotia, 28 from New Brunswick, eight from Prince Edward Island, and 11 from Newfoundland.

Among the graduates of the year the following deserve special mention:

Miss Mary McDonald of Welsford, N. B., received a certificate as a competent masseuse and has settled in St. John, N. B.

J. Hollis Lindsay of Woodstock, N. B., received a first class certificate as a teacher of music, and as a pianoforte tuner. In order to further his studies as a church organist, he has been granted an additional year for a post graduate course.

Paul Duffy of Hillsboro, N. B., was awarded a first class certificate as a music teacher and pianoforte tuner, and has settled in his native town.

Mr D Shaw, of Montreal, is among the guests at the Queen.

CASTORIA

For Infants and Children.

The Kind You Have Always Bought

Bears the Signature of *Dr. J. C. Fitcher*

DOG LOST.

A brown Spaniel Pup, 4 mos. old. Any person knowing of its whereabouts please telephone to No 110.

Dec. 14—dlf

Tenders for Wood.

Tenders addressed to the undersigned, will be received up to Wednesday, 30th December, instant, at the office of F. St. John Ellis, Secretary-Treasurer of York, for sixty cords of green rock maple and birch furnace wood in four foot lengths. Also ten cords of green split white birch, (no round wood allowed), in four foot lengths. The wood to be delivered before the first day of March next, in part at the County Court House, and piled in Cellar, and part at County Gaol, and piled in shed. The wood to be subject to the inspection and approval of such person as may be appointed by the Buildings Committee of the Municipality. Dated December 12th, 1903—dwt

JOHN C. MURRAY,
Chairman Buildings Committee.

BRUSHES

FOR CHRISTMAS GIVING.

Hair Brushes

Long bristles and short—the kind that ladies like and those suitable for men's hair. Many kinds of wood.

Clothes Brushes

Made especially for taking dust out of every crease and wrinkle.

We can't begin to tell you all about our line of brushes; it will require a visit to our store to get a true idea of our variety.

C. FRED. CHESTNUT, Apothecary,
308 Queen st.

Military Hair Brushes

These are the hair brushes that particular men always insist upon having.

Hat Brushes

With long, flexible bristles that get into every nook and corner of a hat.

Only 50 Cts.

We are now offering a fine

Sterling Silver
Souvenir Spoon

With cut of Parliament or Cathedral in bowl for 50 cents each until Xmas.

F. E. BLACKMER, 222 Queen St
opp. Soldier Barracks.

Agent for Waterman's Ideal Fountain Pens.

The Royal Bank of Canada

INCORPORATED 1869

Savings Bank Department

Capital and Reserves

\$5,938,885

Total Assets

\$24,400,000

General Business Transacted . . .

Drafts and Letters of Credit issued

Correspondence solicited

SLIPPERS

FOR

CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Are very suitable. We have an excellent assortment of these, in

Gent's Kid Slippers,

In Black, and also Tan,

Also Velvet Embroidered

In various styles. Our

LADIES', MISSES', AND

CHILDREN'S SLIPPERS,

In Kid is well assorted, and we have a fine variety of

Soft, Warm Felt Slippers

In all sizes. They are dainty and durable.

H. M. LOTTIMER