THE EVENING TIMES.

SAINT JOHN, N. B., DECEMBER 18, 1905.

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A. M. BELDING, Editor.

CHRISTMAS GIVING

It is very creditable to the citizenship of St. John, and very gratifying intelligence, that at the Christmas season requests are showered upon the secretary of the Associated Charities for the names of persons in poor circumstances whom those seeking the information desire to help. But this kind of charity, however pleasing at Christmas time, does not meet the conditions. There are many families whose Christmas outlook is far from bright, but who are too sensitive to parade their poverty. As a rule it is the undeserving subject whose wants are most loudly proclaimed. The sympathy that really helps most is that which seeks out its object and is personally expressed. Of course it is impossible for many to come into personal contact with the most deserving of the needy, partly because the latter are reserved, and partly because of the multitude of duties to be performed, and because of this the Associated Charities becomes a most valuable institution; but if any citizen believes that because there is such an institution, and because there are church organizations, therefore no home will be cheerless a week from today, he or she is mistaken. The past summer was not as good for laboring men as many previous ones. Any corner grocer will testify that this is the truth. There are many families facing the problem of a hard winter. A good Christmas dinner will cheer them, but it will not solve their problems. By all means let all enjoy their Christmas as much as possible, but there are many to whom a word of encouragement, a little temporary assistance, a real proof of personal sympathy, would be of far greater and more lasting value than a Christmas dole received through the agency of a charitable organization.

RUSSIA'S PERIL

The news that comes from Russia is of the most ominous character. The government has apparently thrown itself into the arms of the autocracy in the hope of crushing out the rising spirit of liberty. Such an effort must prove futile. The people might be guided in such a way as to prevent a revolution, but they cannot be coerced. In St. Petersburg today much of such a condition exists as existed many months ago, so far as the methods of the government are concerned; but in other respects there has been an epoch marking change. The people know their power. The press has had a measure of freedom. The army is no longer without evidences of disaffection. The navy is not as it was. The whole system of government is honey-combed and too weak to stand the onslaught of a people determined to win their freedom. It may be, and doubtless is true that the people have asked more of freedom than they are at the moment qualified to exercise with wisdom, but it would be far better to endeavor to lead than to drive them. The old repressive measures would only lead to revolution, and to a period of anarchy only paralleled by the horrors of the French Revolution.

BY A COMMISSION

The city of Houston, Texas, furnishes an interesting study in municipal development. The city is governed by a commission. The experiment is now five months old, and is declared to be a success. For ten years the city had been badly governed by mayors and councils. The following is a description given of the conditions as then existing, and although Houston is a long way off these conditions appear somewhat similar to those in cities much nearer home:—

The powers of officials conflicted, and there was a general lack of responsibility. The chief of police, for instance, would admit that his department was weak and incompetent, but would shrug his shoulders with the statement that his hands were tied. He was under the direction of a mayor, a police commission, and a city council, and each one of these was, in a measure, dependent upon the other. There was no real source of authority or power, and first one and then another would take the bits in their teeth and run things for a time. This same condition maintained with the fire, the street and bridge, and other departments. The streets were in woful condition, with the ten important bridges of the city threatening to tumble down. Complaints filed with the street commission would meet the response: "I can't do anything for the mayor will not give me the men." Then when the mayor was applied to, his reply would be that the council refused to sanction further expenses in the street and bridge department. If the matter was carried to the council a general scrimmage would ensue wherein each alderman would attempt to get improvements in his ward at the expense of the others. The result would be the killing of all plans of betterment or the granting of a makeshift order, which then would frequently fail in execution. One thing that the last half-dozen administrations of the old form of government were noted for was the issuance of new bonds. Each recurring one would seem intent on besting its predecessors in this respect.

Naturally the debt increased, and the situation became acute. During this period Galveston was almost swept out of existence, and was being built up again. The state government had put the control of the affairs of that city in the hands of a commission of three persons, with a free hand and full responsibility. They accomplished wonders in Galveston. Houston saw it, and decided to do likewise. A charter for a commission government was secured from the state legislature, and a form of government secured which is thus described:—

Power is concentrated in the hands of one man—the mayor—and responsibility upon his head, co-extensive with his power. The only other offices known to the charter are four aldermen or commissioners, who serve with the mayor or as his assistants, and who can only control his action with regard to a very few matters, relating principallly to expenditures. The mayor is immediately responsible for the efficiency, honesty and faithfulness of every city employe, save the commissioners. The following are the distinctive features of Houston's commission charter:—

There are but four elective officers who are chosen each two years by the qualified votes of the city, they being a mayor and four aldermen at large. It is required that each one of these officials devote his time exclusively to the affairs of the city.

The salary of the mayor is fixed by the charter, $4,000 per year, and the salary of each alderman at $2,500 per year.

The mayor is vested with the power of appointing all other officers of the city, including heads of departments, subject to confirmation by the city council. He has the power to remove at any time any officer, save the aldermen, or any employee in the service of the city, for any cause or when in his judgment he believes such for the public good. No officer or employe is appointed for a fixed term, and they are at all times subject to removal by the mayor or the city council. When such dismissal takes place it is required that the mayor, or the council in case it shall have acted, file a written statement in the archives of the city of the reasons for which the removal was made.

The mayor may be removed from office by a majority of the council for misconduct, inability or wilful neglect.

The mayor has the right of veto of all resolutions and ordinances, but they may be passed over his head.

By the charter the six wards of the city, as political divisions, are abolished, and the mayor and each alderman are chosen by the entire city and represent all parts of it alike.

Officers which have heretofore been elective but which are now appointive by the mayor are: City attorney, controller, health officer, tax collector and assessor, chief of police, judge of the corporation court and street and bridge commissioner.

The mayor and aldermen constitute the city council and are required to hold public meetings at stated intervals. The council is in continuous executive session, or rather open and ready to be convened at any time for the transaction of ordinary business affairs.

The council has the power to remove one of the aldermen upon the same grounds it may impeach and remove the mayor.

By petition of five hundred qualified voters referendum upon the granting of a franchise may be procured by citizens.

Simplicity and a maximum of responsibility in the management of city affairs were the two greatest objects sought by the framers of the commission charter.

The article from which these quotations are taken declares that the new form of government has been productive of great reforms in Houston. The departments were re-organized, the number of officials required, expenses reduced, revenues increased, changes made in departmental methods, and strict business principles applied. Heads fell wherever necessary to more economical and better administration. Among other notable accomplishments of the commission during its nve months of rule are mentioned:—

The adoption of an energetic policy of street cleaning, which has given the city for the first time in its existence clean pavements.

Enforcement of the laws against gambling. Gamblers have actually been run out and hundreds of joints closed. This has been effective for four months and the people are pinning their faith in the commission to continue it.

The establishment of a sinking fund which is to ultimately retire the $3,000,000 of bonds the city shoulders.

A settlement is being brought about with the Houston water company of long pending litigations, which may result in the municipal ownership of the plant.

Many minor actions that are of much importance to Houston are to the credit of the commission and Houston is much pleased with the record it has made. The popular verdict is that the new form of government makes it possible for business men in the role of city officials to run the city as they would a private enterprise. If there is failure to make good in any department, the public may at once place the responsibility. It has but a few officials to deal with and they are held to a strict accounting.

Those who declare that St. John could be better governed than at present by a commission of four or five clever business men will be much encouraged in their belief by the experience of Houston, if the statements herewith quoted are an accurate statement of results.

The York County Loan Co. is to be wound up. The managers have protested that the affairs are in a sound condition. There will now be an opportunity to prove it. There are many people in St. John and other lower province towns who are anxious to know. This company drew its resources very largely from the poorer classes in this country, who could least afford to lose. There will therefore be much anxiety until its affairs have been thoroughly probed.

The British political campaign will be fairly opened this week. The re-entry of Lord Curzon into politics at home will lend interest to the campaign. The development of the government's Home Rule policy and of the Unionist fiscal policy will be awaited with universal interest.

John Burns, labor agitator, once led a procession of unemployed into St. Paul's Cathedral. Yesterday there was a similar procession, which may have been witnessed by the Rt. Hon. John Burns, President of the Local Government Board. The Rt. Hon. John has some work cut out for himself by himself.

The citizens who do most of their Christmas shopping early in the week will earn the gratitude of the men and the women behind the counters. They will also save themselves from an attack of "nerves" later in the week.

Chicago has a financial sensation of considerable proportions. It does not appear, however, that the loss will be serious, as the banks have come to the rescue.

Open till 10 tonight. St. John, N. B., Dec. 18, 1905.

BIG CLOTHING SALE
IN FULL SWING

Crowds of People took advantage of our Sale on Saturday, and saved from a Third to a Half of the Usual Price. This gives a great chance to get useful CHRISTMAS GIFTS for Very Small Amounts of Money.

Be On Hand To-Night. Store Open till 10 o'clock.

J. N. HARVEY, Men's and Boys' Clothier, 199 and 201 Union Street.

8 BOYS

Out of every Ten, would be simply delighted to receive on Christmas Morning a pair of OIL-TAN MOCCASINS. If you doubt this, ask the boys.

Men's Oil-Tan Moccasins, 6 to 11,	$1.45
Boys' Oil-Tan Moccasins, 1 to 5,	1.25
Youths' Oil-Tan Moccasins, 11 to 13,	1.10
Men's Moose Hide Moccasins, 6 to 11,	1.50
Boys' Moose Hide Moccasins, 1 to 5,	1.35
Women's Moose Hide Moccasins, 3 to 7,	1.35

WE KEEP OPEN THIS WEEK TILL 10 p. m.

FOOT FITTERS McRobbie 94 KING STREET

ASK YOUR GROCER
—FOR—
St. John Creamery Butter and Cream.
If he does not handle our goods call on us direct.
Creamery open for inspection every day, 92 King St.
Tel. 1432. W. H. BELL, Manager

GILBERT LANE DYE WORKS.

LACE CURTAINS cleaned and done up EQUAL TO NEW.
Carpets cleaned and beaten. Dyeing and scouring.

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Doctor's Special
SCOTCH WHISKY
Challenges the World!
Safest Whisky to drink, because each bottle carries a Doctor's Certificate of purity.
GEO. PERCIVAL & CO.,
Sole Canadian Agents, Montreal.
Sold by John O'Regan, 17 and 19 Mill Street.

Children's Box Calf, nice Dressy Shoes low heels, $1.30. Children's Dongola Kid, spring heels, patent tips, $1.15. Misses' Box Calf, low heels, $1.60.

J. W. SMITH, - - - - 37 Waterloo Street.

Hawker's Balsam

WILL CURE YOUR COLD.

All Druggists Sell It.

Xmas Toys.

We have the greatest collection of Christmas Toys ever gathered under a St. John roof.
We are anxious that you should see them. You will be astonished at the reasonableness of the prices. See our large display ad.

JAS. A. TUFTS & SON, -- Germain and Church Sts.

LORD CURZON FOR LONDON

Certain That India's Late Viceroy Will Succeed Sir Joseph Dimsdale.

London, Dec. 16—The great political campaign in the United Kingdom will be fairly inaugurated during the coming week, when the new prime minister, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, will speak at Albert Hall, London, and Mr. Balfour at Leeds. It is expected the respective leaders of the government and opposition will then outline the main issues and platforms of their parties.

Alfred Lyttelton, colonial secretary in Mr. Balfour's cabinet, speaking at Leamington tonight, said the Unionists would place their fiscal policy before the country. This is taken to mean that some modification of what is known as the "Chamberlain policy" is intended. Mr. Lyttelton also said the Unionists would base their fight against the Liberals on Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman's well-known home rule proclivities. With regard to the fiscal policy, Mr. Lyttelton, who may be understood as speaking for



LORD CURZON

the Unionists, said the whole policy of his party would be for the prevention of unfair competition and colonial preference.

Christmas week will bring an enforced truce between all the parties so far as an active campaign is concerned, but the activity will begin again after the new year. The campaign, it is thought, will be short and sharp. Writs are expected to issue January 8, which means that a majority of the elections will be over by January 25, though actually some of the constituencies have until January 28. In any event the whole question will be decided inside the month of January, and parliament probably will meet February 15.

One of the most interesting pieces of political news developed during a week filled with political news, is the practical certainty that Lord Curzon of Keddlestone, former viceroy of India, will represent the city of London in the House of Commons in succession to Sir Joseph Dimsdale. It is recognized in all political circles that Lord Curzon is one of the campaign men and a petition that is now circulating in the city is receiving signatures irrespective of creed or party. Lord Curzon's friends say he will undoubtedly accept it. He is a Conservative free trader.

MONCTON NEWS

Fought Fire in Church Basement While Congregation Gathered Above.

Moncton, N. B., Dec. 7.—(Special)—While the congregation of Central Methodist church was gathering for worship at 11 o'clock this morning, a fight was being made by Chife Ackman and a few members of the fire department in the basement of the church to save the edifice from destruction by fire. A blaze in the floor over the furnace was seen by the janitor a little before the service was to begin. Chief Ackman, who was in the vestry, telephoned for the hose cart and then without giving a general alarm proceeded to fight the fire. It was eventually put out and worship was not disturbed. Many in the congregation were unaware of what had transpired. Practically no damage was done.

At the evening's service in St. John's Presbyterian church the pastor, Rev. Mr. MacOdrum, in speaking of the debt fund movement said the mortgage had been notified that the mortgage would be lifted the first of the year. A little more than a year ago the congregation began a movement to free the church from debt, including $7,000 mortgage and $1,000 floating debt. The effort bids fair to be successful.

I. C. R. water tank at Bathurst was destroyed by fire this morning. The fire is supposed to have originated from the flue.

City merchants report very dull Christmas trade so far.

SACKVILLE

SACKVILLE, Dec. 16.—A special train was sent to Cape Tormentine this morning to meet the steamer Stanley.

Lebaron Anderson recently disposed of a handsome matched span of black horses for $450.00. A. L. Tucker of Parrsboro, N. S., was the purchaser.

Mrs. P. W. McNaughton of Joggins, N. S., is visiting her mother Mrs. Ruth Mitchell.

Wm. Farquarhason, manager of Portland Packing Co., Cape Tormentine, returned last evening from a business trip to Portland, Me.

A unanimous invitation has been extended to Rev. J. L. Dawson, B. A., of St. Johns, Nefld., by the Methodist board of Sackville to assume the pastorate of the Methodist denomination at the expiration of the present conference year. Rev. Mr. Dawson is a native of P. E. I.

A PLEASING SPECTACLE

There was a pleasing spectacle in St. Luke's church yesterday when the youngest son of Herman Sullivan was baptized, and representatives of four generations watched the ceremony. They were Captain John Stevens, who, as a great grandfather, is hale and hearty in his 89th year; the grandmother, Mrs. J. B. Eagles; the mother, Mrs. Sullivan, and the child baptized, John Kenneth Sullivan. Not many families are so abundantly blessed.

Curling Coats
—FOR—
Xmas Gifts.

Last year we were headquarters for Curling Coats.
This year we have many new and handsome patterns.
Curling Coats make very acceptable Xmas Gifts.
Please call and inspect. Orders should be given early.

A. R. Campbell & Son,
High Class Tailoring,
26 Germain St.

WEIGHING MACHINERY.

We make a specialty of repairing load, platform and counter scales, also weigh beams, to conform with inspectors' requirements.

E. S. STEPHENSON & CO., 17, 19 Nelson Street, St. John, N. B.

Gifts of Footwear

Are appreciated by Young and Old.

FOR MOTHER---Felt Shoes, Jaeger Wool Slippers.
FOR FATHER---Overshoes, Rubber Boots, Jaeger Wool Slippers, Fancy Slippers.
FOR GRANDPARENTS---Cosy Slippers, Easy Fitting Boots.
FOR BROTHER---Hockey Boots Moccasins, "Foot Rite" Shoes.
FOR SISTER---Dressy Slippers, Patent Leather Shoes, Skating Boots.

Francis & Vaughan
19 King Street

Our Holiday Stock
Is Filling Up Rapidly with New Clocks in Crystal—Gold—Bronze

New Jewelry in all the latest novelties.
New Watches in complete variety.
New Chains in all the popular patterns.
New Sterling Silverware, Silver Plated Ware, Cut Glass, and a host of attractive goods too numerous to mention.

FERGUSON & PAGE, Jewellers, 41 King Street.

JAMES V. RUSSELL,
677-679 Main Street.
Branches 8 1-2 Brussells - - - - - 397 Main Street.

The Best Factories in Canada are represented in the New Stock of Boots and Shoes for Fall and Winter, which I have just received. You will find what you want at right prices. Call today.

Mistletoe and Holly,
CHRISTMAS BELLS, CUT FLOWERS and Potted Plants.
P. E. CAMPBELL, Seedsman,
47 Germain Street. Telephone 832.

Santa Claus is at Parson's West End,

With lots of toys for his little friends. Automobiles, Trolley Cars, Iron Toys, Steam Engines, Magic Lanterns, Toy Picture Books, Dolls and hundreds of pretty things to make every one of his friends happy. E. O. PARSONS, West End.

HAIR CUTTING

Your hair should be cut in the style most becoming to your features. If you call here you will be exactly suited. Try your next shave and hair cut at "The basement barber shop."

R. C. McAFEE, - Headof King Street.

Cauliflower, Oyster Plant,
Brussels Sprouts, Lettuce, Radishes,
Celery, Parsley, Water Cress,
Sweet Potatoes, Artichokes

J. E. QUINN, CITY MARKET. - TELEPHONE 636.

Fresh Pies.

All kinds of delicious pies and cakes. Our products are just like home-made.
York Bakery. 'Phone 1457.
290 Brussels street. 565 Main street.

DIAMONDS, WATCHES, CLOCKS and CHAINS at Lowest Prices.
G. D. PERKINS,
WATCHMAKER AND JEWELER.
80 Prince Wm. St. St. John, N. B.
'Phone 900.

FRESH FISH DAILY. You can get fresh fish here every day. Salt and smoked fish too; all kinds. Fresh vegetables in abundance.
COLLINS BROS., 17 Winslow St.
ST. JOHN WEST.

PHOTOS PHOTOS PHOTOS!

Photos of the Scholars of Victoria and Alexandria Schools can be seen at my studio. Also views of the Launching of the Ludlow. Amateur finishing a specialty.

GEO. C. M. FARREN, . . . 74 Germain Street.

2 STRONG POINTS WITH US,
MINK AND GREY LAMB FURS!

During the Xmas season we will make a liberal cash discount.

F. S. THOMAS, - 539 Main Street, North End
Store open till 9 o'clock every night.