THE EVENING TIMES.

ST. JOHN, N. B., DEC. 27, 1906

The St. John Evening Times is published at 27 and 29 Canterbury Street, every evening (Sunday excepted) by the St. John Times Printing & Publishing Co., Ltd. A company incorporated under the Joint Stock Companies Act.

JOHN RUSSELL, JR. President, A. M. BELDING, Editor.

TELEPHONES—News and Editorial, 192; Advertising Dept., 705; Circulation Dept. 95.

The Times has the largest afternoon circulation in the Maritime Provinces.

Circulation of The Times.

Week Ending Dec. 15th. 1906.

MONDAY	10,677
TUESDAY	10,602
WEDNESDAY	10,229
THURSDAY	10,899
FRIDAY	11,890
SATURDAY	15,181
TOTAL	69,478
Daily Average	11,579
Average Daily Sworn Circulation First Six Months, 1906,	6,791

LIBERAL CONVENTION

The Liberal convention which begins this evening is the most important political event that has occurred in St. John for a considerable time past. The presence of Messrs. Emmerson and Borden adds a special interest, and the relation of the convention to Mr. Blair and of Mr. Blair to the convention, is a topic of interested discussion. Meeting in St. John, the chief commercial city of the province, and the chief winter port of Canada, it may be assumed that matters affecting the future development of the port will be touched upon, and a declaration of ministerial policy would be very welcome to the citizens of all parties. As the convention has been called by the minister of railways, there will be more interest in what he may have to say, than in the statements of any other speaker. The banquet this evening will afford a fine opportunity for the orators of the party, and is also the subject of much expectant interest. There are rumors that important announcements may be looked for, but as yet they are rumors only. It is inferred from hints thrown out that there may be some lively discussions in the convention, and that is a healthy sign. A cut and dried affair would benefit neither the party nor the country.

A SPASM IN TORONTO

A condition not peculiar to the city of Toronto has led to the organization there of a Civic Improvement Committee. The News states the chief reason for the movement as follows:-

"The city is now on the eve of important developments both industrially and commercially. Large undertakings have to be exploited, and the opinion is very generally entertained by the committee that men of the highest attainment, efficiency and culture must be chosen as mayor and controllers and aldermen if the best results are to be attained. Toronto has now a great attractive power as a market, and the two questions which bear most directly upon its further expansion—both of which are now topics of the hour—are increased transportation facilities and cheap power."

The committee consists of fifty of the leading merchants and professional men, and it is non-partisan. Its object is "to secure better representation for the citizens in the council, and to promote all such plans as tend toward the public weal." While no active part will be taken in providing candidates for the pending civic elections, it is hoped during the coming year, by means of conferences with the board of control and with the various committees, to mould legislation on broader lines than has obtained in the past." If next year it seems necessary, candidates will be placed in the field. The News adds:-

"It has long been felt by not a few of the principal business men that too many of those elected to the council were built on narrow guage lines—a quality that absolutely precludes them from viewing public questions in a proper light. To remedy this sort of thing will be one of the objects of the committee. On the other hand, it has been impossible, as a rule, to get men of the right stamp as substitutes. Men of the highest type have in the main fought shy of the public service because of the necessity that a run for office foists upon them of undergoing the oftentimes distasteful incidents of an electoral campaign. One of the objects of the committee will be to take upon the shoulders of the members many of the details inseparable from such a contest. When a man of generally accepted calibre and ability offers himself for election as mayor, for example, the committee will get out and do much of the speaking and the handshaking essential to success. Relieved of some of the details inseparable from a triumphal return at the poll the expectation has been formed that many such men may be induced to give a portion of their time, together with their extended experience and mature judgment, to the service of the city."

All this reads so much like the programme of the defunct Citizens' League in St. John that people hereabouts will have a pathetic interest in the Toronto infant. Will it live—or will it die?

A NEW RAILWAY POLICY

Bradstreet's gives a very interesting account of the new railway policy of Mexico, which is in effect a revolution in respect to transportation interests ,and a venture along lines that are new in railway control. We quote:

"The plan decided upon involves a practical merger of the Mexican Central with the National Railway Company of Mexico, which is already controlled by the government. A holding company to be known as the United National Railways of Mexico, is to be formed, in which will be vested the ownership of a majority of the stocks of the two companies and in which the government is to have a preponderating interest. The new company is to be financed by a powerful syndicate of American and European bankers, which will underwrite two bond issues, consisting of fifty-year 4 per cent. prior lien bonds and general mortgage seventy-year 4 per cent. bonds, the Mexican government to guarantee the latter issue. These new securities are to be offered in exchange for the present securities of the Mexican Central and the Mexican National on terms yet to be made public, the transaction in this way resulting in a unification of the share capitals and funded debts of both organizations.

"The importance of this step on the part of the Mexican republic is not fully appreciated in the United States. With the acquisition of the 3,350 miles which constitute the Mexican Central system, the government now has practical control of about 10,000 miles of railways, including the most important lines which traverse the country.

"It is to be noted that the Mexican government, in creating what is tantamount to national ownership of railways, has cut loose from the ideas which prevail in various European countries and in certain of the British possessions in regard to government ownership of the roads. The government in this case merely becomes a partner in the enterprise; the private ownership of a minority of the stock is retained, and with it an assurance of continued co-operation on the part of bankers and capitalists, which is so necessary in a country like Mexico, where further extensions of railways and great additons to their facilities are a vital necessity. In this the Mexican plan presents a marked contrast to the Canadian method of developing railroad facilities. Mexico and Canada have alike been very liberal in fostering the creation of railroads in their respective domains, so far as the granting of subsidies is concerned; but except where the Canadian government has built and is operating lines like the Intercolonial Railway, for which it would be a practical impossibility to induce private capital to assume responsibility (?), Canadian lines are owned and managed approximately like those of the United States. It will be very interesting to observe the workings of the theories involved in the Mexican plan, now that the nation controls the entire principal corporation systems of the country."

EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

The Winnipeg Free Press, in an article on the work of the schools, makes, in addition to its observations concerning the regular course of study, the following remarks that have a wider application than to the province of Manitoba, dealing as they do with matters wholly or in part neglected in many other provinces.

"It is in the scant attention paid to the needs of the physical organism that our present day system is most defective. Medical inspection, with careful attention to bodily defects, is as yet a thing of the future. More pupils than we think suffer from imperfect sight or hearing, some are poorly nourished because of defective teeth, and these handicaps frequently bring their victim under the imputation of stupidity. The science of corrective bodybuilding is already far progressed.: In Manitoba we hear little of it. Physical training has its industrial or productive as well as its gymnastic side. Here we may class drawing and manual training, branches as yet little pursued except in larger centres. Every rural school at least should have a garden, where not only will the aesthetic sense find food in symphonies of color, but where the motor centres may find vigorous development in plying spade and hoe."

The agitation for home rule in India, led by a man who was formerly a member of the British parliament, is an interesting development in the affairs of the empire. That such a movement would eventually occur was inevitable. It is equally certain that when the people are qualified for self-government they will not be denied. The British government must of necessity take note of this agitation and prepare for a gradual and steady enlargement of the power of local authorities to deal with local affairs.

The rumor of Mr. Chamberlain's failing faculties is promptly followed by his clear and hopeful message to the people of Canada. There is enough of the old fighting quality in it to prove that his brain, at least, is not affected by age or infirmity.

With the calling for tenders for the construction of New Brunswick sections of the Grand Trunk Pacific, that national enterprise assumes a more local and direct interest for the people of the province.

Wild snowstorms in England and mild autumn weather in St. John should encourage the Gulf Stream theorist to renewed activity.

ONE CONSOLATION.

Tourist—"How far do you call it from Tobermory to here?"

Scot—"It'il be aboot twa mile, I'm thinkin'."

Tourist—"Your miles seem a bit long about here."

Scot—"Ay, man, they're lang, but they're gey narrow."

St. John, N. B., Dec. 27, '06.

CLEARING SALE OF

Winter Overcoats!

We never sold so many overcoats at any one time as during the Christmas season this year, and now many of the lines are sold down to one, two or three. These have been placed on BARGAIN COUNTERS at greatly reduced prices to clear.

Regular $6.00 to $20.00 Overcoats,

Now $4.95, 6.00, 7.50, 8.75, 10.40 and $15.00

BOYS' OVERCOATS reduced accordingly.

J. N. HARVEY, Clothing and Furnishings, Opera House Block.

A BOOT

—FOR—

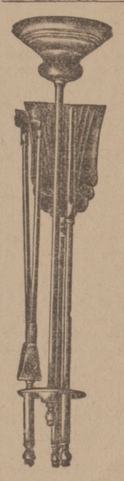
COLD FEET

Our Men's Cushion Soled Boot will keep your feet warm no matter how cold the floors where you work.

This boot is made of plump box calf, with calf lining, heavy double soles, viscolized to make waterproof, and is fitted with the Worth Cushion Innersole, a positive preventative of cold feet, and a cushion which will accommodate all callosities on the soles of the feet.

The Price is $5.00

FOOT FITTERS **McRobbie** 94 KING STREET



Fireplace Fittings.

A COMBINATION OF USEFULNESS AND BEAUTY.

Superior Holiday Gifts

Brass Fire Irons, $2.00, 2.50, 3.00, 3.50 and $4.00 per set. Consisting of shovel, tongs and pocker.

Brass Sets Complete, as shown, $4.75.

Brass Andirons, $5.00 to $20.00.

Wood Baskets, In rattan, very strong and serviceable, $2.25 and $3.25.

Log Boxes, handsome brass covered French boxes for holding wood in parlor or library, at $9.00, 10.00 and $12.00.

EMERSON & FISHER, 25 GERMAIN ST.

THE GREATEST BARGAINS, FOR A SHORT TIME

A number of Exhibition Carriages and Toboggan Pungs for sale at reduced prices.

A. G. EDGECOMBE, - - 115-129 City Road

Tel. No. 547.

33 1-3 p. c.

allowed on the balance of our stock of - - **Calendars**

—AND—

25 p. c. on Christy Pictures.

Christy Calendars for 1907 at $2.00 net. We will also make a reduction of from 25 p. c. to 33 1-3 p. c. on all Holiday Goods until the end of the month.

The Floods Co., Ltd.

31 and 33 King Street.

Times Want Ads.

ARE WILLING WORKERS.

OUR XMAS PRESENT TO YOU.

A PAIR OF HIGH GRADE SCISSORS with cash sales of $3.00 or more. Or A 50 CENT POCKET KNIFE with cash sales of $5.00 or more. Ours are the LOWEST PRICES in town.

Bargains in Shoes and Clothing.

C. B. PIDGEON, Cor. Main and Bridge Sts., N.E

Christmas Over, Now for New Year Gifts.

You will find lots of pretty things, both useful and ornamental, at

A. B. WETMORE'S, 59 Garden Street.

A PRAYER FOR THE POOR

Col' win' a-tryin'
Ter break down de do'—
Lawd sen' de Chris'mus
Of peace ter de po'!

Lean wolf a-howlin'
Out dar in de snow—
Lawd sen' de Chris'mus
Of peace ter de po'!

Sweet li'l chillun
Wid nowhar to go—
Lawd sen' de Chris'mus
Of love ter de po'!

IN LIGHTER VEIN

THE LUCKY DOG.

Wife—"Dy'e know, Mr. Simpson' doon th' stairs is sae deaf he can scarcely hear his wife speak."

Husband (in an envious tone)—"Some men are lucky."

* * *

A DEAD GIVE-WAY.

"Who gave the bride away?"

"Her little brother. He stood up right in the middle of the ceremony and yelled, 'Hurray, Fanny, you've got him at last!'"

* * *

WHERE PRIDE SAVED HIM..

"Oor Jock says to me last nicht—'Mither, I'm washin' ma feet; I'm gaun to Ireland the morn.'

"Says I to him—'Od man, Jock yer dirty feet wid be the daeth o' ye if it wisna for yer pride!"

* * *

HAM AND 'AM.

Customer—"Here, waiter, bring me a plate of ham."

Waiter (rushing away)—"Yes, sir." (Presently returning)—"Did you say 'am, sir?"

Customer—"No, but that was what I meant."

* * *

DOUBLY USEFUL.

Maiden—"It seems to me that society is only useful to people who want to get married."

Matron—"You mistake, my dear. It's equally useful to people who are married and who want to forget it."

MAN AND WOMAN DRINK POISON IN ELMIRA JAIL

Elmira, N. Y. Dec. 26—While talking with Bessie Wells in the Elmira county jail tonight, Frank Delaney suddenly passed a vial of carbolic acid to her through the bars of her cell and then pressed a second bottle to his own lips.

A guard who was watching Delaney during his interview with the woman, attempted to arrest the passage of the acid but he was too late. Before a physician could reach the jail corridor both the woman and her interviewer were dead.

Bessie Wells occupied a cell in the woman's dormitory, awaiting sentence which was to have been imposed January 3, on a charge of abducting a young girl and harboring her for immoral purposes.

Delaney, possessing a power of attorney from the woman, called at the jail today and told the warden that he wanted to obtain the woman's signature to some papers. Accompanied by a guard he was taken to her cell, the guard remaining close by during the conversation.

Suddenly Delaney handed a bottle of poison through the bars of the cell door and as the guard sprang forward placed a second bottle to his own mouth.

Delaney was 29 years old and a railroad man. He comes from a respectable family. The man is said to have been the lover of Miss Wells.

THE B. C. ELECTIONS

Vancouver, B. C., Dec. 26—The provincial legislature has dissolved. Nominations take place January 19 and elections February 2. The house is to be called on March 7.

The Tories are headed by Premier McBride, Grits by J. A. McDonald; Independents, by "Fighting" Joe Martin, formerly premier, and the Socialists with Hawthornwaite, of Nanaimo, as chief. All are sanguine of winning and a desperate mixup is promised. The Independents are placing fully a dozen candidates in the field, Martin himself running in two ridings, Victoria and Vancouver. The Socialists claim to have twenty-five ready for the fray.

Hon. Robert Green, merchant, of Kaslo, minister of lands and works, resigned just before dissolution. The Tories say it was for urgent business reasons, but the others say it was under pressure. Some are calling for an inquiry into the department.

BOCCACCIO AT THE OPERA HOUSE

That the Robinson Opera Company is exceptionally strong was evidenced last night by the excellent production of the comic opera "Boccaccio." From the lifting of the curtain until the end of the third act, those present expressed their appreciation of the superb efforts of the characters by frequent bursts of applause.

"Boccaccio," a novelist, was well looked after by Mae Kilcoyne, who perhaps has never been seen to better advantage in this city than she was in the title role last night. Leonetto, his friend, was taken by Frank V. French in a first-class manner, while Frank D. Nelson, the cooper, aided not a little to the volume of the strong male chorus, so seldom heard in operas that visit this city. Lambertuccio, a grocer, was a character that gave an excellent opportunity to Jack Henderson, whose wit was not surpassed by his amusing stage appearance. His parody on "I'm on the Water Wagon Now," was repeatedly encored and Mr. Henderson, in responding to the fifth encore was almost sung out of material on the "water wagon."

"Boccaccio" will be repeated this evening, and those wishing to have a good laugh could not go to a better place than to the Opera House tonight.

BENNETTE-CAMERON.

The Cornwallis, N. S., correspondent of the Halifax Chronicle says:

"The marriage took place on Friday evening of Mrs. Cameron, of St. John, and John Bennette, of Canning. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Dr. Wilson, pastor of the Methodist church at Canning. The bride is the mother of Mrs. Joseph Biglow, of Canning."

Dolls, Toys and Fancy Goods.

Best assortment in St. John.

Best lines going fast. Don't fail to get our prices before buying.

Store open every evening until Christmas.

ARNOLD'S DEPARTMENT STORE

83-85 Charlotte street.

Tel. 1765.

SUGGESTIONS FOR

NEW YEAR'S PRESENTS

Buffets, China Closets, Sideboards, Extension Tables, Dining Chairs, Morris Chairs, Music and Parlor Cabinets, Fancy Rockers, Willow Rockers, Shaving Sets, Hall Trees, Hall Chairs, Fancy Odd Chairs, etc., will make useful New Year's Gifts.

AMLAND BROS., Ltd., Furniture and Carpet Dealers

19 Waterloo Street.

OATS!

Two Cars of Ontario White Oats Landing Today.

N. S. SPRINGER,

125-129 MILL STREET.

Wholesale Groceries and Grain.

Telephone 1058



Wood's Phosphodine,

The Great English Remedy. Tones and invigorates the whole nervous system, makes new Blood in old Veins. *Cures Nervous Debility, Mental and Brain Worry, Despondency, Sexual Weakness, Emissions, Spermatorrhœa, and Effects of Abuse or Excesses.* Price $1 per box, six for $5. One will please, six will cure. Sold by all druggists or mailed in plain pkg. on receipt of price. *New pamphlet mailed free.* The Wood Medicine Co. (formerly Windsor) Toronto, Ont

THE HYGIENIC BAKERY.

WHEN YOU NEED BROWN BREAD, buy the best; mother's make.

Will keep moist six days. Sold by all grocers.

HYGENIC BAKERY, 134 to 138 Mill St. 'Phone 1,167. Branch 231 Brussels street.

PUMPS.

Standard Duplex Pumps, Outside Packed Plunger Pumps. Automatic Feed Pumps and Receivers, Independent Jet Condensers and Air Pumps, Side Suction, Belt Driven Centrifugal Pumps, Steam and Oil Separators.

E. S. STEPHENSON & CO.,

17-19 Nelson street, St. John, N. B.

USEFUL GIFTS

A Pair of Jaeger Slippers

Fancy Slippers

Dress Boots

Rubber Boots

A Dainty Shoe for Baby.

We have the Assortment.

FRANCIS & VAUGHAN,

10 King Street.

FOR CHRISTMAS.

Our stock is filled with choice collections of all the LATEST NOVELTIES as well as all the staple lines of JEWELRY, SILVERWARE, ETC., that are called for at this season.

Our aim now, as always in the past, is to cater to those seeking

The Best and Most Reliable Goods.

To fully appreciate this fact, you must see our stock.

Make your selections early and have us reserve them for you.

FERGUSON & PAGE,

Diamond Dealers, Jewelers, etc., 41 King Street.

"HOLIDAY CARD"

FROM TREMAINE GARD.

I have lately received and opened a splendid assortment of first-class Jewelry, Gold and Silver Watches, Chains, Necklets, Lockets, Charms, SEALS, PENDANTS, BRACELETS, BROCHES, SCARF, COLLAR, STICK, BIB PINS, SLEEVE LINKS, COLLAR STUDS, SUPPORTERS.

"Diamond Set Rings,"

in latest approved styles of settings, Tiffaney, Belcher and Arch Crown, SOLITAIRE, TWIN AND CLUSTERS.

Lovely Toilet Manicure Sets, Opera, Marine, Field Glasses. Gold-rimmed spectacles, Fancy Clocks, Time Pieces, Alarms. Walking Canes, Fountain Pens, all of most reliable make and most suitable for gifts to cherish "as a thing of beauty and a joy forever."

Everything warranted as represented.

—AT—

77 Charlotte Street, Jewelry Parlor.

PHONE 1389.

HIRAM WEBB, Electrical Contractor,

4 CHURCH STREET. ROOM 5. ORDERS TAKEN AT

J. H. NOBLE'S, 25 King Square. 'Phone 39.

THANKS!

Christmas Rush Largest for Years.

Christmas goods of every description. Toys, in variety. Sleds, Framers, Cards, Dolls' Sleighs, Doll Carriages. Come in and have your goods delivered to your door

—FROM—

WATSON & CO.,

Corner Charlotte and Union Streets.