THE EVENING TIMES.

ST. JOHN, N. B., FEBRUARY 3, 1906.

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

NOT CREDITABLE

The recent discussion about the rooms in the Market building calls attention once more to a fact that is extremely discreditable to the city of St. John. It reminds the citizens that the fine natural history collections, which are large and varied enough to be a credit to the city, are housed in rooms ridiculously small and cramped, on the upper floor of a building and difficult of access, and not displayed as they would be if they were owned by the people of an ordinary village.

There are very few people who know and appreciate the value of these collections, for the simple reason that though the Natural History Society does its best to keep them together the civic authorities take no more interest in them than in so much rubbish.

These collections are not only interesting from the sight-seers' standpoint, but they are of great educative value. They should be housed where there would be plenty of room and good light and air and where they would be easily accessible to all the citizens. When one goes abroad, it is the correct thing to visit museums and natural history collections, and come home and talk about them. Visitors to St. John would be interested in such a display here. There are members of the Society who would cheerfully add to the present collections if there were room available for a proper housing of specimens.

It is surely time the citizens gave their attention to this matter, and either by private effort or as a measure of civic policy provided a suitable home for this valuable property.

THIS SETTLES IT

The gentlemen of the press of St. John are men of patient mould and gentle ways. But they can be very firm and strong to maintain their rights.

These remarks are preliminary to the announcement that the newspaper men have captured the record for midwinter excursions on the St. John river, and it will be idle for anybody else to enter the lists.

Even if some other party should go up river, and get six inches farther than the press boat went yesterday, they would have to establish a newspaper before they could get the fact published. The newspaper men have the record, and what they have they propose to hold.

On Friday, the second day of February, 1906, they and their guests went farther up river than either of the January excursions, and a little farther than the navigators of 1892. They went until a wall of ice beyond Carter's Point barred the way. They brought back a block of the ice as evidence of the fact.

Now let the noise of controversy cease, and the world go about its business. The book of Arctic exploration on the St. John river for this year is written. There will be no supplement, no revised version. The volume is closed.

The Sun says: "Campbellton Events has no doubt that H. F. McLatchey, M. P. P., will succeed Judge Wilkinson as county court judge of Restigouche, Gloucester and Northumberland." There is an impression hereabouts that Dr. R. F. Quigley is a favorite for the office mentioned. The judge in those counties must be a master of both French and English, and Dr. Quigley meets the requirements to the letter. Dr. Quigley's friends are of opinion that Events is in error in what it says with regard to the appointment.

So far as may be judged from outward indications the St. John School Board has not developed much enthusiasm in regard to the introduction of manual training. It is rather surprising that more has not been heard of this matter. The citizens certainly understood that something would be done at an early date. The schools of St. John are behind the times in this respect, and something should be done to overcome the inertia of the board.

Mr. C. R. Devlin, M. P., is confident that the result of the British elections will greatly advance the interests of Home Rule. He is, at all events, one of eighty-five vigorous champions of that cause, who place it before all others in importance. They will remind the new premier of his pledges, and will make it interesting for him if he does not meet their views.

The time for the next coal strike, if it is to occur, is better chosen than that of the last one. There will be less suffering on account of the weather. But a prolonged period of idleness in the mines would inflict immense loss upon many interests, not least upon the innocent consumers who have no voice in the strike or its settlement.

The city of Fredericton is seeking legislative authority to offer substantial inducements to new industries, and conditional concessions of value to existing factories. The smaller cities of the provinces sometimes display more enterprise than the larger ones.

Unless Quebec is granted better terms by the Dominion, Premier Gouin anticipates a defection from the ranks of Sir Wilfrid's suporters in the province. In British Columbia there are also threatenings of trouble, even to a disruption of the union. These little outbreaks are evidences of vigorous life, and are not to be taken too seriously.

A Winnipeg despatch says that the Canadian Pacific railway "will try the experiment next summer of a transcontinental train, which will make the trip across the continent in seventy-two hours, thus knocking off twenty-four hours from the fastest time heretofore mode for the distance, which was two years ago, when the Imperial limited covered the distance in ninety-six hours."

Messrs. Balfour and Chamberlain have held a notable conference relative to the future of the Unionist party. The cables are somewhat conflicting, and give no clear idea of the result. It may be taken for granted that Mr. Chamberlain will stand for no policy but his own.

Following the Town Topics revelations, the story of the marriage of Mrs. Yerkes, told in the Telegraph's special cable, which the Times copies on another page today, reveals social conditions in some circles of the rich in New York that are to the last degree scandalous and degrading.

The excitable Parisians are giving the authorities some trouble in the work of bringing about the new relations between church and state. Backed by a large majority, however, the government will be able to carry out its policy.

New York is threatened with a strike that would paralyze the building industry and incidentally have a very serious effect on the lumber trade. New York is a large market for lumber, and receives large quantities from St. John mills.

The Grand Trunk Pacific proposes to intersect the western country with branch railways. That corporation will be one of immense power and resource when its plans have been carried to completion.

The severe cold wave should heal all differences between the local curling clubs, and gladden the hearts of the ice man and the rink managers.

There are indications that in Albert county the difficulties in the path of the thirsty man will be somewhat increased.

MARITIME MEDICAL NEWS

The January number of the Maritime Medical News shows great improvement in the general appearance of this valuable journal. This is explained by the fact that the business management and printing of the News have been taken over by the Imperial Publishing Co. of Halifax, publishers of the Maritime Merchant.

There is no change in the editorial control and management of the News, but the editors announce that relieved of the business end of the publication they will make special efforts to improve the many excellent departments which make up its literary contents.

There are two St. John physicians in the list of editors, which includes the following names: D. A. Campbell, M. D., Halifax, N. S.; J. W. Daniel, M. D., M. R. C. S., St. John, N. B.; Murray MacLaren, M. D., M. R. C. S., St. John, N. B; John Stewart, M. B., Halifax, N. S.; W. H. Hattie, M. D., Halifax, N. S.; R. Macneill, M. D., Charlottetown, P. E. I.; James Ross, M. D., Halifax, N. S.

A VALUABLE BOOK

J. P. Clayton, superintendent at Fernhill, has a very old and valuable copy of Burns's poems. The date of the edition is the year 1793, and on the inside cover is written: "Mr. Crawford, Ballyshannon. Jan. 7th, 1818."

The printer of this book was William Magee, of Belfast, Ireland, and it is 113 years old.

The book contains the original "Dedication to the Noblemen and Gentlemen of the Caledonian Hunt," and is in the old style of spelling. While the book is very brown and dusty and old looking, the print is very clear, for paper and binding were originally of excellent quality.

This book is one that would be highly prized by any lover of ancient books, and especially by an admirer of the Ploughman Poet.

MILD WINTER OF 1832

(Lewiston, Me., Journal).

The oldest inhabitant came into the office the other day and remarked that as an average winter this was exceedingly severe: "Speaking of warm winters," said he, "do you recall the winter of 1832? In that winter I went to school from December until March barefoot, with nothing on but linen pants and a cotton shirt. And it was so hot sometimes during recess that I took off my shirt. In that winter Christmas Day I picked eight quarts of ripe strawberries in a field opposite my father's house in the town of Turner, and I very nearly had a sunstroke. It was so warm that winter that they forgot to hold the annual state legislater at Augusta. By gum!" added our faithful chronicler, "I never see sech nights as we had fer heat. I slept all winter 'thout no bedclothes, an' the skeeters bit fearful!"

HOW THEY DO IT

Some of the facts brought to light in Ray Stannard Baker's series, "The Railroads on Trial," now running in McClure's, give added interest to the announcement that Swift & Co. have increased their capital stock by $15,000,000 from $35,000,000 to $50,000,000. The company also announces a large addition to the surplus and many improvements, in the near future, to its plants. One doesn't wonder at all this prosperity after reading Baker's disclosures.

There were two marriages in the city during the past week and 19 births, 7 males and 12 females.

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BLINDED BY RED PEPPER

Paris, Feb. 2—As a net result of today's rioting, though the inventory was taken in but one church, that of St. Pierre Groscaillou, over fifty persons were seriously injured and a further considerable number slightly hurt. The latter included a number of police and firemen who were almost blinded with cayenne pepper. Fifty arrests were effected. The storming of the building was greatly protracted owing to the use by the "defenders" of red pepper. After repeated efforts, the police and firemen only succeeded in entering the church by employing chairs as shields. The first two who got through the doors were knocked unconscious. Those who followed, though thoroughly exasperated, refrained from violent retaliation.

M. Louis Lepine, prefect of Paris, and other high officials, and the newspapers of all shades of opinion, deprecate the violent incidents. It is said that the clergy have done their best by advice to their congregations to remain calm, but without avail, the militant Catholics being firmly resolved to resist what they term the spoliation of the many parish churches, containing many millions of francs worth of jewelry, military medals and decorations, given by devotees as thank offerings.

It is charged that the blame for the recent conflicts attaches to the minister of the interior because of his order that the inventory of the churches should be carried out before the regulations under the separation law are definitely drawn up. This leaves the Catholics uncertain regarding the eventual fate of church property, and their doubts on this subject have brought about their resistance to the order and its results. The authorities are determined, however, that the law shall take its course and the disorders be suppressed with the utmost vigor.

Twenty-two hundred inventories have already been made throughout France, many without incident, but Paris contains sixty-nine Roman Catholic churches, of which but half have been visited by the officials. Proceedings will continue tomorrow and in order to prevent a renewal of the disturbances the authorities have kept secret the hour at which the commissioners will visit the churches.

Paris, Feb. 2—In anticipation of serious disturbances expected to attend the taking of the government inventory today at the Church of St. Pierre Du Gross Calliou in the Rue St. Dominique, the authorities adopted rigorous measures. All the shops in the neighborhood of the edifice were closed, cordons of armed municipal guards on foot were stationed at intervals along the street and a squadron of mounted municipal guards with drawn swords patrolled the thoroughfare and kept the crowds moving.

When the prefect of police, M. Lepine, arrived the bells were tolled and the people inside the church and numbering about 3,000 persons began singing psalms, while outside the rowdy element, composed of Socialists, who threatened a counter demonstration, shouted revolutionary songs.

M. Lepine thrice summoned the congregation to open the gates, which the people refused to do, and then firemen were ordered to force an entrance. As they mounted ladders in order to break in the windows of the chapel of the Virgin, an annex of the church, revolver shots rang out and the firemen retired.

Later a fire engine arrived and amidst a shower of missiles the firemen scrambled up to the roof with a hose. The water was turned on and the interior of the building was soon flooded. In the meantime the doors had been battered down but the municipal guards found barricades inside and met with fierce resistance. Numbers of the guards and the congregation were severely hurt but the authorities eventually obtained the mastery and the demonstrators were captured one by one and led to the nearest station house.

In the meanwhile the unruly crowds outside had broken through the cordons of the municipal guards and attempted to reach the church and engage in a fight with its denfenders but the mounted guards eventually cleared them away from the vicinity of the church.

The crowds are increasing in numbers around the church where it is estimated about 18,000 persons have gathered. The police force present is not strong enough to hold the people back. The municipal guards have repeatedly charged and the rioters shout "assassins" as arrested demonstrators emerge from the church and are taken away under escort. All the officers who entered the church emerged covered with blood and their clothes torn and soaked to the skin.

PASTOR WAGNER'S BROAD GOSPEL

The sentence which perhaps best sums up the spirit of Charles Wagner's recent volume, "Justice," is this: "Man is born to that half-light where ignorance and knowledge struggle with each other like the vacillating gleams and shadows of twilight. Out of the depths of the infinite a voice has cried 'Come!' and he goes—before him the dawn, behind him the night."

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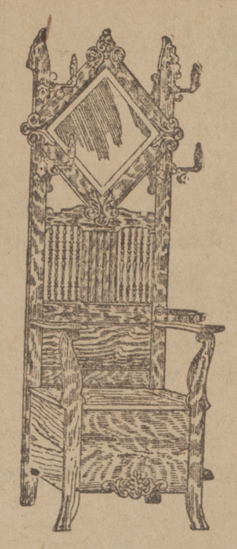
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