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Much interest is being manifested in the first social assembly of the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks, which takes place in the York Theatre assembly rooms this evening. Over three hundred and fifty invitations have been issued, and this number includes officials from Halifax, Moncton and Truro.

Preparations for the event, which bids fair to be one of the most brilliant of the season, have been in progress for some time, and everything is at last in readiness for the opening, which will mark a new epoch in the history of the local brotherhood.

Neither time nor pains have been spared to make the affair eminently successful. The assembly rooms have been nicely decorated and the floor is in perfect condition for dancing.

The chaperons are: Mrs. Fred E. Hamilton, Mrs. L. E. Ross, Mrs. F. Tapley and Mrs. H. H. Schaefer.

The committee in charge of the arrangements and catering consists of W. J. Mann, C. M. Coughlan, H. E. Stevens, J. H. Wilson, E. J. McCourt, George McKee, H. H. James and J. P. Kiernan.

Music will be furnished by a specially selected orchestra of seven pieces, under the direction of W. J. Conroy, and the programme consists of eighteen dances, including three supper extras.

Supper will be served at midnight. It is stated on good authority that an effort will be made by the brotherhood members to give one of the assemblies annually.

Miss Mabel McAvity is entertaining at tea this afternoon in honor of Mrs. Allen McAvity.

Glendon Allan, son of W. C. R. Allan, who has been spending a few days with his father, has returned to Boston where he is located.

Miss Tina MacLaren has issued invitations for a five o'clock tea, next Monday afternoon, in honor of her guest, Miss Gear, of Montreal.

Invitations are out for the marriage of Miss Helen Robertson to Mr. Holmes, of the Bank of Commerce, Summerside.

Miss Constance Innes was hostess at a very delightful event in honor of the Bridge Whist Club, on Monday evening last. In place of whist, a very jolly dance was given, and the young people danced the old year out and the new year in.

The Golf Club was the scene of a most enjoyable dinner on New Year's night, at which a number of young gentlemen were hosts. The party numbered twenty-four ladies and gentlemen, and Mr. and Mrs. Walter Harrison were chaperons.

Mrs. W. Frank Hatheway was hostess on Tuesday evening at a very delightful reception in honor of Mr. Hatheway's brother, Simon H. Hatheway, of Boston.

During the evening, musical selections were rendered and several readings given by the guest of honor were much enjoyed, as were also selections from Dr. Drummond's "Habitant," by E. A. Smith.

Mrs. (Dr.) Bonnell will give a large children's party this evening, in honor of her little son, Master Percy Bonnell. Over seventy invitations have been issued.

Due to illness in the family, Mrs. J. D. Hazen's at home, which was to have been given yesterday, has been indefinitely postponed.

Mrs. J. Willard Smith is entertaining this afternoon and evening, at her home, East King street, to introduce into society, her daughters, Miss Ella and Miss Annie Smith.

Mrs. M. G. Teed entertained a number of young people at a whist party on Monday last in honor of her daughter and son, who have been home for the holidays.

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Porter will give a dance at the Golf Club this evening in honor of their son, Cecil Porter.

Mr. McDonald was hostess at a most enjoyable bridge party last Wednesday evening.

Miss Marion Belyea was hostess at a very enjoyable bridge party, Wednesday afternoon, given in honor of Miss Winnie Barnaby, who will sail on the 11th for India. The prize winners were Miss Vera Robinson and Mrs. Norman Guthrie.

Mrs. Donaldson Hunt entertained informally last evening at her home, German street, in honor of the choir members of German street Baptist church. There were quite a number present and the event proved very enjoyable.

Miss Elsie Estabrooks was hostess at a small social gathering last evening.

Mrs. J. P. C. Burpee entertained at a most enjoyable afternoon tea yesterday. The table was artistically decorated with pink carnations and Mrs. George Smith and Mrs. Robert Thomson presided. They were assisted by Mrs. Lawson, Mrs. Wm. Kerr, Mrs. Frank White, Mrs. Roy Skinn, Miss Pauline Clarke (St. Stephen), Miss May Harrison, Miss Ada Dunn and Miss Maud Binning. A large number of those present extended their good wishes to Miss Grace Burpee—who assisted her mother in receiving—as her engagement to Hon. H. A. McKeown is announced.

Miss McIntyre, daughter of Mrs. Robert C. McIntyre, was hostess at an evening party on Wednesday last.

Miss Marion McKendrick entertained at a children's party last evening, at her home, 41 Charlotte street.

HALIFAX JOTTINGS.

Mrs. James Morrow gave a coming-out party on New Year's night for her daughter, Miss Grendel Morrow, who has just returned from school in England.

Miss Emma Ayre, daughter of Hon. J. B. Ayre, of St. John's, Nfld., will arrive

INVASION OF CHINA

(London Standard).

The danger resulting from the present movement to Japanize China is the more difficult to estimate owing to the peculiar methods by which it is being accomplished. The most invincible of foes are those which appear in the garb of friends. Today the influence of Japan is spreading among the teeming millions of the Celestial land in mesmeric and mysterious manner. Thousands of Chinese students are now flocking to the educational institutions of Japan; there are more than 12,000 in Tokyo alone, and they say Yuan-Shih-kai said the other day that it can only be a short time before there are at least 100,000 students from China in the schools of Japan. Now, it is the Chinese irruption into Japan that is preparing the way for the Japanization of China. The object of these students is to master, if possible, the secrets of the Japanese success especially in dealing with the outside world; yet in this stampede of young men from China to Japan, the wise men of Peking see omens of uncomfortable import for the home land.

A young Chinese professor who had been educated in Japan, speaking before an audience of his fellow countrymen at Shanghai recently, took occasion to warn them seriously against the wiles of Japan. He asserted that during the seven years of his sojourn in Tokio as a student he had most carefully pondered the problem of her relations with China, and he had been forced to the conclusion that Japan is not a friend of China. He went on to show that the thousands of students now attending the schools of Japan are being taught nothing that will be of any practical value in helping China to achieve her destiny as a world power. On the contrary, they are being imbued with feelings of extravagant admiration for Japan and her institutions. He feared that the inevitable result would be that these young men will return to China a body of hot-headed Japanophiles, who, in their feverish haste to model all things after the Japanese fashion, will ultimately place the whole of the country under the guidance and control of Japan. It is not wholly impossible that the fears of this young patriot, a man of wide culture and experience, are well founded.

Japan herself, of course, sees no danger to her cause in the tremendous influx of Chinese students into her country. On the contrary, she is extending to the officials, and educators coming from that country to study in her schools and colleges. In fact, there is good reason to believe that Japan is planning and encouraging the pilgrimage from China to her political and educational shrines. How is it that in Tokio the Department of Education can find ample room for this enormous detachment of Chinese students, while there are many thousands of young Japanese waiting for vacancies in the higher schools of the country? Not only so, but Japan has set up a school of her own in Shanghai for the purpose of educating Japanese officials in Chinese ways, so that there may be a constant supply of trained men to push into the institutions of China.

PROPAGANDA MOVEMENT.

In this latter movement China sees a further element of danger to herself, for what has so extensively taken place in Japan since her emancipation from the foreigner is now, under the aegis of Japan, steadily going on in China. Vice of the positions hitherto held by foreigners in educational and other institutions are being transferred to Japanese hands, and in this way alone hundreds of Japanese military instructors, school teachers, journalists, merchants, and others are fast over-spreading China. These officials are all influencing the Chinese to regard Japan as the fountain head of science, knowledge,

and wisdom in general, and by every possible means they are endeavoring to instill in the native mind the belief that only by the assistance of Japan can China be saved from the domination of European powers.

Moreover, the crowds of Japanese that are pouring into the towns and other commercial and educational centres of China to receive instruction in the Japanese language, are dressed like Chinese citizens, even to the wearing of the queue; and they invariably learn to speak the very dialect of the locality where they happen to be engaged. Practically they are emissaries of Japan, who quietly and unobtrusively carry on the Japanese propaganda, and, doubtless, make a move of any importance, is made, but what is at once reported to the headquarters of the country which they represent.

Professor Tung, already referred to, thinks that China has but faintly begun to realize how far things have gone in the direction of bringing her country under the domination of Japan, and he concludes that nothing less than a vast revival of public spirit and widespread loyalty can save China from the peril to which the recent expansion of Japanese influence lays her open. China knows only too well that the Japanese are nothing if not persistent, methodical, and systematic in all matters that concern the increase of their nation's importance, and that in this new enterprise their methods will not desert them. Indeed, it has been suggested by thoughtful Chinese that their greatest enemy at present is not Russia, nor any western power, but Japan alone, and that the latter may at any time easily and reasonably conclude that, since a few millions of Manchurian nomads could conquer and hold China in subjection for nearly three centuries, the same thing could be done by Japan with her nearly 50 millions of undaunted patriots, all imbued with an insatiable military ardour and ever ready to sacrifice themselves for the glory of Dai Nippon and the Mikado.

OBITUARY

Mrs. Harry Smith

Woodstock, N. B., Jan. 3.—(Special)—Mrs. Smith, wife of Harry Smith, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Y. Smith, died last night after an illness of two months. Deceased was the fourth daughter and youngest child of Sydney Hubble, of Hartland, and was aged nineteen years. She had been married about a year. Mrs. Albert McKinley and Mrs. Alfred Nason, of Woodstock, and Mrs. Gordon Laskey, of Hartland, are sisters of deceased. The body will be taken to Hartland and the funeral conducted there tomorrow afternoon.

Eliekan Newcomb

Amherst, N. S., Jan. 3.—(Special)—Word received here today announces the death at the residence of E. S. Crofts, West Auburn (Me.), of Eliekan Newcomb, a former resident of Amherst. Deceased was for many years engaged in farming here but for the past fifteen years has retired. After the death of his wife a few years ago he removed to West Auburn, making his home with his niece, Mrs. Crofts. He was about 87 years of age, a Baptist in religion and a Conservative in politics. His body will reach here tonight, burial to take place at Highland cemetery tomorrow afternoon.

MONEY DISAPPEARS

Toronto, Jan. 3.—Two thousand dollars in bills have mysteriously disappeared from the Toronto office of the Traders Bank. The package had been sent by express from St. Mary's a few days ago. It reached the head office all right, but has since disappeared. Other financial institutions have been warned of the loss, and it is believed that the whereabouts of the money will soon be had.

next week to visit Mrs. S. M. Brookfield and to accompany her to California to spend the winter.

Mrs. Henry Bauld, Pleasant street, is giving a large coming-out party tonight for her daughter, Miss Edith Bauld.

SOCIETY AT OTTAWA.

Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Stone, who are spending a week in Toronto with Mr. and Mrs. William Stone, return home on Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Miles Cotton of Saskatoon, who spent Christmas in Montreal, are returning to town today to visit Mrs. Gorell.

Mr. and Mrs. Alce Rosamond and their little daughter arrive from Almonte at the end of the week to spend the New Year with Mrs. Rosamond's parents, Colonel and Mrs. Cotton.

Madame J. G. H. Bergeron, who spent Christmas in town, leaves today for Montreal to join her husband.

Arthur Chester, who has been the guest of Mrs. Marcus Smith for the past week, has returned to Toronto. Mrs. Chester will remain in town for some time longer.

The Ottawa Citizen says:—Dalton Davies is spending a few days with his uncle, E. P. Hartley.

Hon. Horace and Madame Archambault, who have been spending a few days with Mr. and Mrs. S. Leveille have returned to Montreal.

The Misses Hebdon of Montreal, and Miss Grace Clarke Murray, also of that city, are spending the holidays with Mrs. Dale Harris.

Arthur Fitzpatrick has returned from Quebec to spend Christmas with his parents, Hon. Charles and Mrs. Fitzpatrick.

Hon. Sydney Fisher returns to Ottawa at the end of the week.

Burton Macdonnell is spending the holidays with his mother, Mrs. A. B. Broderick.

Mrs. Nesbitt Kirchoff has returned to Ottawa from Toronto.

Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Sutherland Gilmore have returned home to spend the holidays with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Gilmore.

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Henderson have returned from their wedding trip.

The weekly meeting of the Minto club took place on Christmas eve at the Rideau rink. His Excellency the Governor General accompanied by the Ladies Sybil and Evelyn Grey, Count Gleichen of Washington, Major Poynter and Captain Newton were among the skaters.

A perfectly arranged and very delightful luncheon was given Dec. 27 by the Misses Oliver. Pink roses and hyacinths decorated the table. The guests included Miss Edith Clewov, Miss Ruth Sherwood, Miss Aurora Huchison, Miss May Loucks, Miss Suttle of Pembroke, Miss Daisy Chrysler, Miss Constance Dale Harris, Miss Bee Burbridge.

WORST STORM EVER KNOWN

Western Canada Has Heaviest Snow Storm on Record—Ten Feet Deep on the Level.

Winnipeg, Jan. 3.—One of the worst snow storms which has struck the west in years has been in progress during the past few days. The present winter is, according to old timers who can hark back to days of Fort Garry, one of the heaviest for generations. The railroads are being taxed to their utmost in fighting the snow and today all trains are late or abandoned entirely.

The C. P. R. state that the last snow storm when eight inches fell within forty-eight hours, cost them \$250,000.

The Canadian Northern this winter is costing \$12,000 a day more than in the summer time to operate, not counting the loss of traffic.

The nearest approach to the snowfall figures of this year were in 1896, when 23 inches fell.

MAY BUILD A BIG HOTEL AT QUEBEC

Report That Grand Trunk Railway Will Have Hotel to Compete With Chateau Frontenac.

Quebec, Jan. 3.—There is a report here, which is partially substantiated, that the Grand Trunk Railway people are about to erect a large hotel in Quebec and that the locality chosen is the site of the block overlooking the governor's garden, the terrace and the river, but farther back from the terrace than the site of the Chateau Frontenac. The block in question is inclosed between Avenue street, Genevieve, La-Porte, Mont Carmel and Des Grisons streets and will involve the tearing down of a block of modern dwelling houses.

AN OPTIMIST

(Washington Star).

"Uncle Joe" Cannon attended a recent dinner of the Philadelphia Clover club. "Mr. Cannon," said a reporter, "do you think our country is in as bad a state as some of the ten-cent magazines make out?"

"Bless you, no," Mr. Cannon replied. "What have you got to say about it?"

"Oh, a thousand things. Enough to fill your paper. I am like one of our ministers out in Danville. I can talk hopefully about things far worse than this great country. Our Danville minister is an optimist. His wife, on the other hand, is a pessimist. She said to him one night:

"George, what do you thing they're saying about the butcher's wife?"

"Oh, nothing very bad, I hope," said he.

"They say," declared the lady, "that they can tell when she's going to have company by her washing the children's faces. Now, you're a great optimist, George, but what can you hope for a woman like that?"

"Well," said the minister, smiling, "I suppose all we can hope for is that she entertains a good deal."

Many a man means his desire when he talks of his wife.

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