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J. M. ROBINSON & SONS, BANKERS,
ST. JOHN
MEMBERS MONTREAL STOCK EXCHANGE

ST. JOHN ENTERS NEW YEAR WITH BRIGHTEST HOPES, 1910

In speaking of the growth of trade and the market of last year, George McAvity, of the firm of T. McAvity & Sons, said:—

"The year now concluded has been a very satisfactory one with our concerns. It compared very favorably with other years. There has been a marked increase in the demand for articles of machinery, and the market at present is exceptionally good."

"The western market has been a remarkable feature in the development of trade in machinery with us. There is plenty of money and there is a good class of buyers among the settlers in that part of the country. Our trade with them has increased materially during the past twelve months, and the expectation at present is that the new year will bring with it a still further increase, as the outlook in general is very cheering."

Harry H. Reid, of the T. S. Simms Co., said:—"I would look upon the year just ended as having been a banner one in the business of our concern. Everything has gone along to our entire satisfaction, and we have no need to complain. We have been greatly affected by the western trade over fifty per cent of our business at present being conducted in the western provinces, even as far as Vancouver."

"Not only has the west proven a wonderfully lucrative market, but our trade with Australia has been flourishing for the past year or so. The chief articles exported to that country by our firm are paint brushes and we have quite a demand for them, selling them through brokers in that colony. From our standpoint, prospects for a successful year were never brighter than at present and we are hoping for great things for 1910."

James Pender expressed similar views to those given by others, but said he was hardly in a position to make any statement until the accounts for the year had been closed. He said that he had experienced a fair year, trade had been well up to the average, and indications promised well for the year just opening.

Wholesale Grocers
The past year has not been an altogether successful one for the wholesale grocers. The establishment of wholesale houses in Fredericton, Moncton, Woodstock, and other places in the maritime provinces has contributed largely to the falling off in the local trade. There has been much competition for the amount of business that can be done. Cutting prices to a minimum where profit was practically eliminated, has also contributed to the condition. Taken in all the year was not as profitable as the previous one, but owing to the conditions referred to, the jobbers did not expect it would be.

The prospects for 1910 are fair, the outcome depending largely on the possibility of an arrangement being made by the dealers to get together and improve the situation by an agreement on prices. The traveling staffs in the past year were said to be considerably in excess of what the business warranted, and as a result in this regard may be arranged.

Shipping

Shipping men generally agree that the year has shown an improvement over last year with every indication of still further improvement for 1910. Only one prominent ship owner differs from the others and says that the year for him has been rather disastrous and that his prospects for improvement in the coming year.

A. W. Adams' office reports that the early summer business had not been up to the average but had shown some improvement which indicated some slight gain over 1908. The presidential election and following unrest had been a factor largely responsible for early unfavorable conditions but with tariff matters rounding into shape the lumber market took a decidedly better tone and gave promise of 1910 being a good year. The year had demonstrated that steam vessels for coastwise trade were impracticable. It had also shown a greater extent than ever that small schooners were passing out as the demand for big loads was on the increase. At the present the closing of "up north ports" and Bangor and vicinity had made things look good for local lumber people and the scarcity of vessels had been a factor.

At C. M. Kerrison's office it was reported that there was a more active demand for shipment but freights, though a little higher, were not in proportion. Prospects for the coming year looked promising. Indications were that there would be a lot of lumber from up the coast ports shipped. Next year the lumber men were holding as the result of the off market in the United States would ship their holdings together with this season's cut.

At the office of J. Willard Smith it was reported that they had had more than their share of disasters the past year and that business generally was not what it should be. In fact they could see no prospect for improvement for 1910. Freights, they said, were low and detentions severe. The "up the bay" and Nova Scotia plaster trade was anything but good. The business that was formerly done by big lighters and four masted vessels was now done almost entirely by steamers. The fact that a large four masted ship that used to carry plaster was now loading deals here was pointed out as showing conditions.

R. C. Elkin Ltd., reported that the coastwise trade was better than for 1908 though the off-shore trade was not so good as it was in 1908. The coastwise trade was better than for 1908 though the off-shore trade was not so good as it was in 1908. The coastwise trade was better than for 1908 though the off-shore trade was not so good as it was in 1908.

The following statement of deal shipments shows a large increase:

December 31st 120,711,439 superficial feet of spruce; 4,806,221 superficial feet of hardwood; 2249 tons of birch timber.

1909

To December 23rd 127,354,038 superficial feet of spruce; 4,820,982 superficial feet of hardwood; 2249 tons of birch timber.

Throughout Province

Reports from New Brunswick show:—

St. Stephen—The year has been marked by the settlement of the difficulties between

the sardine syndicate and the Weirman's Union of Charlotte county, and the organization of the agricultural society.

Provincial Bank of Quebec—Estimated for 1909, \$1,150,000, estimated for 1910, \$1,200,000, estimated for 1911, \$1,250,000.

Dalhousie—Federal government have erected large wharf and have erected lighthouse. J. C. R. built new round house, Dalhousie Lumber Company built new mill, deal shipments increased, increase in salmon fishing.

Moncton—Completion of new I. C. R. shops, increase in wholesale centre, Provincial Bank of Quebec opened office, re-paving of large part of Main street with wooden blocks, improvement of water service, F. W. Sumner's \$50,000 residence completed, steps to railway for 1910, discovery of natural gas twelve miles from city.

Sussex—Business good, showing increase, and field crops good; ready money in circulation, best financial state from civic standpoint for years.

Newcastle—Conditions not up to mark on account of poor state of lumber market, organization of New Brunswick Dock and Terminal Company, completion of railway between Indian town and Blackville.

Chatham—Quiet, on account of smelt fishing and the closing down of the Miramichi Pulp and Paper Company's mill; purchase of site for grist and planing mill by J. P. Snowball Company.

Fredericton—Year uneventful; strike at Hartt Boot & Shoe Company, outlook good for 1910.

Campbellton—Lumber and shingle trade surpassed all previous records; completion of International Railway near; big increase in lumber cut; new station and new hotel.

St. Andrews—Increase in fishing enterprises.

COLONY FOR FAILURES

Bolton Hall Has Interesting Community Scheme

Literature, agriculture and frugality in one grand triumvirate of plain living and high thinking are to be the features of a community which Bolton Hall, a lawyer and socialist of New York, intends to establish on a farm on Watchung Mountain, near Plainfield, N. J.

Only those persons who have been unable to make a financial success of their artistic work will be admitted to the colony. For the present sixteen families have been declared eligible, but there is said to be a long waiting list. When the fact of the enterprise becomes public the expectation is that the police will have to be called upon.

After thinking the project over for two years or more, Mr. Hall purchased the farm, which consists of 65 acres, and engaged F. A. Durham of Plainfield, to lay out the landscape. The unsuccessful geniuses will receive perpetual leases of the homes which are to be built, but they will have to be thrifty and one-third of the income derived from their thrift is to be devoted to the expenses of the community which is to be known as New Providence.

Three trustees are to be appointed to look after the interests of the colony, reporting respectively to the owner, the township and the tenants. The present farm building will be changed into an advertisement building and will also be used to care for visitors. Mr. Hall's principal engagement in the task of establishing the enterprise. One of the chief courses to be conducted will be agriculture, and the instructors in this line, according to the promoters, are to be the best that money can obtain. It has been even intimated that Edwin Durham will deliver a series of lectures on the use of the hoe, but this has not been verified.

Above all, the idea to be inculcated will be that of economy, and inasmuch as only the unpaid authors are eligible to membership, there is little doubt of the success of the colony. Mr. Hall says he does not propose to derive any financial benefit from the project, and he is quite serious when he says so. His ambition is to establish something in the industrial line which will be not only a credit to the community, but a source of much intellectual interest in other lines.

In other words, Mr. Hall's experiment may demonstrate that a man who can spray a potato patch well enough to get rid of all bugs may be just as useful to the world at large as he who can write an epic, but his idea is to combine the two utilities.—From the New York Herald.

NEW JERSEY'S HIGHWAYS

(Jersey City Journal.)

Newspapers generally are making the statement that New Jersey has abandoned the telford and macadam paving for rural roads, but this is more or less an error. The paving will be telford or macadam and a little more.

The telford and macadam roads consist of coarse stone, with layers of smaller stone up to a fine sand, gravel or ground rock surface for a binder. This did very well until automobiles came into common use. These ground of the sand and smaller stones, leaving the larger stones exposed. The change in paving that is erroneously announced as an abandonment of the old system of road building is merely the addition of a plastic binder in the top layer.

This prevents the disintegration of the surface and does away in a large measure with dust. The foundation and grading and draining will be practically unaltered. It is an advance in road making and keeps New Jersey in the lead as it was on state aid and prior to that on stone roads generally. When state aid was new there were continuous delegations of officials from other states, who visited New Jersey to see if it was really true that the roads here were as good as reported, and to study our methods of building and financing roads. Now they are coming to see our new dustless roads, which will stand automobile traffic, and our roads are again a model for other states.

COMPLIMENTARY

Latamann—Open the door, Maria, it's only me.

Mrs. Latamann—Oh! How you scared me. I thought there was a man there!

The conservative provincial convention for Ontario, which had been arranged for Jan. 14, has been postponed until next fall.

THE HOLIDAY IN ST. JOHN

Presentation of Veteran's Jewel to Senator Ellis At Oddfellows' Reception—Firemen's Visits—City Very Quiet This Morning

Today is being generally observed as a public holiday. The banks and practically all the business houses are closed and the streets this morning were almost deserted. In a number of the churches special services were held and in the curling rinks the knights of the "stone" and "hose" were enjoying themselves on the keen ice. The skating rinks were also well patronized and quite a number of people visited the moving picture shows, where special programmes were provided.

The firemen are making their annual New Year's calls and the Oddfellows had a very pleasant reunion in their hall. This afternoon and evening the Opera House, moving picture shows and rinks will probably be generously patronized.

The Y. M. C. A. are holding open house this afternoon and at 4 o'clock there will be a basketball match between the Y. M. C. A. and Exmouths. Ladies as well as gentlemen will be welcome. This evening there will be an entertainment for the members and their male friends.

Curling is being enjoyed at both the St. Andrews and Thistle rinks. In the former there are scratch matches being played and in the Thistle rink the presidents are playing the vice-presidents.

The rooms of the Independent Order of Oddfellows, Union street, were crowded this morning when the annual reunion took place. Dr. A. D. Smith, deputy grand master, occupied the chair, and made a few opening remarks. This was followed by a solo, "Rule Britannia," rendered in fine style by W. J. Lanyon.

The presentation of the veteran's jewel to Senator J. V. Ellis, the only surviving charter member of Pioneer lodge, was the most pleasing feature of the morning. The senator was introduced by the Grand Master, James Christie, M. D., after which Hon. C. N. Skinner read an address of congratulation. Dr. Christie then pinned the veteran's jewel on the breast of Mr. Ellis.

Senator Ellis thanked those present for the honors bestowed on him. He also reviewed the work of the order and told of its formation in this city.

Speeches were delivered in a capable manner by a number of members, among them being C. B. Allan, J. A. Murdoch, and Hon. C. N. Skinner. The assembly dispersed with the singing of the National Anthem.

The members of the salvage corps and the fire department in general had a happy time exchanging greetings. The salvage corps men of the North End, in two large sleighs, drove to the city and exchanged congratulations and good cheer with their fellow members in the other stations.

This afternoon the men of the city corps will return the visits. The firemen will also take part. A thoroughly good time was spent this morning.

The members of the F. M. A. met with generous support in their soliciting of aid in giving the organ to Silver Falls their annual tree. The money collected was more than last year, while the donations of fruit, confectionery and clothing were very encouraging.

Between 2 and 3 o'clock the members of the association, their lady friends, and any wishing to accompany them, drove in their large sleighs to the institution and distributed the gifts. The committee in charge drove out this morning and decked two large Christmas trees. A programme

COOK'S FRAME OF MIND

THROUGH IT ALL

New York Editor Discusses Feelings of the Man as Discovery Became Imminent

(From the New York Mail)

The true state of Dr. Cook's mind for the last few months would make a story even more interesting than the elaborate piece of polar imposture which the world was half ready to accept; and that is saying a great deal. If it is very disclosed it may be found that the man's own consciousness in carrying off his pretensions and the popular acclaim which followed it, instead of turning his head, staggered him, daunted him, brought him face to face with moral consequences more serious than his imagination had compassed, recalled him permanently from a profitable lecture tour and made him a fugitive weeks before he knew the game would be up.

Dr. Cook had been doing this sort of thing before, or had been credited with doing it before. He had claimed an ascent of Mount McKinley without furnishing proof that he had made it. If report speaks truly, he had made a round of the world with a compass and a map, taken the most wonderful oar in the world, while Nordica and other great singers are equally proud in their praise. At the convention of the National Association of Organists at Ocean Grove, a resolution was unanimously passed acknowledging the achievement. The new form of organ has therefore evidently come to stay. "Cement Age" presents a few of the details of construction.

The instrument at Ocean Grove is not a perfect and complete example of the builders' invention, yet it has attracted such general attention that it has drawn thousands of people to the privilege of hearing it, and more than half the cost of the instrument was recovered in less than three months.

The organ is like the church and concert organ in but one particular, namely, that each tone is produced by a wind blown through pipes. Even here the resemblance is not great, for in the church organ a great quantity of air at a low pressure is used to blow many thousands of pipes, whereas in the orchestral organ there are but few pipes and the wind used is of high pressure.

And pipes of the metal pipes the church or concert organ is a delicate machine constructed mostly of wood, leather and glue—affected by every change of temperature and readily damaged by moisture. On the other hand, the orchestral organ is constructed largely of steel and concrete, has practically no leather nor glue, and is absolutely impervious to weather changes. It is smaller and less costly than its older rival. It is also less costly, though it produces much louder and more expressive musical tones.

Hitherto it has been considered, for reasons having to do with acoustics, that wood should be employed in the construction or lining of organ chambers. But the inventor of the new type of organ judges wood to be about the worst possible material for employment in this capacity, and considers concrete or stone to be the best.

In all organs the tone originates in a vibrating body, which may be a reed, a string, or a contact with anything calculated to absorb this tone is to be avoided. It is stated that the effects he obtains border on the marvelous. The Ocean Grove organ has but fourteen ranks of pipes—as compared with 100, even 140, in other organs—yet the organ at Ocean Grove is easily the most powerful tone in the world. All its tones are reinforced and reflected by cement.

MERCURY RISING

Jacksonville, Fla., Dec. 31.—The temperature has risen today generally over the state and no further increase is anticipated.

WINNIEP WHEAT QUOTATIONS

The Ogilvie Flour Mills Co., Limited, supply the following quotations of the Winnipeg wheat market, Dec. 31—December, 102; May, 106.

of music and literary numbers will be given and a general happy time is expected.

The police were kept quite busy last night in looking after a number of persons who persisted in celebrating with the aid of a little "firewater." During the evening six men were arrested for drunkenness.

Several friends of John McKelvie, of the customs service, called at his home in Elliot Row last night and presented to him a gold-headed cane.

George Kirk, bookkeeper with Brock & Paterson who is to leave soon for Moncton



DR. A. D. SMITH
to enter the employ of Peter McEwen, received a gold watch last night from his fellow employees. The presentation was made by W. Edgar.

The St. John Lodge of Elks observed the Christmas and New Year season by making gifts to two of their prominent members, Dr. Walter S. H. Hayes was made a sea hat and gloves and to Alexander L. Phillips, a handsome chair and table. The presentations were made by Exalted Ruler L. R. Ross.

The senior mission band of Calvin church had a pleasant gathering last evening at the home of Rev. L. A. Maclean. The members presented a gold thimble to Mrs. Frank Neason.

Geo. C. Tingey, who for twenty-one years has been in the employ of M. R. A. Ltd., has severed his connection with that firm to take the position of local manager with the John Taylor Co., of Toronto, succeeding J. W. Arnold, who has been promoted to the head office. Last night R. M. Smith on behalf of his fellow employees, presented to Mr. Tingey a valuable meerschaum pipe, a fitted case, and a handsome traveling bag.

In Ludlow street Baptist church last night the organist, S. H. Hayes was made the recipient of a gold chain and locket in recognition of his services during the past two years. The presentation was made by Rev. W. R. Robinson.

PIPE ORGAN OF CONCRETE

Another Use Discovered for Cement—Asbury Park's Novelty

(New York Tribune.)

Another use has been discovered for cement, this time from a most unexpected quarter. An organ builder of Elmira, New York, has set the musical age in a flutter over the wonderful musical effect produced by his orchestral unit organ—largely constructed of reinforced concrete. A specimen of his work at the great Auditorium, Ocean Grove, N. J., has been attracting much attention. Mme. Schumann-Heink describes it as the most wonderful organ in the world, while Nordica and other great singers are equally proud in their praise. At the convention of the National Association of Organists at Ocean Grove, a resolution was unanimously passed acknowledging the achievement.

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CHINESE PIGTAIL

IS TO DISAPPEAR

Less Opposition Than to Proposed Change in National Costume

London, Dec. 31.—There is consternation among the Chinese at the announcement made by the prince regent that he will endeavor to bring about a change in the national costume next year, besides advocating the abolition of the pigtail. To show that he is in earnest the Prince Regent has himself started to wear a military uniform when receiving foreign ministers at Peking.

The abolition of the pigtail meets with far less popular opposition than the adoption of European costumes. The anti-pigtail party argue that this characteristic appendage is unsanitary, that it is an object of derision among foreigners, and that it is not in keeping with modern sentiment marking as it does the servitude of China to Manchu. But the prince regent has a more effective argument for Chinese minds when he recalls that the late emperor was in favor of this reform, and respect for the wishes of the dead carries greater weight than cold reason among his countrymen.

The prince's ambition to bring about a change in national costume naturally arouses opposition among the silk and linen manufacturers and merchants, to whom it would mean a serious loss.

NEW ERA IN THE HISTORY OF BELGIUM

Army to Be a Factor in Considering War in Europe

NEW LEGISLATION

Army Re-organization Bill Drops System of Substitutes and 180,000 Active Men Will Be Enrolled—Would Resist Absorption By German Empire

Brussels, Dec. 31.—The Army Reorganization Bill, just passed by the House of Representatives, is important from every point of view, and marks the beginning of a new era in Belgian history. By their vote the House of Representatives have signified that, in future, the Belgian army will be a factor which must be taken into account in the event of a European war.

The new bill does away with the superannuated system of substitutes and puts the army on a war footing of 180,000 men. All competent Belgian military critics, of whatever political party, are strongly of the opinion that the army was numerically insufficient, and was threatened with complete disorganization owing to the substitutes system, long since abolished in all continental armies.

The new law provides for universal military service, so that Belgium will, therefore, be able to protect her frontiers, and to prevent the country from becoming a battlefield, as in the past. For, as the late Gen. Briemont pointed out very forcibly, shortly before his death, it is a fallacy to believe that a neutral state, whose independence has been guaranteed by two powers, will never have to fight a foreign enemy.

As a matter of fact Belgium is much more liable today than in the past to annexation or partition by her powerful neighbors. The country's wealth and increasing prosperity, and the possession of one of the finest colonies in the world are a strong temptation alike to Germany and France. In any case should an enemy wish to invade the country either as a convenient means of communication for an army or for purposes of conquest, the argument could easily be brought forward that as Belgium is not in a position to protect her neutrality she loses all right to her existence as an independent state.

The army reorganization in Belgium is of special interest when the aspirations of the Pan-German party in Germany and Austria are considered. The Austrian Pan-Germans openly proclaim that they have inscribed on their political programme the annexation, not only of the German-speaking Austrians, but of Holland and Flanders to the German Empire. But this dream of a Greater Germany, which shall extend from the Danube to the Scheldt, is not, by any means, confined to the Austrian Pan-Germans. The eventual annexation of the Lowlands is one of the principal planks in the programme of the Pan-Germans in Germany itself.

It is very clearly set forth in a work recently published in Germany by the "Alldeutscher Verband." In this book the Dutch and Flemings are called upon to remember the close ties which bind them to their northern neighbors, while arguments are put forward in favor of an alliance between Germany, Holland and Belgium, similar to that formed in the third century between the Batavians, Menapii, Chani, and Suabians. The next step, then, it is stated, in the fulfillment of the Teutonic grande idea, would be the unification of the various German dialects into one written language.

Finally, a number of historical, economic, and social arguments are put forth by the Alldeutscher Verband, showing the many advantages to be derived by a closer union between all Germanic nations. While Holland requires German capital and initiative for her colonial and industrial development, Germany needs German money and colonists for the Congo.

It is well known here that these Pan-German aspirations, so clearly defined by the Alldeutscher Verband, are considered by Germans to be quite feasible. A proof of this is the fact that a Greater Germany is not looked upon as a mere chimera by Germans generally. It is Professor Daniels geography, a textbook used in all the schools of the empire, clearly states that the "German countries" (Deutsche Land) extends from the Alps to the North Sea; that is to say, includes Holland, Belgium and Western Austria.

Pan-Germanism, however, finds no echo either among the Dutch or Belgians, who realize that annexation to Germany would mean the exchange of a regime of constitutional liberty for the iron hand of military despotism. It is to protect this constitutional regime that Belgium requires an army. Should Germany attempt to carry out her Pan-German programme such an army might prove a deciding factor with France and Holland.

NORWAY'S SARDINES

(Special Agent Julian L. Brode)

One of the most important industries of Norway is the packing of sardines. Millions of tons of sardines are packed every year for the export trade and the supply does not seem to be diminishing. There are about 40 factories engaged in the business, and it is claimed that during a good season 50,000,000 tins of 20 to 24 fish each are packed. This is equivalent to 500,000 cases of sardines. The fish are packed for the season just closing is considered to be a good average one and the number of cases that will be packed, it is thought, will run between 400,000 and 500,000.

The fish are captured in nets and kept alive until needed at the factory. Here they are fresh in the strong brine in which they remain until they are ready to be then smoked in ovens over slow wood fires being arranged on horizontal spits. The fish are next decapitated and packed in oil in tin boxes.

Oliver oil is used almost exclusively for preserving the fish—not because it has any special preservative qualities over other vegetable oils, but because of its popularity with the trade at large. On account of the high price of olive oil and the stationary market of the sardines, some of the packers have been experimenting with other oils, and cotton seed oil to a limited extent has been used.

The writer was shown sample boxes of sardines packed in cotton seed oil and olive oil put up over a year ago from the same grade of fish. There was absolutely no difference in the taste or odor of the fish, and the two oils were then drained off and placed in separate glass bottles were identical in appearance, taste and odor. Neither the sardine packers nor the representatives of American sardine importers who were present could detect which were packed in olive oil when the boxes were interchanged.

St. John Business College

Day and evening classes reopen Monday. This is the school that does not find it necessary to disparage a competing school or even to canvass for students. The reputation it has earned will be sustained by the same methods that have gained it its present standing. Large classes are already assured.

VERY TRUE.

The Philosopher—I've noticed one thing in life.

The Questioner—And that is—

The Philosopher—That rich people talk poor and poor people talk rich.

After a man has flattered a woman she begins to think it over and decides that he really meant it.

TAFT'S FIRST NEW YEAR'S IN WHITE HOUSE

Washington, Jan. 1.—The president's reception at the White House, took on a new interest today as the first public reception planned for the administration of Mr. Taft.

On New Year's day the White House doors swing open to all, the rich, the poor, and humble alike. The public reception of course, always is preceded by an hour or more of formality when the president greets the members of the cabinet, the diplomats, the senators and representatives, the high officials of the government, the officers of the army and navy and members of the various veteran organizations.

It was the policy in the day of long ago to serve refreshments during the New Year's reception. It was feasible at that time when the callers were few but long since has been abandoned. The White House today was elaborately decorated and the marine band played patriotic airs.

MEALS FOR LONDON'S SCHOOL CHILDREN

Marked Increase in Number of Pupils Needing Assistance—More Than \$300,000 Expended in Year

London, Dec. 31.—The London county council found itself compelled to approve an extra expenditure of \$125,000 for providing free breakfast and three-cent meals to necessitous school children whose parents are unable to feed them. This supplementary vote will bring the money expended for this purpose by the end of the financial year 1909-10, March 31, up to over \$311,000 instead of \$186,000 which it was estimated at the beginning of the year would be sufficient.

The increase in the number of children needing this assistance has been marked. Five years ago some 5,000 were in